

2009 AVERY A. ASHDOWN EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

- 1. Entrants.** The Ashdown Examination has traditionally divided students into two categories: first-year and second-year/AP level. In the past, problems have arisen in defining those students who are taking chemistry as a second-year course but *do not* follow the AP curriculum and those who are taking a first-year course but *do* follow the AP curriculum. The Examination Committee's goal is to test for chemical knowledge rather than to define the academic guidelines of entrants. Thus, students will be classified as first-year (first exposure to chemistry) and second-year (a second-year of chemistry), regardless of a course name, curriculum, or an individual's background. We feel this will most fairly include as many as possible in taking the examination
- 2. Scoring and Prizes.** Five cash prizes will be given for the top scores of ALL entrants. Duplicate scores in the top **five** will be considered as two of the five scores. Scoring is determined by raw score. The next **five** scores for both first and second year will be awarded an Honorable Mention and certificate, regardless of duplicate scores. Recognition will also be given to each teacher.
- 3. The Exam.** The examination will be 85 multiple-choice questions. No penalty will be deducted for wrong answers.
- 4. U. S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO).** Those students wishing to compete in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) qualifying examination will be selected from the top scorers. Should there be a duplicate score, both entrants may be considered. **Students must be U. S. Citizens by the date of the USNCO. Only two students from any school may compete.**
- 5. Other.** Students may use programmable or graphing calculators provided the memory is erased from the programs. Proctors will verify this. Within one week of the exam date, student scores will be mailed or e-mailed to the participating schools notifying teachers of the winners. A breakdown of the range of scores and high scorers will be included along with a distribution of the types of chemistry questions included on this year's examination.

No cellular telephones will be permitted in the examination room. A secure room will be made available at the test site to store phones and bookbags.

Should there be questions about the examination, please contact Dr. Peter Nassiff at (781) 270-2923 or by e-mail to nassiff@burlington.mec.edu. Questions about registrations for the exam should be addressed to the Administrative Secretary by e-mail to Mcash0953@aol.com

Dates

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| Registration Deadline for Ashdown Examination | Tuesday, March 31, 2009 |
| The Ashdown Examination Contest | Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m. at Simmons College |
| The Qualifying Olympiad Exam (Date changed from April 18 to April 25) | Saturday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m. at Simmons College. The exam will be administered only to the top scorers on the Ashdown Exam. These students will be notified by telephone within a day or two after the Ashdown Exam. |
| NESACS Education Night Awards Dinner | Thursday, May 14, 2009 - location to be announced. (Ashdown Award prizewinners and their teachers will be honored. |
| Note: This information may also be found on the internet at http://www.nesacs.org | |