2020 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 OR be a Green Card HOLDER by the date of the USNCO.** Only two students from any school may compete.

5. **Other.** Students may use programmable calculators provided the memory is erased from the programs. Proctors will verify this. Student scores will be mailed or emailed 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 exam, please contact Alan Crosby, Newton South H.S. via email at crosbya@newton.k12.ma.us*

Questions about **registration** should be addressed to the Administrative Coordinator via email at: secretary@nesacs.org

---

**Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Deadline for Ashdown Exam</td>
<td>Friday, March 27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ashdown Examination Contest.</td>
<td>Saturday, April 4th/9:00am at Simmons College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate date for Students who cannot attend due to Religious reasons.</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 1st/4:30-7:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Qualifying Olympiad Exam</td>
<td>Saturday, April 18th/9:00am at Simmons. The exam will be administered only to the top scorers on the Ashdown Exam. These students will be notified by telephone, and via email within a day or two after the Ashdown Exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESACS Education Night Awards Dinner</td>
<td>May- Invitations will be sent. (Ashdown Award prize winners and their teachers will be honored).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** This information may also be found on the internet at [http://www.nesacs.org](http://www.nesacs.org)