

FAQs

What is the purpose of the Quiz?

- The aims of the Quiz are to promote and encourage an awareness of the nature and relevance of chemistry amongst secondary school students.

It is hoped that such a Quiz will interest students in the further study of chemistry and will indicate to students the important role chemistry has to play in our society. Questions will be based on the fundamental aspects of chemistry as well as questions involving its application in modern society. The questions will be graded in terms of difficulty and it is expected that most students will be able to answer many of the questions.

- **The Quiz changed its name from ANCQ to ICQ? Is it still the same format?**

- As the Quiz had a break in 2020, the organising committee decided it would be a good time to rethink the quiz and update its name, to coincide with upgrading our website and registration processes.

After careful consideration, we relaunched the Quiz in 2021 as the International Chemistry Quiz (ICQ) to reflect and acknowledge all the amazing students around the world who participate in our Quiz!

The format of the Quiz remains unchanged. Our team of question writers have produced four Quiz papers, with 30 questions each, based on the Australian year levels –

- Junior (Years 7 & 8),
- Intermediate (Years 9 & 10),
- Senior (Year 11) and

- Final (Year 12).
- Does the Quiz follow a particular syllabus?

- The ICQ is not a test of syllabus content.

While some questions will rely on knowledge and understanding covered as part of studying the Australian Curriculum, the Quiz writers have typically not tied the Papers to any particular syllabus. They endeavor to make the quiz interesting and to promote chemistry and chemical thinking. Questions that go beyond what is covered in syllabus documents should be able to be answered by students applying their knowledge and understanding to stimulus material provided in the questions. Some questions that are designed to challenge more able students may be/will be included.

As the papers are used in 20 or more countries around the world, as well as right across Australia, we cannot design our questions to suit any particular curriculum. We assume some basic chemistry understandings and skills, and test the students' ability to use scientific reasoning, and to apply their skills and understanding. This is valuable training for students.

- We also understand that teachers in different states (or countries) teach our students core principals in chemistry in different school terms throughout the year. We have taken this into consideration in the marking.
- How are the certificate levels decided?
 - Certificates are awarded by comparing student results in the same grade, state or country.

Certificates are personalised with the student's name and awarded, at each year level, according to the following levels of achievement:

(a.) Excellence – awarded to top 1% of students in the State (Australia only).



(b.) High Distinction – awarded to the top 10% of students in the State (Aust. only) or country

(c.) Distinction – the next 15% of students in the State (Aust. only) or country (10% - 25%)

(d.) Credit – the next 15% of students in the State (Aust. only) or country (25% - 40%)

(e.) Participation Certificate to all other students

In addition to the certificate, students achieving 30 out of 30 will also receive an ICQ Lapel Pin in recognition of their achievements.

- Do students win a prize?
 - All students receive a certificate based on their achievement level.

- Can I have further information about the requirements of the Online version of the Quiz?
 - The Online Quiz is limited to a single attempt. Once started, it must be completed in the 60 minutes allowed.
Students - Do not commence the Quiz until instructed by your teacher
 - The questions in the online quiz are exactly the same as the hard copy paper, for all year levels.
 - **Instructions for Teachers**
 1. Ensure that you have a secure and reliable internet connection.
 2. Make sure that your device's firewall allows access to the online site
 3. Use a tablet-sized device, or bigger, and ensure that your screen is maximised.

(Mobile phones **cannot** be used to sit the online Quiz.)

4. You have 60 minutes to complete the 30 multiple-choice questions.
5. Calculators and rough-working paper are permitted. A Smart device connected to the Internet is not permitted as a calculator.
6. Interruptions to the Internet or closing the Internet browser will automatically save your answers.
7. The Quiz will automatically save when the time runs out.
8. You will have access to the Periodic Table and any data sheets included by the quiz writers online. Teachers can print a hard copy of these pages in advance of the quiz date.

- **My school has another event on the scheduled quiz day, can we sit the Quiz on another date?**
 - We understand that schools often have timetabling issues, so we are flexible with the date that you hold the Quiz. There will be a window for online access to the quiz, and uploading student Answer Sheets related to paper versions of the quiz. Please advise the ICQ Coordinator at icquiz@raci.org.au of your proposed date.
 - We would ask that, if you intend to hold the Quiz before the main date, you ensure that all booklets and Answer sheets are collected afterwards to maintain the confidentiality of this years Quiz.
- **My child's school is not taking the ICQ, can he/she still take it?**
 - We suggest that your child should check with the Science Teacher at his/her school, as it is possible that other year level students may be sitting the Quiz. There are administration requirements that teachers need to do to host the quiz so a student can enter. The online version of the quiz is an easy way to be involved for a small group of students at lunchtime or after hours.



- My school does not teach chemistry in Year levels 7 and 8, so why should my students sit the Quiz?
 - We are aware of the lack of chemistry, as a subject, being taught in years 7 and 8. However, we hope participation in this activity may stimulate these younger students to a realisation of the important role that chemistry plays in many of the fundamental processes which they encounter in their science course modules and in many aspects of everyday life. On completion of the Quiz, teachers may use it as a teaching tool, particularly if they spend time going through the answers to the questions.
- My school has not participated in the ICQ before? How do I get involved?
 - Ask your Science teacher to go to the **How to Enter page** of our website.
 - We will send emails to the science teachers to alert them about registration open, and instructions on the process. Emails will be sent at each stage of the process with instruction booklets to walk you through each step.