

“Chemistry Practical Learning Portfolio Scheme (2025/26)” – Q & A

Q1: Can different groups of Secondary 4 students studying Chemistry in the same school conduct experiments on the same day?

A: Yes. Different S4 chemistry groups may conduct their experiments on the same day provided that the title, date and student attendance for each experiment are clearly listed.

Q2: Is it acceptable if there are differences in teaching progress and the experiments conducted (items and quantity) among Secondary 4 Chemistry groups?

A: Yes. It is understood that different groups may adjust their teaching pace and selection of experiments according to pedagogical needs. It is acceptable as long as the experiments conducted by each group are clearly documented on the student attendance and experiment lists.

Q3: Can experiments submitted for the Portfolio Scheme include those completed by students at home?

A: No. **ONLY** experiments conducted by students in the school laboratory are eligible for submission under the scheme.

Q4: Experiment designs must include higher-order thinking questions. Is it acceptable if students answer these questions incorrectly or are unable to answer them?

A: Yes. The incorporation of higher-order thinking questions in this Portfolio Scheme aims to enhance students' scientific reasoning and inquiry skills. The emphasis is placed on the learning and discussion process between teachers and students rather than on the correctness of the answers. Even when students answer incorrectly or cannot respond, such moments provide valuable opportunities to guide and assess their reasoning and understanding in the context of chemistry experiments.

Q5: Can experiments submitted for this Portfolio Scheme include teacher demonstration experiments?

A: No. **ONLY** experiments in which students personally conduct the experiment, either individually or in small groups under teacher supervision, are expected.

- Q6: Will the experiments from the Preliminary Heat of the “Analytical Chemistry Challenge for Secondary Students” be counted towards the experiment quota for this Portfolio Scheme?
- A: Yes. Provided that the experiments are conducted by students in the school laboratory and include at least one higher-order thinking question, they can be counted towards the quota for this Portfolio Scheme.
- Q7: Can teachers use experiment workbooks or worksheets provided by publishers?
- A: Yes. Experiment activities from workbooks or worksheets provided by publishers can be used directly for submission to the Scheme. However, teachers are advised to review and, if necessary, adapt the accompanying questions to ensure they meet the requirements for higher-order thinking questions.
- Q8: Can Secondary 4 students studying the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Chemistry curriculum in private schools participate in this Portfolio Scheme?
- A: No. The target participants of the Portfolio Scheme are Secondary 4 students studying Chemistry in government, aided (including special schools), caput or Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary schools.
- Q9: Can Secondary 4 students studying the International Advanced Level (IAL) Chemistry curriculum participate in this Portfolio Scheme?
- A: No. This Scheme is limited to Secondary 4 students studying the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Chemistry curriculum.
- Q10: Will this Portfolio Scheme be extended to Secondary 5 and Secondary 6 students studying Chemistry in the future?
- A: This Scheme is being launched as a pilot for S4 students in 2025/26 school year. Science Education Section of EDB will review its implementation and effectiveness, with a view to gradually extending it to S5 and S6 in the future.

Q11: Can teachers design higher-order thinking questions on their own without using GenAI?

A: The use of GenAI is not mandatory in this Portfolio Scheme. However, the higher-order thinking questions must be designed to move learning beyond rote memorisation and factual recall, and to foster scientific reasoning and inquiry skills. Please refer to [the info sheet on higher-order thinking questions](#) for details.

Q12: What are the requirements for the submission of sample student worksheets?

A: One sample student worksheet is required for each experiment. For example, if eight experiments were conducted, the school should submit eight scanned worksheets—one for each experiment. These worksheets do not need to be from the same student. For experiments conducted in groups, a single group worksheet is acceptable.

Each worksheet must show the details of the experiment, such as procedures, results, and discussion questions, and must include student's written answers as well as evidence of marking by either the teacher or self/peer marking as appropriate.

Q13: Can schools modify the experiments from the workbooks provided by publishers or design new ones on their own?

A: Yes. Schools are encouraged to adapt or design new experiment tasks based on their students' needs and available laboratory apparatus, provided that the tasks align with the learning outcomes of the HKDSE Chemistry curriculum and include at least one higher-order thinking question.