

CHEM 212

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION

Waldman

Spring 2008

Date: Thursday, May 15th, 2008

Time: 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

What to bring to class: Scan-Tron Form 882
#2 pencil(s) and eraser
Calculator

Your Final Exam: The ACS Standardized Exam?

What is the ACS Standardized Exam?

As described in the syllabus, the final exam for this course is the American Chemical Society (ACS) standardized exam in organic chemistry. The exam covers the entire year of introductory organic chemistry, and allows your instructor to gauge your performance in the course relative to students across the nation.

What is the format of the ACS Standardized Exam?

The test consists of 70 multiple-choice questions. You will have exactly two hours to complete the exam. Since this is a standardized exam, the conditions of the exam are quite specific. For example:

- The serial number of your test booklet will be recorded.
- All answers must be marked with a No. 2 pencil and the marks should be very dark. Any erasures must be complete - leaving no smudges.
- You will be provided with scratch paper, but no other reference materials are allowed. You must turn in all scratch paper at the end of the exam along with your test booklet and answer sheet.
- The exam proctor may not provide any additional information or clarifying statements beyond what is stated in the test booklet.

What should my strategy be?

Your score is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for incorrect answers. Therefore it is to your advantage to answer every question - even if you have no idea which answer is correct.

How should I study for this exam?

Use your exams and quizzes from Chemistry 211 and 212. Study the chapter summaries from the lecture textbook and your instructor's old sample exams - especially if the multiple-choice questions. Review your notes. Work as many of the end-of-chapter problems as you can. The topics listed below are generally covered in the one-year organic chemistry lecture series. My recommendation is that you use the topic list in conjunction with the textbook and your old exams and notes.

Also keep in mind that you will perform better if you do not leave all the reviewing to the end of the semester. I suggest that you pick one or two topics to review each week throughout the semester

A list of topics and a link to purchase a study guide for the final from the American Chemical Society can be found at: http://www3.uwm.edu/dept/chemexams/guides/details_guides.cfm?ID=163

How will the standardized exam be figured into my course grade?

Your score will be based on national percentile ranking. A score at the 50th percentile is, by definition, average. Therefore the percentile score must be scaled to reflect grading on a 100-point scale and be consistent with the grade cutoffs listed in the course syllabus.

The class average in organic chemistry is usually 75/100. Therefore, a student scoring at the 50th percentile on the ACS exam should receive a grade of approximately 75%. This scaling will be accomplished by the use of the following formula:

$$\text{Scaled Score} = \text{ACS percentile} + [(100 - \text{ACS percentile}) (\text{ACS percentile} / 100)]$$

Using the example given above of a student at the 50th percentile on the final, we get:

$$50 + [(100 - 50) (50/100)] = 75$$

Let's consider some other examples so you can see how this works. The following ACS percentile conversions were calculated using the formula given above:

90 percentile => 99 points, 80 percentile => 96 points, 70 percentile => 91 points,
60 percentile => 84 points, 50 percentile => 75 points, 40 percentile => 64 points,
30 percentile => 51 points, 20 percentile => 36 points, 10 percentile => 19 points.

Office Hours during Finals Week:

Monday, May 12, 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14, 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

SEMESTER GRADES:

Semester grades will be posted on TalonNet feedback by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2008.

NOTE: You must check out of your locker and pay any money owed to the stockroom before the end of final exam week. Failure to check out of your locker will result in your records being placed on administrative hold.