

Guide to National Exams and NECTA Exams

There are 3 levels of Exams: Form II (O-Level), Form IV (O-Level), and Form VI (A-Level). The Form II exams are administered by Tanzanian Ministry of Education, which is why it is more appropriate to call these “National Exams”. The Form IV and Form VI Exams are administered by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA), under guidance of the Ministry of Education. These exams may be called “NECTA Exams”.

The top page of an exam looks something like this:

The image shows a sample exam paper for Chemistry 1. The paper is titled "-THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION (For Both School and Private Candidates)". The subject is "CHEMISTRY 1". The subject code is "032/1". The time allowed is "Time: 3 Hours". The date of the exam is "Tuesday, October 11, 2005 p.m.". The instructions are as follows:

1. This paper consists of sections A, B and C.
2. Answer all questions in sections A and B and two (2) questions from section C.
3. Electronic calculators are not allowed in the examination room.
4. Cellular phones are not allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your Examination Number on every page of your answer booklet(s).
6. The following constants may be used:
 - Atomic masses: H = 1 ; C = 12 ; O = 16 ; Cu = 64 ; Ca = 40 ; Na = 23 ; S = 32 ; Cl = 35.5 ; Fe = 56 ; N = 14 ; K = 39.
 - Avogadro's Number = 6.02×10^{23} .
 - GMV at s.t.p. = 22.4 dm^3 .
 - 1 Faraday = 96500 coulombs.
 - 1 litre = $1 \text{ dm}^3 = 1000 \text{ cm}^3$.

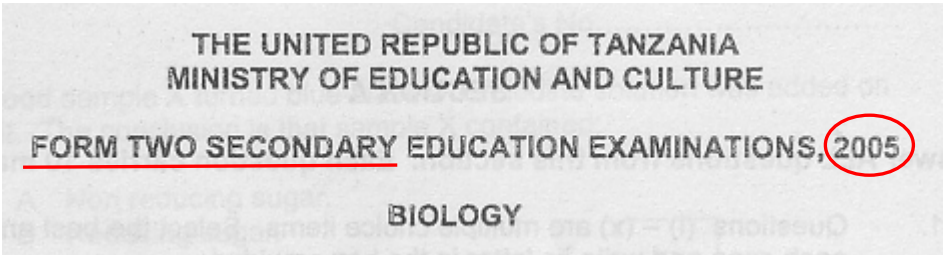
At the bottom of the page, it states: "This paper consists of 8 printed pages."

Labels and callouts in the image:

- Subject Code/Type of exam (practical or paper) points to "032/1".
- Tells you if the exam is for FII, FIV, FVI points to "032/1".
- Subject points to "CHEMISTRY 1".
- Tells you if it is a practical or paper points to "CHEMISTRY 1".
- Time allowed points to "Time: 3 Hours".
- Date of Exam points to "Tuesday, October 11, 2005 p.m.".
 - Instructions for exam points to the entire instructions section.
 - Number of pages in exam points to "This paper consists of 8 printed pages."

Which Form is the exam for?

Information indicating which Form the paper is for can be found in the heading. Form II is written in the heading itself. Form IV earns the “Certificate of Secondary Education” and Form VI earns the “Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education”.

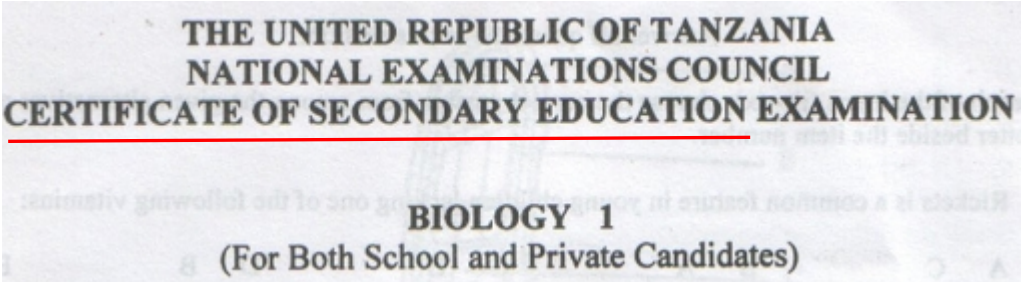


THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

FORM TWO SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS, 2005

BIOLOGY

“Form Two” is written in the heading. This is Form II. The year is written in the heading




THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

BIOLOGY 1
(For Both School and Private Candidates)

“Certificate of Secondary Education” is Form IV



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

133/1

BIOLOGY 1
(For Both School and Private Candidates)

“Advanced Certificate” is Form VI

Papers and Practicals

For the Form VI exams, the subjects of chemistry, physics, and biology have 2 papers and a practical in a laboratory (math has two papers, no practical). For the Form IV exams, the subjects of chemistry, physics, and biology have both a paper and a practical (math does not have a practical). For Form IV, there are 2 types of practicals: one that requires a laboratory and one that does not require a laboratory. Some schools do not have the capacity or do not wish to do a practical in a laboratory. For this situation, a practical without a laboratory is done. For those schools that do the practical in the laboratory, a different exam is written. Sometimes there is more than one version of the practical exam that requires a laboratory.

FIV: Form Four

Is it a paper or a practical??

The number "1" indicates the paper. A number "2" indicates a practical

CHEMISTRY 1
(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Because there is "1", this is a paper

CHEMISTRY 2
ALTERNATIVE TO PRACTICAL
(For Both School and Private Candidates)

CHEMISTRY 2A
ALTERNATIVE A PRACTICAL
(for Both School and Private Candidates)

CHEMISTRY 2B
ALTERNATIVE B PRACTICAL
(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Because there is "2", these are practicals,

Is it a practical that does or does not require a laboratory??

A practical WITHOUT a letter is the practical that does not require a laboratory.

There is only one copy of this exam.

CHEMISTRY 2
ALTERNATIVE TO PRACTICAL
(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Because there is no letter after the number, this is a practical that does not require a laboratory

A practical WITH a letter is the practical that does require a laboratory. Don't be fooled by the words "Alternative to Practical". Because only so many students can be in a laboratory at one time and because there is only so much material, sometimes more than one day is required for all students to be able to do the practical. For this case, there is more than one version of the practical exam. There can even be 3 or more different versions. These versions are indicated by letters, a different letter for each day the exam is given.

CHEMISTRY 2A
ALTERNATIVE A PRACTICAL
 (for Both School and Private Candidates)

CHEMISTRY 2B
ALTERNATIVE B PRACTICAL
 (For Both School and Private Candidates)

Because there is a letter after the number, this is a practical that requires a laboratory, even though "Alternative Practical" is written. The "A" practical is given on the first day of testing; the "B" practical is given on the second day of testing

FVI: Form Six

Is it a paper or a practical??

Form VI students write two different papers on two different days. The number "1" indicates the first paper. The number "2" indicates the second paper. The number "3" indicates the practical. Because only so many students can be in a laboratory at one time and because there is only so much material, sometimes more than one day is required for all students to be able to do the practical. For this case, there is more than one version of the practical exam. There can even be 3 or more different versions. These versions are indicated by letters, a different letter for each day the exam is given.

BIOLOGY (1)
 (For Both School and Private Candidates)

BIOLOGY (2)
 (For Both School and Private Candidates)

FVI: Because there is a "1" and a "2", these are papers

BIOLOGY 3A
ALTERNATIVE A PRACTICAL
 (For Both School and Private Candidates)

FVI: Because there is a "3", this is a practical. The "A" practical is given on the first day of testing; the "B" practical is given on the second day of testing

Date of Exam

Each school takes the same NECTA exam at the same time, so the date of each exam is written. For Form II exams, the school decides when and how to administer, which is why there is no date but only year written for the Form II exams.

Note that in 1998, there was a massive leakage of the Form IV NECTA exams. NECTA attempted to re-write and re-administer another Form IV exam. This is why there is a November 1999 and a January 1999. The January 1999 exam is the re-written 1998 exam.

Time

Each exam has its own time limit, 2.5 hours to 3 hours, depending on the subject and the level