



CATALYZER

Journal of the 35th International Chemistry Olympiad

9 July 2003

Athens – Hellas

Issue No. 5

PRACTICAL EXAMS ARE OVER ONE MORE TEST TO GO!

Editorial

The Practical Examination is over. Most of the students characterised the tasks as pretty good, with the organic part being demanding due to the multiplicity of the procedure, whereas the analytical part was quite easy. We hope that all of the students will have some rest in Loutraki and will prepare themselves for the second round.

By the time those lines were written, the 2nd Jury Meeting was in progress. We trust that all decisions will be taken in favour of the students.

On the current newsletter you will read the students' comments on the laboratory examination, an article on how the Olympic Games were born and have a little bit fun trying to solve today's chemical reaction crossword.



Little Chemists in action...

ΕΙ ΜΗ ΤΑΣ ΟΥΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΤΑΜΑΘΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΑΣ ΟΥΣΙΑΣ ΚΕΡΑΣΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΕΙΔΗ ΝΟΗΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΓΕΝΗ ΣΥΝΑΨΗΣ ΤΟΙΣ ΓΕΝΕΣΙΝ,
ΕΙΣ ΜΑΤΗΝ ΤΩΙ ΚΟΠΩΙ ΕΠΕΧΕΙΡΗΣΑΣ, Ω ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥ

Democritus of Abdera, Omnibus Book

If you don't know well about the substances, if you don't mix the substances and understand the species, if you don't bind genus with genus, your effort is hopeless, King

“Easy tasks for the talented pupils”

That’s what most of the students stated to us outside the laboratories, where the examination was held. Yousef Alnajar from Kuwait was the first student that came out declaring that the organic part was difficult, whereas the analytical part was OK, but most of his colleagues who followed him seem to disagree. In the following section we present some comments expressed to us.



“It was interesting, but not difficult. The laboratory was well organised, we had plenty of space, whereas Professors were pleasant and eager to help.”

Francis Tejedor (France)

“There were a lot of steps, quite complicated, but if you followed them the results were not hard to take.”

Gabriel Cheong (Singapore)



“It was fairly easy and it went very well. The organic part was a bit difficult, but the analytical part was very easy. The laboratory was well organised.”

Tapio Salminen (Finland)

“It was fine. I manage to finish the task, while I didn’t finished last year.”

Helga Sghvatsson (Iceland)

“It wasn’t hard and the organic part was interesting.”

Jevgenia Tamjar (Estonia)



OLYMPIC GAMES: 2800 YEARS OF HISTORY



Hermes of Praxiteles

The origin of the Olympic Games is linked with many myths referred to in ancient sources, but in the historic years their founder is said to be Oxylos whose descendant Ifitos later rejuvenated the games.

According to tradition, the Olympic Games began in 776 B.C. when Ifitos made a treaty with Lycourgos the king and famous

legislator of Sparta and Cleisthenes the king of Pissa. The text of the treaty was written on a disc and kept in the Heraion.

In this treaty that was the decisive event for the development of the sanctuary as a Panhellenic centre, the "sacred truce" was agreed. That is to say the ceasing of fighting in all of the Greek world for as long as the Olympic Games were on.

As a reward for the victors, the cotinus, which was a wreath made from a branch of wild olive tree that was growing next to the opisthodomus of the temple of Zeus in the sacred Altis, was established after

an order of the Delphic oracle. The Olympics were held, after the completion of four years during the month of July or August. The time in between two Olympic Games was called an Olympiad. In the beginning the games lasted



Receiving and blessing of the Olympic flame just before the Olympic Torch Relay

only one day and comprised of only one event, the running of one Stadion, but gradually more events were added resulting, towards the 5th century B.C., in the games lasting for 5 days. In total the Olympic Games consisted of 10 events: running, the pentathlon, jumping, discus, "ekebolon" javelin, wrestling, boxing, the pancration, chariot racing, and horse racing. All Greeks who were free citizens and had not committed murder or heresy, had the right to take part in the Olympic Games. Women were not entitled to take part, except as owners in the horse races, while being strictly prohibited from watching the games.

The athletes presented themselves one month before the games began at Elis, the organising town, but the organisation and supervision for the upholding of the rules was carried out by the Hellanodikes, who were chosen by lot from the citizens of Elis.

Two days after the beginning of the games, the procession of the athletes and the judges started



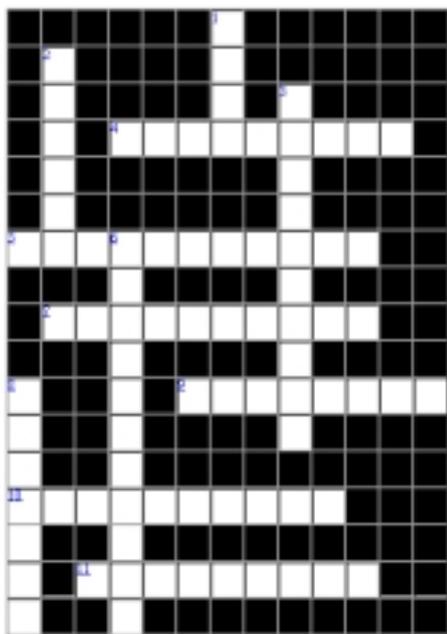
Palestra, the area where the sport of wrestling was taking place

from Elis to arrive in Olympia where it was received by the crowds who had come to watch the games.

The ceremonies began with the official oath that was taken by the athletes at the altar of Horkios Zeus, in the Bouleuterion, swearing that they would compete with honour and respect the rules.

The victors enjoyed great honours and on returning to their cities their compatriots pulled down part of the walls for them to enter. They were also given special privileges and high office.

Chemical Reactions Crossword



Across:

4. Chemicals mixed together before a reaction
5. A solid formed when 2 solutions are added
7. Burning
9. Atoms chemically combined together
10. Energy released from a chemical reaction
11. The breaking down of metals in chemical reactions, either slowly or quickly

Down:

1. Zn
2. Cu
3. Iron coated with zinc
6. Type of reaction where 2 chemicals combine to form one product
8. Water based solutions



Program of the day

Students

All day at Sport Camp

Mentors

7:30-8:30	Breakfast at Hotel
9:00-13:00	2 nd Jury Meeting continues at UOA, Chemistry Dpt Translation of Theoretical Exam
13:00-14:00	Buffet Lunch
14:00-19:00	Translation Completed and Copied
20:00	Dinner at Hotel

Contact for Information

Assoc. Prof. A. Tsatsas
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Department of Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory
Panepistimiopolis 15771 Athens, Hellas

Tel.: +30-210-7274339
Fax: +30-210-7274782
e-mail: 35icho@uoa.gr

Editorial Team

Dr Anthony Bobetsis
Counselor of Chemistry, Pedagogical Institute

Patrina Paraskevopoulou, Christodoulos Makedonas and Constantinos Menidiatis
Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, NKUA