

MEMORANDUM Chemistry Department

To: Bill, Nellie, Melissa, Carolyn, Randy
From: John I. Gelder
Date: January 28, 2001
Re: Grading RPS

STAFF MEETINGS...FRIDAYS, 12:30 p.m. PS117.

The answers to Review PS are attached. After reviewing the problem sets I have decided we should grade problems RPS1, RPS3, and RPS7 for 3 points. The maximum possible on the problem set is twelve points. The remaining three points are awarded on an all or nothing basis for completion of the remaining problems. Note: If the word 'Late' is written at the top of the Problem Set grade as usual but deduct 3 points from their total. Note: 'Late' means the student found me at the end of class or immediately after class. I will not accept Problem Sets more than a few minutes after class is over, and such cases will have a minimum of 3 points deducted from their score.

If you have any questions about the grading procedure described below, please see me. Please do not assign any fractional points. Use a holistic approach, if the student's answer is not quite correct you must make the decision if it is at least half right in which case give the student the point. However, on the next occasion (in the same grading session) that you have to stop and ask yourself whether the student should receive the benefit of the doubt, do not give them the point. Reverse this procedure if for the first time you decide not to give them the benefit of the doubt, the next occasion give them the point.

Please return the graded problem sets to your students in laboratory next week. Be sure to record the scores for each student.

Copies of the answers and the grading memo are on the WEB.

Grading the Review Problem Set

- RPS1 **3 points** 1 point each parts c, e and f. Check the soluble products are written as ions. Note f is no reaction. Check for balance. Grade R/W. However, if everything is OK, but there is one little error...balanced one of the equations wrong, did not break a species into ions, do not worry about it. But only if everything else is perfect and there is only one such occurrence.
- RPS3 **3 points** 1 point each for part a, b and c. R/W. In c for the point the student **MUST** show how they determined which reactant is the limiting reagent. They can not pull it out of their b---.
- RPS7 **3 points.** 1 point each for part a, b and c. R/W. In part c **ALL** four resonance structures must be given for the point. Check that lone pairs of electrons are included on central and terminal atoms. Again if everything is correct except one small error, give the benefit of the doubt. Remember to grade holistically. If you give the student a break in RPS1 they can not get the break in this problem.
- 3 points** For attempting the remaining 7 problems. Remember each problem must have an answer, an attempt. If the student writes nonsense for any of the other answers deduct the 3 points.