

MEMORANDUM

Chemistry
Department

To: Andy, Ben, Kevin, Matt and Tyler
From: John I. Gelder
Date: September 3, 2001
Re: Grading RPS

STAFF MEETINGS...FRIDAYS, 4:30 p.m. or Thursdays at 1:30 pm.

The answers to RPS are attached. After reviewing the problem sets I have decided we should grade problems RPS.1, RPS.5, and RPS.8 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 as soon as you can. 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

- RPS.1 **3 points** 1 point each for parts b, c and f. To earn the point the equation must have the correct products and the correct balance. In equations b and f also check the phases. If phases are wrong, the equation is not balanced, or the products are wrong deduct the point.
- RPS.5 **3 points** 1 point for the amount of CS₂ reacting, 1 point for amount of H₂ reacting and 1 point for the amount of H₂ remaining. IF the amount of H₂ remaining is calculated consistently from a wrong amount of H₂ reacting, still award the point.
- RPS.8 **3 points.** 1 point each for CH₄, HCN and SF₄. Award the point if all the entries are correct, # of bonding groups on the central atom, # of non-bonding pairs on the central atom and the bond angles. If only one mistake is made out of two of the molecules do not deduct the point.
- 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.