

Commentary on candidate evidence

Assessors awarded the candidate evidence contained in this pack the following marks for questions 3 and 9 of the 2026 Higher Chemistry Question Paper 2.

Question 3

Candidate 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the chemistry involved.

Correct descriptions of the trends in ionisation energy, covalent radius and electronegativity going across a period and down a group are included.

Candidate 2

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they have demonstrated a limited understanding of the chemistry involved.

The trends in electronegativity, covalent radius and ionisation energy are mentioned. Some of the explanations are confused, i.e. for the trends going across a period.

Candidate 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the chemistry involved.

Correct descriptions for the trends in ionisation energy, electronegativity and covalent radii going across a period and down a group are included.

Candidate 4

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they have demonstrated a good understanding of the chemistry involved.

Correct explanations for the trends in ionisation energy, electronegativity and covalent radii going across a period and down a group are included. The trends are

linked, correctly, to properties including potential as oxidising agents and melting points.

Candidate 5

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they have demonstrated a limited understanding of the chemistry involved.

Electronegativity, covalent radius and ionisation energy are defined, with some errors.

Question 9

Candidate 1

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they have demonstrated a limited understanding of the chemistry involved.

The candidate describes the structure and action of soap, which is confused. Mention of detergents and hard water is also provided.

Candidate 2

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the chemistry involved.

Mention of structure and action of soap, with diagrams is included. Mention of detergents and their action is also given.

Candidate 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the chemistry involved.

Description of structure and action of soap, with diagrams is provided. Mention of detergents and hard water also given.

Candidate 4

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they have demonstrated a good understanding of the chemistry involved.

The formation, structure and cleaning action of soap is described. Detergents and bleaching agents, with examples, are also described.

Candidate 5

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they have demonstrated a limited understanding of the chemistry involved.

The candidate describes the formation and the structure of soap. There is a limited description of the cleansing action.