
Can't Judge a Powder

2022 New Mexico Coaches' Clinic
Rio Sessions

Event Setup

What to bring:

Lab kit from page 69 in the rules

Nothing else (including writing utensils)

Safety

Lab Coats/Aprons _____

Skin covered from neck down

Loose-fitting pants _____

Goggles _____

Closed-Toed Shoes _____



twinkl.com

Event Setup

At the start of the event, teams will be provided

One powder

Pen(cil)s of one color

1M NaOH & HCl

Distilled water for washing

Waste container(s)

An observations sheet

Any other ✨ fancy ✨ equipment for extra tests

Part 1: Objectives

**Make as many useful observations about this one powder
as you can.**

Observations, not inferences.

In Part 2, you'll use these to answer questions, so be ready!

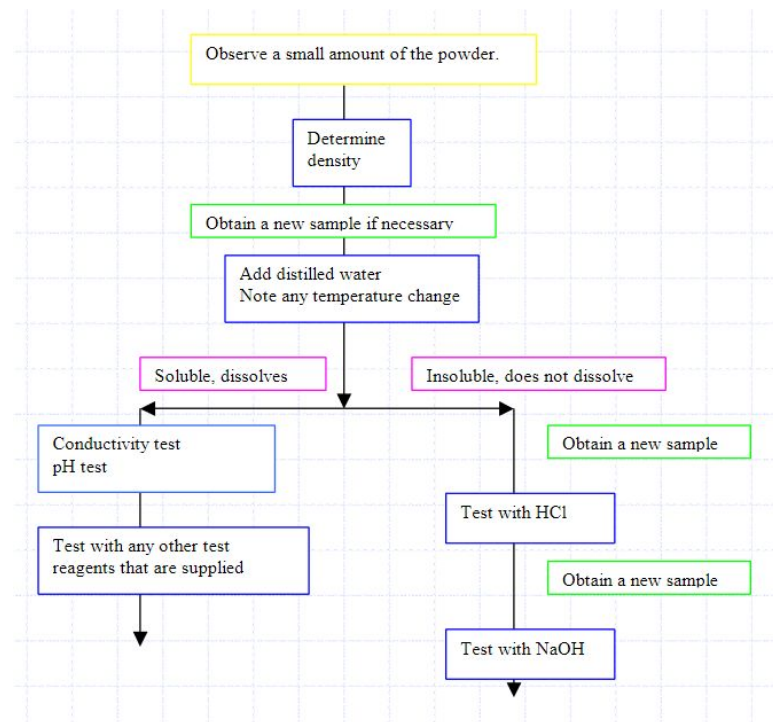
Part 1 Demo

Part 1: Tips

- Your team's observation has to be better quality than ALL the other teams in the room.
 - The best observations at regionals may only be three-pointers at state.
- OBSERVATIONS, not inferences.
- Practice, practice, practice!
 - Your team decides the observations! Nobody says what to do.
 - Know what you need to look for to answer various questions.
 - Internet/videos: great for learning how to do some powder tests

2004 Observation Flowchart

This probably doesn't cover everything you'll need, but is somewhere to start.



Transitioning from Part 1 to Part 2!

After 25-35 minutes, Part 1 will end.

1. Lab equipment set aside
Color 1 pen(cil)s collected
All chemicals (including sample) collected

Only the team's observation sheet should be left.

2. Question sheet distributed.
New color pen(cil)s distributed

Part 2: Objectives

Answer questions using observations from Part 1.

Put the relevant observation number(s)

You do NOT need to answer the question.

Part 2 Demo

Scoring

Each question is worth 5 points.

- High quality data and observations will be worth 5 points.
 - Higher quality observations correspond to more points.
 - Compared to other teams
- Inferences are worth at most 3 points, likely less.
- Answers with no supporting data are worth no more than 2 points.

Remember to clean up! Not worth the 10% penalty...

Things to Remember

- Better observations than everyone around you.
- Observations are the most important thing.
 - NOT identifying the powder
 - NOT giving the correct answer to the question
- Practice with practice tests!
 - Be surprised by questions you can't answer ASAP
 - Get to where you can work very quickly
 - Get familiar with the event
- Make sure you have everything you need and nothing more.
- Time goes faster than you think...

Resources!

Official 2023 CJAP Event Page

- <https://www.soinc.org/cant-judge-powder-b>

2004 Event Presentation (VERY outdated, but good info)

- https://scioly.org/wiki/images/7/73/Cant_Judge_A_powder_Coaches_Clinic.pdf

Dated National Event Supervisor's Site (on Web Archive)

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20130918195946/http://mypage.iu.edu/~lwoz/socrime/index.htm>

More Resources!

Science Olympiad Student Center Wiki Page

- https://scioly.org/wiki/index.php/Can%27t_Judge_A_Powder

Old Sample Tests (slightly different rules)

- https://scioly.org/wiki/index.php/Test_Exchange_Archive#Ca_n.27t_Judge_A_Powder

2023 Sample Tests (biggest collection of scioly exams)

- https://scioly.org/wiki/index.php/2023_Test_Exchange