

- iv) Overall performance in Chemistry (233) has been improving in the last four years as shown by the means: 30.27, 34.27, 37.42 and 39.62 in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively. The improved performance is attributed to improved methods of instruction in many schools and the use of backwash (Reports) documents from the Council.

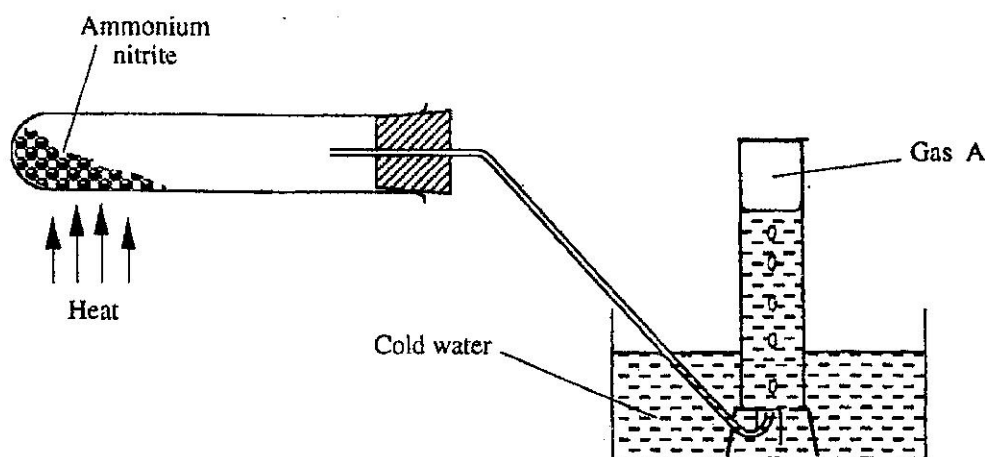
Questions in which candidates performed poorly are discussed below:-

9.1 PAPER 1 (233/1)

A survey of the candidates' responses in paper 233/1 was carried out and it was found that questions 1, 16 and 23 were done very well. Questions 2, 12 and 20 were the worst performed. These are discussed below:-

Question 2

Ammonium nitrite was heated as shown in the set-up below.



- (a) Identify gas A. (1 mark)
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- (b) State and explain the precaution that must be taken before heating is stopped. (2 marks)

The question tested on the action of heat on substances with reference to action of heat on ammonium nitrite in the laboratory preparation of Nitrogen gas.

Weaknesses

- Candidates were not able to identify the gas correctly. Some responses which appeared are NO_2 , N_2O , NO , O_2 and H_2 . This would mean that majority were only guessing.
- Many candidates did not know the precaution to be taken and therefore could not give a precise explanation for it. Some candidates wrote 'the gas should not be