

[00:13] <Alain> Mel, Frank and dav are gem-a students .. Sara is a future student, Annie is a gemmologist  
[00:14] <dav> And what about Mel?  
[00:14] <Alain> everybody meet Mel, he runs an ATC for gem-a in california  
[00:14] <Annie> So is Alain a good gemmologist  
[00:14] <dav> sorry  
[00:14] <Frank> Hi Mel are you the Mel who has started the gem-a thing in the US?  
[00:14] <Mel> hi to all  
[00:14] <Annie> Hi Mel, welcome to our group  
[00:14] <Mel> no, my wife started the first active ATC in 2003. thanks for the welcom  
[00:14] <Frank> yes welcome :)  
[00:14] <dav> Can u tel us something about you, Mel?  
[00:14] <Sara> Closest gem-a facility in my area is in Miama...  
[00:15] <Frank> how far is that |Sara?  
[00:15] <Sara> Depends on if you go 90 mph or not...  
[00:16] <Frank> lol  
[00:16] <Frank> course you do  
[00:16] <Mel> lets, see, i passed the foundation test and practical diploma test and am shooting for the diploma theory. am teaching the foundation course at our atc. been involved in gemology for about 3 years  
[00:16] <Sara> That's awesome  
[00:16] <Sara> Pretty quick, too  
[00:16] <Frank> are you doing the June exam Mel?  
[00:16] <Mel> no, will do it again in january 2007  
[00:17] <Frank> ok ... so no immediate reason for stress and panic  
[00:17] <Mel> 6 of my students are taking the foundation in June, however.  
[00:17] <Frank> Alain that report you sent me...some of those questions wanted BIG answers  
[00:17] <dav> Mel, are u doing the diploma by correspondence?  
[00:17] <Frank> a lot to write in 35 minutes  
[00:18] <dav> true frank.  
[00:18] <Mel> no, resident at our ATC  
[00:18] <Sara> You have to write in 35 minutes?  
[00:18] <dav> ok mel  
[00:18] <Alain> Frank, that was a diploma report .. Mel sent it to me  
[00:18] <Frank> yes Sara...35 minutes for each question  
[00:18] <Frank> Yes Alain...still some of them were long answers  
[00:18] <Alain> average  
[00:19] <Frank> and the subjects also varied a lot  
[00:19] <Sara> How many questions altogether?  
[00:19] <dav> btw, 10x Doos 4 that report.  
[00:19] <Frank> 5  
[00:19] <Alain> I got an e-mail from Ian Mercer (director of education of gem-a) with some pointers that I would like to pass along to you  
[00:19] <Alain> thank Mel for it  
[00:20] <Frank> it was good dav eh?...a good indication of what they are looking for  
[00:20] <dav> frank, did u got my mail?  
[00:20] <dav> 10x also mel!  
[00:20] <Frank> yes just now...I've fitted a new hard drive then realised I'd lost the drivers disc  
[00:20] <Alain> quote from Ian Mercer ".... then can I ask that you consider these in the light of our most recent exam developments? These include such items as changes in question layout and choice, relaxation

of the re-sit rules, emphasis on observation ability and its reporting (notably the observational separation of similar-looking gem materials), removal of emphasis on memorising, such as removal of the need to memorise and draw machinery for synthesis, etc. We also lay g  
[00:20] <Alain> reat emphasis on the need to report the basic and obvious points in answer to each question (regardless of the length of answer) and also on the need to read the question carefully. These last two points are the largest cause of difficulty. "

[00:20] <dav> y frank: it seems they see everything negative.

[00:20] <Frank> I think they were sold in strands but don't know the length

[00:22] <Frank> they are dealing and trying to come to terms with large failure rates I think

[00:22] <dav> so do u think, doos, we will not get artificial appartus to draw?

[00:22] <Frank> dumbing down maybe?...we can hope

[00:23] <Alain> well, also that people don't read and are much to eager to start answering .. drumming up all the know

[00:23] <dav> apparatus

[00:23] <Mel> the need for accurate observation and documentation of such is very important. the questions have 20 marks total each and the observation portion of each question is 50 - 80% of the total. they are NOT trying to fail you, they are just checking to see if you can put forth what you do know

[00:23] <Frank> I think changes may take years to implement

[00:23] <Alain> dav, the way I read it you are not required to draw the flame fusion machine

[00:24] <Sara> They wanted people to draw?

[00:24] <Sara> Did you still have to draw?

[00:24] <Sara> \*do

[00:24] <Alain> what they find very important is that you start with the basics of the asnwrs .. then expand

[00:24] <dav> that is what I am understanding; neither flux nor CZ, Crystal-pulling, hydrothermal I think.

[00:25] <Alain> and that you show them that you fully understand the concepts

[00:25] <Frank> oh yes Sara...every piece of equipment and every crystal system et al

[00:26] <Frank> are you going to do the gem-a course Sara?

[00:26] <dav> btw, I have just forgot the other technique. can u remind me pls?

[00:26] <Alain> flame fusion

[00:26] <dav> someone...

[00:26] <dav> no the other one....

[00:26] <Frank> flux melt

[00:26] <Annie> which other one..

[00:27] <Alain> vapor deposition?

[00:27] <dav> mel, it is the first one in the diploma notes.

[00:27] <Annie> you listed them above

[00:27] <Sara> Yes, I'm going to do the gem-a program, Frank.

[00:27] <Mel> vapor disposition (syhnhthetic diamond?)

[00:27] <Sara> Someone told me classes started in fall.....

[00:27] <Frank> It's really good Sara...great notes and lots to learn :)

[00:27] <dav> no, mel. it is before crystal pulling.

[00:28] <Alain> yes Mel, the Apollo method

[00:28] <dav> i am imaging the diagram but cannott remember its name.

[00:29] <Alain> well go ahead and describe it then

[00:29] <Frank> is it the one that melts the rod a bit at a time?

[00:29] <dav> have u the notes near u , mel?  
[00:29] <Mel> that was not addressed in the diploma course but I venture a guess that if you read up on that and addressed it in your diploma theory exam, you would receive additional remarks as long as the question supported it.  
[00:29] <Mel> not near me now, no  
[00:29] <Mel> the one that melts the rod a bit at a time is the zone melting method  
[00:30] <dav> YES that is the one. 10x mel.  
[00:30] <Mel> either the sintered rod or the furnace moves. the bottom line is that the rod is melted a bit at a time  
[00:30] <Annie> ok, that answers your question Dave  
[00:30] <dav> y an.  
[00:30] <Alain> so, shall we start or are there other questions?  
[00:31] <dav> I have a small question befoe doos.  
[00:31] <Frank> I'm good to start  
[00:31] <Alain> go ahead  
[00:31] <dav> 10x  
[00:31] <Mel> i am watghcing  
[00:31] <Mel> just me alain  
[00:32] <Alain> ah ok Mel, thanks  
[00:32] <dav> Is the interference figure possible to see in a translucent or it is seen only in a transparent gem? Also it is possible for a polycrystalline gem like aventurine quartz? end.  
[00:33] <Alain> only in crystalline substances dav and only those that you would get a good polariscope reading from  
[00:33] <Alain> so heavily included ones are very hard  
[00:33] <Alain> for instance  
[00:33] <Alain> but in theory, it is always there  
[00:33] <Annie> therefore, may not be relevant for ploy/crypto crystalline material  
[00:33] <Annie> in theory its there, but in the real world of practice may not be  
[00:34] <dav> so No 4 both questions. ok?  
[00:34] <Annie> since as you know crystal structure and inclusions of minute crystals are randomly  
[00:34] <Alain> I can find figures in 100% of the uniaxial stones, just 20-30% in biaxial ones  
[00:34] <Annie> ok, does that help  
[00:35] <Alain> maybe for the first and no for the second dav  
[00:35] <Frank> In the poly / crypto materials wouldn't each small crystal particle have it's own depending on it's directin  
[00:35] <Alain> lol yes Frank  
[00:35] <Frank> in theory...not practice  
[00:35] <Annie> yes  
[00:35] <Alain> maybe you could try counting them  
[00:35] <dav> OK , then the answers are No 4 both of them. 10x.  
[00:35] <Frank> lol  
[00:36] <Alain> ok lets start  
[00:36] <dav> ok  
[00:36] <Frank> you want to go first or second this week Dav?  
[00:36] <Alain> who wants to go first  
[00:36] <Annie> who is tossing up the coin for today  
[00:36] <dav> do u mind frank?  
[00:37] <Annie> Dave, you go first  
[00:37] <Frank> I don't mind either way  
[00:37] <dav> ok 10x  
[00:37] <Annie> Frank went first last week

[00:37] <Alain> so?  
[00:37] <Frank> Dav it is  
[00:37] <Annie> ok we start...  
[00:37] <dav> the problem w me is the time for closing here....  
[00:37] <Frank> yes we understand that Dav  
[00:37] <Alain> okay everyone, after the clock starts NOONE is allowed to interupt  
[00:37] <Alain> ready dav?  
[00:37] <dav> y  
[00:38] <Alain> read the question carefully and tell us when to start the clock  
[00:38] <dav> y  
[00:38] <Annie> question, please  
[00:38] <Annie> Alain  
[00:39] <Alain> Dav: Define isomorphous replacement and with the aid of the Garnet group illustrate isomorphous replacement and the effects it has on the properties of garnet.  
[00:39] <Alain> was typing, sorry  
[00:40] <dav> start  
[00:40] <Annie> ok time starts now Dave  
[00:40] <Annie> 8.45 am  
[00:41] <dav> Isomorphs are materials with the same form ie same crystalline structures but w different chemical (but related) composition ie, different chemistry.  
[00:42] <dav> THE Garnets have 2 isomorphous series: the pyralspite => Pyrope, Almandine, Spessartine garnets  
[00:42] <dav> and  
[00:42] <dav> the ugrandite => Uvarovite, Grossular, Andradite garnets.  
[00:43] <dav> Their physical properties eg, SG, Hardness, RI vary because their chemical composition vary  
[00:44] <dav> . Their general formula is  $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$ .  
[00:45] <dav> pyrope= magnesium Aluminium silicate ; almandine= iron aluminium silicate ; spessartine= manganese aluminium silicate.  
[00:47] <dav> uvarovite= calcium chromium silicate ; grossular= calcium aluminium silicate ; andradite= calcium iron silicate.  
[00:48] <dav> NB: Andradite includes demantoid=green, topazolite=yellowish and melanite=black.  
[00:49] <dav> {quoting SG, RI, Mohs' Hardness from sheet produced in a table form}  
[00:50] <dav> Grossular includes Hessonite=orange and Hydrogrossular=pinkish or greenish and Tsavolite=green.  
[00:51] <dav> They have different colors because the different but related chemical composition have different transition elements.  
[00:52] <dav> eg the almandine 'molecule' shows up as an absorption of the yellow + 3 dark lines/bands in the green-blue portions of the spectrum in Almandine garnet.  
[00:53] <dav> The almandine spectrum in Pyrope shows up as 3 broad bands in the blu-green portions of the spectrum.  
[00:54] <dav> In demantoid the Cr spectrum => a doublet at the extreme red end and the Fe spectrum => a band at the indigo portion.  
[00:55] <dav> In spessartine the spectrum shows up as the presence of the almandine 'molecule' from the pyralspite series and 2 dark bands in the indigo/violet due to the presence of Mn ions.  
[00:56] <Annie> Time is up Dave, well done  
[00:56] <Alain> Well done dav  
[00:56] <dav> All garnets belong to the cubic crystal system and shows a dodecahedral or icosidecahedral habit when in the rough crystal form. They may be found as rounded water worn pebbles

[00:56] <dav> ok. comments pls  
[00:56] <Alain> I have a few comments ofcourse  
[00:57] <dav> fire  
[00:57] <Alain> was it clear to you that the emphasise of the question was on isom. replacement and not on garnet?  
[00:58] <Annie> Dave you did wonderfully though, I would have liked to have heard ellaboration on the isomorphism  
[00:58] <dav> on both, I thought.  
[00:58] <dav> eg. pls.  
[00:58] <Annie> that well said,, it was excellent you displayed all the varieties  
[00:59] <Annie> of garnet  
[00:59] <Alain> you clearly have all the facts well in your mind dav, no problem there  
[00:59] <dav> I thought I should illustrate isomorphism w the garnets family.  
[00:59] <Alain> yes  
[00:59] <dav> so?  
[00:59] <Annie> yes, maybe other ones e.g.  
[00:59] <dav> corundum...  
[01:00] <dav> olivine...  
[01:00] <dav> what else?  
[01:00] <Alain> but instead of summing up all the garnets at the start, you could have highlighted the pyrope-almandine series and explained that Mg was gradually replaced by Fe  
[01:00] <Annie> the question was asking for garnet and you demononstrated good knowledge of all \  
[01:01] <Alain> like valenced elements that replace eachother  
[01:01] <Alain> then maybe draw a "time-line" with the members at each end  
[01:01] <Alain> and some ri's with it  
[01:01] <dav> did I showed that doos by stating their chemical composition?  
[01:02] <dav> I said that I would quote their RI from the sheet.  
[01:02] <Alain> yes, you have it all well in mind dav .. yet you start out with a basic explanation  
[01:03] <Alain> yes that is good dav, but that should come later  
[01:03] <dav> What other eg are there apart from those I said?  
[01:03] <dav> if there r....  
[01:03] <Alain> first you could have shown a little understanding by highlighting one of the series just below the formula you gave  
[01:04] <dav> pls continue doos.  
[01:04] <Alain> ok  
[01:04] <Alain> a great thing to do is draw two triangles with the endmembers of the pyralspites / ugrandites at each corner  
[01:05] <Alain> and also state their ri's there  
[01:05] <Alain> can you picture that?  
[01:05] <dav> y  
[01:05] <Alain> then a time-line with only prope-almandine  
[01:05] <dav> wait pls  
[01:05] <Alain> with some intermediate values  
[01:05] <Alain> yes  
[01:06] <dav> not only RI but also the other constants and color. ok?  
[01:06] <Frank> but not hardness  
[01:06] <dav> why?  
[01:06] <Alain> maybe make another diagram for that if you have time, but mainly ri and sg  
[01:06] <Annie> yes, the empashis on SG and especially Spectra was

[01:06] <dav> ok doos. WHY frank?  
[01:07] <Annie> the RI may overlap with each variety and not be so  
[01:07] <Frank> cos demantoid is soft and puts a dip in the rising with  
the garnets line  
[01:07] <dav> mind u, is it DEMANTOID or all of the ANDRADITE?  
[01:08] <dav> frnk?  
[01:08] <Frank> all the andradites I think but I'm not positive  
[01:08] <dav> an/doos?  
[01:08] <Annie> the blue and black is very rare  
[01:08] <Alain> 6.5 for andradite  
[01:08] <Annie> and it applies for Demerantoid  
[01:09] <Annie> but generally andradite is 6.5  
[01:09] <Annie> in theory  
[01:09] <Alain> but that is not the most important factor in this  
[01:09] <dav> and the others, an.  
[01:09] <dav> ok  
[01:09] <Alain> shall I give a logical answer for such a question?  
[01:09] <Frank> so though a high RI it doesn't follow a rising hardness  
pattern....should hardness be left out of garnet questions unless asked  
for??  
[01:09] <Annie> 7.5 -  
[01:09] <dav> cont pls  
[01:09] <Annie> it wasn't asked  
[01:09] <dav> y  
[01:09] <Annie> so generally you could brush over it  
[01:09] <Annie> or be specific  
[01:09] <Annie> if you are sure  
[01:10] <Frank> k  
[01:10] <Alain> Frank, the heavy point was isom. replacement .. not the  
all properties of garnet  
[01:10] <Frank> yesI know  
[01:10] <Alain> so a logical buildup would be like so:  
[01:10] <Alain> -the definition  
[01:11] <Alain> -the mention of the two series  
[01:11] <Alain> -the formula of garnet  
[01:11] <Alain> -a highlight of pyrope-almandine with (the mention of Fe  
and Mg) aswell as their valency states  
[01:12] <Alain> -some intermediate ri values and the end ri values in the  
time-line  
[01:12] <dav> wait pls  
[01:12] <Alain> -the triangles (with maybe ri and sg) at the corners with  
the names  
[01:12] <Alain> - then the rest  
[01:12] <dav> u mean quoting the RI valus from the sheet. ok?  
[01:12] <Alain> yes  
[01:12] <Frank> why are the valency states included?  
[01:13] <dav> ok  
[01:13] <Alain> well you don't need to name the valency states if you  
don't know them .. just that you make it clear that the Fe and the Mg  
have the same state  
[01:13] <Frank> ah ok  
[01:14] <Alain> so it is easy for the one to replace the other  
[01:14] <Frank> yes  
[01:14] <Alain> but the valency states are given in the formula  
[01:14] <Alain> X3Y2  
[01:14] <dav> Can u pls verify me: this isomorphous replacement of Fe vs  
Mg is because they have same valency (ie same charge of 2+). OK?  
[01:15] <Alain> that looks good

[01:15] <dav> If I remember this happens according to Fajans rules (Chemistry). Correct?

[01:15] <dav> ok

[01:16] <Alain> but it is not because they have the same valency state

[01:16] Annie (~Annie@219.89.83.175) left irc: Read error: Connection reset by peer

[01:16] <dav> Why?

[01:16] <dav> is that same charge and size?

[01:16] <Alain> the elements should be present at birth first

[01:16] <dav> Fe vs Mg?

[01:17] <Alain> stating that elements of the same valency state replace each other is good

[01:17] <Frank> so the valency state makes it easy to exchange one for the other but the birthing fluid is the reason they become what they become?

[01:17] <Alain> indeed

[01:18] <Sara> But wouldn't happen if Fe and Mg weren't around in the first place

[01:18] <Alain> indeed

[01:18] <Frank> one or the other or both must be in the initial melt Sara...or no garnets

[01:18] Annie (~Annie@219.89.83.175) joined #go.

[01:18] <Alain> but is the logical order how you should answer clear?

[01:18] <dav> of course; if they r not present there cannot be replacement w each other. ok?

[01:18] <Frank> wb Annie :)

[01:18] <Alain> yes dav

[01:18] <Annie> sorry, computer crashed

[01:19] <Sara> Right Frank...

[01:19] <dav> ok. now do u think doos/annie that a similar question will RE-APPEAR for JUNE

[01:19] <Alain> so dav, you want to give them the basics first , so they see you understood the concept

[01:19] <dav> since this was out 4 the JANUARY session.

[01:20] <dav> y doos.

[01:20] <Frank> lol...second guessing isn't healthy Dav

[01:20] <Alain> indeed dav

[01:20] <dav> indeed what doos? y or n?

[01:20] <Alain> some questions come back in a different disguise

[01:20] <Annie> Dave, the questions are re-worked each each year and may be submitted with differently worded

[01:20] <Alain> it was indeed on the januari exam

[01:21] <Annie> ok.

[01:21] <dav> But do u think that isomorphs will re-appear in june?

[01:21] <Alain> nobody knows dav

[01:21] <Annie> it would be a favourite, so keep it at the back of your mind

[01:21] <dav> of course.

[01:21] <dav> yes at the back not the front.....

[01:21] <Annie> ok... Dave, overall you did excellent..

[01:22] <Alain> practise the logical buildups .. also refer to the Help sections in the course syllabus

[01:22] <dav> so I would have passed....

[01:22] <dav> ok

[01:22] <Annie> yes,

[01:22] <Annie> ok.. Frank's question

[01:22] <Alain> dav, as said .. you have all the ingredients correct, so I'm sure you can do this easily

[01:22] <Frank> ok shoot  
[01:22] <Alain> move on?  
[01:22] <dav> ok frank now.  
[01:22] <Frank> yes  
[01:23] <Alain> ok Frank  
[01:23] <Alain> need to type now  
[01:24] <Alain> Frank: A. define hardness .. B. name and describe the scale generally used in gemmology for the description of hardness .. C. discuss, with examples, the importance of harness in gemmology  
[01:24] <Alain> let us know when to start  
[01:26] <Annie> Frank  
[01:26] <Frank> A. Hardness is the ability of a material to resist abrasion when a pointed fragment of another material is drawn across it without sufficient pressure to develop cleavage  
[01:26] <Annie> time starts now  
[01:26] <Frank> sorry I was typing  
[01:26] <Annie> 9.22 am  
[01:26] <Frank> oops  
[01:27] <Frank> B.The scale usually used in gemmology to describe hardness is "Mohs scale"  
[01:27] <Frank> it consists of ten materials which are numbered one to ten  
[01:28] <Frank> each material on the scale can scratch all stones below it on the scale  
[01:28] <Frank> and in turn can be scratched by all the stones above it on the scale  
[01:28] <Frank> the ten materials used for this scale are;  
[01:28] <Frank> 1. talc  
[01:29] <Frank> 2.gypsum  
[01:29] <Frank> 3.calcite  
[01:29] <Frank> 4.flurite  
[01:29] <Frank> 5.apatite  
[01:29] <Frank> 6. feldspar (orthoclase)  
[01:29] <Frank> 7. quartz  
[01:29] <Frank> 8. topaz  
[01:30] <Frank> 9. corundum and 10. diamond  
[01:30] <Frank> this scale is in no way linear and the difference between 9. corundum and 10. diamond is greater than the difference between 1. talc and 10. corundum  
[01:31] <Frank> sorry 9, corundum  
[01:31] <Frank> Hardness is important in gemmology for several reasons  
[01:32] <Frank> It is important to the lapidary who must choose which materials touse as abrasives for grinding and polishing other materials  
[01:33] <Frank> It is an easy test (though destructive) which can be used on rough material  
[01:33] <Frank> some gemstones (most notably diamond) have different hardness in different directions  
[01:34] <Frank> this is extremely important to the diamond manufacturer  
[01:34] <Frank> as diamonds can be more easily cut in certain directions  
[01:35] <Frank> coloured stones such as kunzite also display this directional difference in hardness  
[01:36] <Frank> mounting of stones injewellery is also important as a soft stone such as apatite mounted in a ring worn every day would soon abrade  
[01:37] <Frank> other factures related to hardness could include toughness and stability which though different in definition may make a softer stone more durable for everyday use

[01:38] <Frank> Hardness is also (though not always) related to RI and lustre and the stones with higher RI and Lustre mostly also have high hardness

[01:39] <Frank> though this is not a sure and certain rule (Demantoid is high RI and has a high enough lustre to show fire even through it's body colour but is relatively soft at 6 1/2)

[01:40] <Frank> Some stones can have a good hardness but still remain brittle and suffer fracture easily...these could include emerald and zircon

[01:41] <Frank> all in all it seems that a hardness of around seven on mohs scale is preferable for use as an everyday piece of jewellery

[01:42] <Frank> unless worn in a protected position as in a pendant

[01:43] <Annie> Well done.. time is up

[01:43] <Alain> thanks Frank, well done

[01:43] <Frank> stones from hardness 7 and up may be scratched with a hard steel file which is after all pretty hard

[01:43] <Alain> Frank, A and B were done perfectly

[01:44] <Frank> other stones which have a hardness around this figure could include jadeite , tourmaline, spinel,

[01:44] <Frank> ok

[01:44] <Alain> in C you got a little overboard .. hardness is not related to ri and lustre .. it is lustre that is related to ri and hardness

[01:45] <Frank> ok

[01:45] <Alain> did you mean to say kyanite instead of kunzite?

[01:45] <Frank> ah...yes

[01:46] <Annie> kunzite was correct... ?

[01:46] <Annie> sorry did you mean kyanite

[01:46] <Alain> me?

[01:46] <Annie> or spodumene

[01:47] <Annie> having directional hardness

[01:47] <Annie> with kunzite being pink

[01:47] <Annie> with 7.6

[01:47] <dav> excuse me. room's closing. can u pls e-mail me w the address of these logs for reference, doos? Goodnight/day all of you and 10x. Bye

[01:47] <Annie> and hiddentite 6.5

[01:47] dav (~dav@213.120.103.105) left #go.

[01:47] <Alain> ok dav,

[01:47] <Annie> bye Dave

[01:47] <Frank> bye Dav

[01:47] <Alain> poor dav, getting kicked out everytime

[01:47] <Annie> sorry i missed something there

[01:48] <Frank> are all these stones showing differential hardness Annie?

[01:48] <Annie> i thought you were talking of kunzite which is Spodumene

[01:49] <Alain> he made a small error, he meant kyanite

[01:49] <Frank> I got mixed up with kyanite and kunzite

[01:49] <Annie> he did ??

[01:49] <Alain> Frank, do you know why 7 is about the turning point in jewellery?

[01:50] <Frank> no...though I have read that it is so

[01:50] <Alain> it's the quartz in dust particles

[01:50] <Alain> also in sand etc

[01:50] <Frank> ah yes...most dust is quartz theory?

[01:50] <Alain> yes

[01:51] <Frank> so softer than 7 can be scratched by dust

[01:51] <Alain> yes

[01:51] <Alain> but also easier when scratched against other surfaces ofcourse

[01:51] <Frank> ty I've never put that together before

[01:52] <Frank> though I've read both parts seperately

[01:52] <Alain> you answered a whole foundation question in 15 minutes

[01:52] <Frank> lol...that was a 20 mark question?

[01:52] <Alain> yes

[01:52] <Alain> I knew you could do that

[01:52] <Frank> saved some time for the treatments question then :)

[01:52] <Alain> indeed

[01:53] <Alain> and during the exam you don't need to take 35 minutes for every question .. just evaluate your answer (and the question) and when you are satisfied .. move on

[01:53] <Annie> That was excellent Frank.

[01:54] <Frank> what do you think about all this mel?...Sara?...Isn;t it a great practice / learning tool?

[01:54] <Annie> Mel do you have any comments for

[01:54] <Annie> us

[01:55] <Frank> lol....gone to lunch

[01:55] <Mel> this is an excellent forum. i fully support it. at the foundation level, the examiners are looking for theory and basic examples. at the diploma level, they are looking for exaamples using specific gem materials

[01:55] <Frank> I've spent the week burning midnight oil reading richards book

[01:55] <Alain> Wise?

[01:55] <Frank> hughes

[01:56] <Alain> ah ok

[01:56] <Mel> do not put in more information that is being asked for. if youdo you will get no credit and waist a lot of time

[01:56] <Alain> yes Mel

[01:56] <Frank> I've only got 15mins here mel ...and no further questions to move on to so I keep typing till times up

[01:57] Annie (~Annie@219.89.83.175) left irc: Read error: Connection reset by peer

[01:57] <Sara> Sorry Frank, I had to op another chat

[01:57] <Frank> wracking my brain for any last morsel

[01:57] <Mel> even though gem-a says not as much memorization is necessary, i say otherwise. if you can quote cehemical comositions (e.g. garnet family), you will get more credit

[01:57] <Alain> Frank, during the exams .. read all the questions first and assess how much time you will probably need for each

[01:57] <Mel> you have to know stgone properties.

[01:57] <Sara> I agree, it is great. It's very nice of Annie and Alain to do this

[01:57] <Frank> yes memorising the coursework will always earn greater marks

[01:58] <Mel> great session

[01:58] <Frank> Yes Sara...they've tutored me since months before I signed up for the gem-a....I've learned so much from them both

[01:58] <Alain> do we live up to gem-a standards Mel .. the students and the evaluations?

[01:58] <Mel> please remember that at the foundation level, observation is the key area. identification is only about 5% of the total for a question

[01:59] <Mel> yest, good folks and i will gladly participate if that is OK

[01:59] <Alain> yes please do Mel

[01:59] <Frank> yes please Mel...and welcome  
[01:59] Annie (~Annie@219.89.83.175) joined #go.  
[01:59] <Mel> thanks, and i hope i live up to your expectations  
[01:59] <Alain> Mel, do you also have the images that go with the foundation observation questions?  
[01:59] <Frank> It's usually me who bounces in and out Annie  
[02:00] <Annie> sorry  
[02:00] <Frank> :) the new hard drive seems to be working ok  
[02:00] <Annie> iam having awful trouble today  
[02:00] <Alain> we notice Annie  
[02:00] <Mel> no, but they are very basic. spectra, crystals, pictures of effect (e.g DR, pleochroism, etc)  
[02:01] <Annie> oh  
[02:01] <Alain> ah okay, Frank .. study those hard, will be alot of questions about them  
[02:01] <Frank> funny thing Alain...who would guess my java probs were hard drive related  
[02:01] <Sara> Ahh, Kai is back ad he's pooped. Big day for him  
[02:01] <Sara> I'll see you folks next week hopefully  
[02:01] <Alain> Frank, the other java is just borked .. eats too much memory  
[02:01] <Mel> who in this forum is doing foundation and who is doing diploma? maybe i am referring to the wrong material  
[02:01] <Frank> cya sara...be well  
[02:02] <Sara> You too Frank  
[02:02] <Annie> bye Sara  
[02:02] <Alain> bye Sara, thanks for dropping by  
[02:02] <Mel> bye sara  
[02:02] <Sara> I think you're quite impressive  
[02:02] <Sara> Bye folks  
[02:02] Sara (~MariCinna@172.171.193.172) left #go.  
[02:02] <Frank> so mel the pictures with the torch in it explaining PPL...things like that?  
[02:02] <Alain> Mel, Frank is doing foundation .. dav is doing diploma  
[02:03] <Mel> yes, but those are the pictures YOU have to draw. They are not supplied in the exam.  
[02:03] <Mel> draw PICTURES, PICTURES, and MORE PICTURES  
[02:03] <Frank> yes....should I practice all the diagrams in the coursework then?  
[02:03] <Mel> absolutely, you will have to draw at least one of them  
[02:04] <Mel> not only draw the pictures, but be able to explain what they are and how they work  
[02:04] <Frank> At the moment I'm memorising definitions and properties...I'll add scetch practice to that  
[02:05] <Mel> let me give you an example of a foundation question, if i may  
[02:05] <Alain> please go ahead  
[02:05] <Frank> can I cut a few stencils in my ruler...I was thinking of a spectrum rectangle and an ideal RB gem shape viewed from the side  
[02:05] <Frank> or is that cheating?  
[02:06] <Alain> on the edge I think Frank  
[02:06] <Mel> a topaz crystal is supplied as a specimen in the exam. for 12 marks, you must write down your observations. this includes size, COLOR, fractures, observable cleavage (basal, and perfect), cross section and striations  
[02:06] <Alain> although there are some nice prefab shapes in some of the rulers

[02:06] <Frank> I could take two rulers and ask a inigilator if the stencil ones allowed

[02:07] <Frank> what about crystal ref and symmetry?

[02:07] <Mel> they, what crystal system do you think this belongs to and give your reasons. you should be able to identify that it is in the orthrhombic system and sketch the idenntifying characteristic that tell you so.

[02:08] <Mel> yes, crystal symmetry is important - 2 fold axes (3 of them), if you can. that will give you more marks

[02:08] <Frank> just the essential symmetry for each system?

[02:08] <Alain> Mel, do they give you a specimin in hand? physically?

[02:08] <Mel> then, what do you think this material is - your answer better support that it is in the orthrhomtic system

[02:08] <Mel> yes, in hand

[02:09] <Alain> oh dear, things have changed then

[02:09] <Mel> then, why is this material good for use in jewelry and why

[02:09] <Annie> there you go Frank.. everything you need to know

[02:09] <Frank> are the crystals used of good form and habit? well terminated etc?

[02:09] <Mel> no, usually they are in horrible condition

[02:10] <Frank> lol figures

[02:10] <Mel> you have to identify (or observe) the characteristic that are identifyable (e.g. cross section, perfect basal cleavage, etc)

[02:10] <Mel> they are not trying to trick you, just know the basics

[02:10] <Frank> is the rhombahedral shape and side pinachoids recognisable?

[02:11] <Mel> yes, definetely. the cross section rhom is good and the stiations are "crappy" looking but identifieable

[02:11] <Alain> rhombohedral is trigonal Frank

[02:11] <Frank> how many foundation students on average a year?

[02:11] <Frank> well rhomboid then

[02:12] <Mel> please notice, that ID is a small fraction of the question. focus on observation

[02:12] <Mel> topaz has been on the last 4 examinations

[02:13] <Frank> thats a pretty long run in examination standards

[02:13] <Mel> we have 10 per year, about 5 per exam, sometimes more. our first exam in 2004 had 9 takers

[02:13] <Alain> does anyone object us posting this log on the forum?

[02:13] Mel (~Mel@69.4.134.204) left irc: Mel

[02:13] <Frank> it's a lot of topaz crystals on a worldwide scale

[02:13] Mel (~Mel@69.4.134.204) joined #go.

[02:13] <Frank> maybe thats why it's always topaz

[02:13] <Frank> not enough of anything else

[02:14] <Frank> I don'r mind alain

[02:14] <Mel> you will always have a red stone on the exam, usually ruby or almandine garnet

[02:14] <Mel> via a spectra (picture) or an actual specimin

[02:15] <Frank> we take our spectroscopes into the exam though

[02:15] <Mel> yes

[02:15] <Mel> that is important that you can use it and write down your observations ncluding the spectra

[02:15] <Frank> the notes cover four red stones (two glasses) spectra but they are all very different

[02:16] <Frank> do I need to know nm for lines and bands?...are extra marks given if I do?

[02:16] <Mel> yes, history shows me selenium glass (on my foundation test), synthetic ruby, alamadine garnet

[02:17] <Frank> were the stones suitably saturated?

[02:17] <Mel> the bands are important to be drawn in the correct position. i am sure that nm levels will be extra credit. But, your hand-held spectroscope will not give those 2 you but you can guess well

[02:18] <Mel> are you referring to color?

[02:18] <Frank> yes....pale stones give terrible spectra sometimes

[02:18] <Mel> the spectra you get on the stones is very diagnostic. there is no guesswork

[02:18] <Frank> good

[02:19] <Mel> gem-a makes sure there is no guesswork

[02:19] <Mel> sometimes you will get a spectra picture only and you are expected to write down what you see. that means copy the spectra

[02:19] <Annie> if you will excuse me.. I have to attend to something,

[02:19] <Frank> I'm going to have to go to bed guys....I've been staring at this screen for a day and a half

[02:20] <Frank> bye Annie

[02:20] <Annie> Thank you everyone, it was great

[02:20] <Alain> ok Annie, thanks for the chat

[02:20] <Frank> thank you

[02:20] <Mel> by annie

[02:20] <Mel> by frankk

[02:20] <Annie> Alain, can you please send the chat

[02:20] <Frank> kisses and hugs

[02:20] <Annie> many thanks,

[02:20] <Alain> yes Annie, i will

[02:20] Annie (~Annie@219.89.83.175) left irc: Annie

[02:21] <Alain> was a very informative chat

[02:21] <Frank> pics are ok too Mel...I'm glad your joining us...be well....later Alain

[02:21] <Frank> nighty night

[02:21] <Mel> bye

[02:21] <Alain> night Frank, well done

[02:21] <Frank> ty

[02:21] Frank (~Guest@172.159.146.72) left irc: Frank

[02:22] <Mel> alain, good session, i look forward to participating

[02:22] <Alain> I think many distance students could need some kind of test before the exams

[02:22] <Alain> thanks

[02:22] <Mel> i agree

[02:22] <Alain> GIA is thinking of doing it online

[02:23] <Mel> i can send you my practice test for my foundation students. very basic but to the point

[02:23] <Alain> that would be great Mel

[02:23] <Mel> what time is it at your place?

[02:23] <Alain> 2:30 am

[02:23] <Mel> my lord, you should get to bed

[02:23] <Alain> yes I'm getting sleepy

[02:24] <Mel> nice working with you

[02:24] <Alain> likewise, I'll send you the log of this chat

[02:24] <Mel> thanks, i appreciate that

[02:24] <Alain> next week again?

[02:24] <Mel> until we meet again?

[02:24] <Mel> yes

[02:24] <Alain> yes, till soon then .. hope you have a good weekend

[02:24] <Mel> have a great week

[02:24] <Mel> you too

[02:25] <Alain> bye for now and thanks

[02:25] <Mel> my pleasure

[02:25] <Mel> out

[02:25] Alain (~doos@84.24.180.138) left irc: Alain