

Referencing Systems

When giving a piece of information you have found from elsewhere, it is important to give a reference. This allows your reader to check your source and decide on its reliability. It also allows them to find more information which may be relevant.

There are two major systems in use for referencing: Vancouver and Harvard. Vancouver referencing uses a number at the end of the relevant sentence, with a numbered list at the end of the document.

TLC plates are made of a thin layer of silica gel deposited on a plastic or glass backing.¹

Then, at the end:

1. Ritchie R. and Gent D. (2015), *A Level Chemistry for OCR*, Oxford, Oxford University Press

The Harvard system uses brackets at the end of the relevant sentence with the surname of the author and the year of publication. An alphabetical list of sources is then given at the end of the document.

Ninhydrin can be used to locate the spots on some TLC plates (Ritchie, 2015)

Then, at the end:

Ritchie R. and Gent D. (2015), *A Level Chemistry for OCR*, Oxford, Oxford University Press

Sources

Sources referenced in the list at the end vary slightly depending on the type of source material.

Books

General format:

Author (year), *Title*, edition, publisher's location, publisher

For your textbook, this would be:

Ritchie R. and Gent D. (2015), *A Level Chemistry for OCR*, Oxford, Oxford University Press

Journals

General format:

Authors (year), 'Article title', *Journal name*, vol. number, issue number, pp. (pages) xx-xx

For example:

Fleming D., 'Bright Sparks', *Education in Chemistry*, vol. 56, issue 5, pp. 4-5

Websites

General format:

Authors (year), *Title*. [online] last-accessed date: URL

For example:

Guy A., *Displacement reaction of silver nitrate and copper*. [online] 2 October 2019:

<https://edu.rsc.org/exhibition-chemistry/displacement-reaction-of-silver-nitrate-and-copper-metal/2020046.article>

If a single author is not listed for a web article, the name of the organisation (e.g. RSC) is given instead.