1.1 MONOMERS AND POLYMERS

Polymers

Polymers = long chains of monomers

Examples of polymers = starch, proteins, DNA

Monomers

Small units which combine to make large chains (polymers)

Examples of monomers = monosaccharides, amino acids and nucleotides

Reactions

A condensation reaction adds two molecules together (e.g. two amino acids) and a water (H20) molecule is formed.

A hydrolysis reaction breaks down polymers. A water molecule (H20) is added and the chemical bond is broken, resulting in two monomers.

Examples of hydrolysis – starch broken down into maltose/glucose, proteins broken down into amino acids

AQA

CC BY NC ND