

# AQA Chemistry A-level

## Topic 1.12 - Acids and Bases

### Flashcards



# Define a Bronsted-Lowry acid



# Define a Bronsted-Lowry acid

## Proton donor



# Define a Bronsted-Lowry base



Define a Bronsted-Lowry base

Proton acceptor



What ion causes a solution  
to be acidic? (2 answers)  
Name and formula



What ion causes a solution to be acidic? (2 answers)

Name and formula

$\text{H}^+$  (hydrogen ion) or, more accurately,  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$

(oxonium ion), as protons react with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to form

it



# What ion causes a solution to be alkaline?





What ion causes a solution to be alkaline?

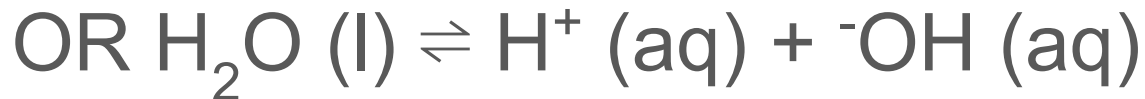
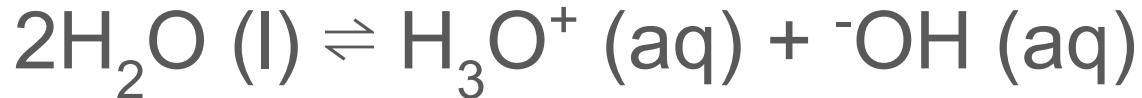
$\text{OH}^-$  (hydroxide ion)



Write an equation for the  
ionisation of water (2)



Write an equation for the ionisation of water (2)



# Derive $K_w$ using the equation for ionisation of water



Derive  $K_w$  using the equation for the ionisation of water

$$K_{eq} = \frac{[H^+][OH^-]}{[H_2O]}$$

$$[H_2O]K_{eq} = [H^+][OH^-]$$

$[H_2O]$  is so large compared to  $[H^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$  that  $[H_2O]K_{eq}$  can be considered to be constant.  $[H_2O]K_{eq} = K_w$

$$\therefore K_w = [H^+][OH^-]$$



What is the value of  $K_w$  at  
298K?



What is the value of  $K_w$  at 298K?

$1.0 \times 10^{-14}$



What physical factors affect  
the value of  $K_w$ ? How do  
they affect it?





What physical factors affect the value of  $K_w$ ? How do they affect it?

Temperature only - if temperature is increased, the equilibrium moves to the right so  $K_w$  increases and the pH of pure water decreases



Why is pure water still neutral, even if pH does not equal 7?



Why is pure water still neutral, even if pH does not equal 7?



Give an expression for pH in terms of  $H^+$



Give an expression for pH in terms of  $H^+$

$$pH = -\log_{10}[H^+]$$



What is the relationship  
between pH and  
concentration of  $H^+$ ?



What is the relationship between pH and concentration of  $H^+$ ?

Lower pH = higher concentration of  $H^+$



If two solutions have a pH difference of 1, what is the difference in  $[H^+]$ ?





If two solutions have a pH difference of 1, what is the difference in  $[H^+]$ ?

A factor of 10



# How do you find $[H^+]$ from pH?



# How do you find $[H^+]$ from pH?

$$[H^+] = 10^{-\text{pH}}$$



How do you find  $[\text{OH}^-]$  from  
pH? (at 298K)



How do you find  $[\text{OH}^-]$  from pH? (at 298K)

Find  $[\text{H}^+]$ , use  $K_w$  (equal to  $1 \times 10^{-14}$  at 298K) to calculate  $[\text{OH}^-]$



What is different when finding  $[H^+]$  from the concentration of diprotic and triprotic acids?



What is different when finding  $[H^+]$  from the concentration of diprotic and triprotic acids?

Need to multiply the concentration of the acid by the number of protons to find  $[H^+]$



How do you calculate the  
pH of a strong alkaline  
solution?





How do you calculate the pH of a strong alkaline solution?

Use  $K_w$  to calculate  $[H^+]$  from  $[OH^-]$

Use  $pH = -\log[H^+]$



# Define the term strong acid



Define the term strong acid

One which fully dissociates in water (  $\text{HX} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{X}^-$  )



Define the term strong base.



Define the term strong base.

One which fully dissociates in water ( $\text{XOH} \rightarrow \text{X}^+$   
 $+ \text{}^{-}\text{OH}$ )



# What is the difference between concentrated and strong?



What is the difference between concentrated and strong?

Concentrated means many mol per  $\text{dm}^3$ , strong refers to amount of dissociation



# What is a weak acid and a weak base?





# What is a weak acid and a weak base?

Weak acids and bases do not fully dissociate in water. They only partially dissociate into their ions.



# Give some examples of strong acids





Give some examples of strong acids



# Give some examples of strong bases



Give some examples of strong bases

NaOH,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$



# Give some examples of weak acids



Give some examples of weak acids

$\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  (ethanoic), any organic acid



# Give some examples of weak bases





Give some examples of weak bases



# What is $K_a$ ? (expression)



What is  $K_a$ ? (expression)

For acid HA,  $HA \rightleftharpoons H^+ + A^-$

$$K_a = \frac{[H^+][A^-]}{[HA]}$$



How would you work out the  
pH of a weak acid?



How would you work out the pH of a weak acid?

Use the equation for  $K_a$ , subbing in values for  $[A^-]$  and  $[HA]$ .

Use  $\text{pH} = -\log[H^+]$  equation to find pH



# What is a titration?



## What is a titration?

The addition of an acid/base of known concentration to a base/acid of unknown concentration to determine the concentration. An indicator is used to show that neutralization has occurred, as is a pH meter.

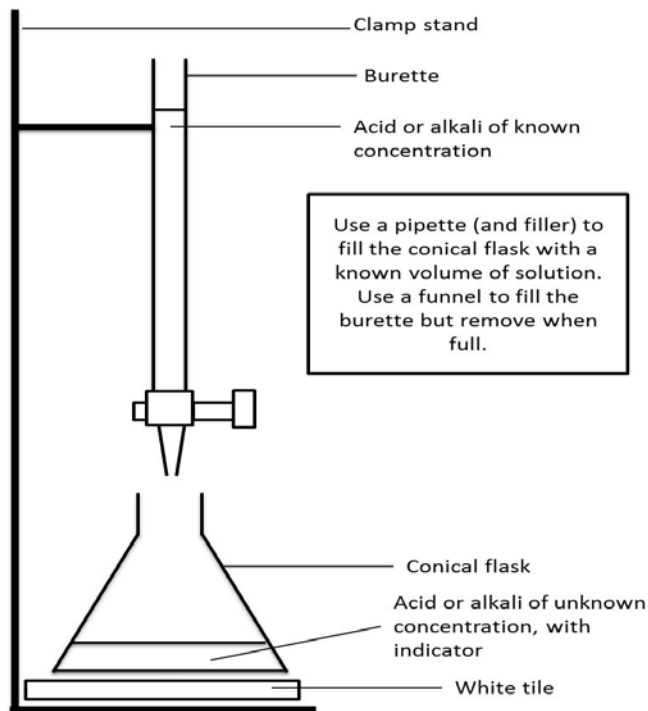


Draw a diagram of the equipment that could be used for a titration.





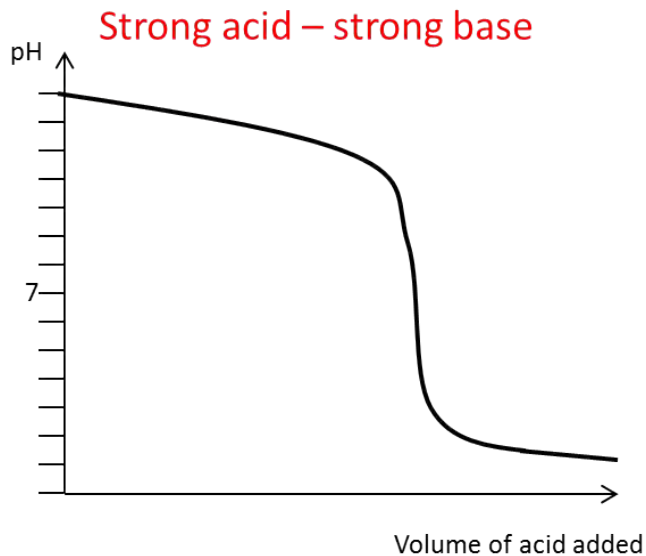
Draw a diagram of the equipment that could be used for a titration.



Draw the titration curve for a  
strong acid with a strong  
base added



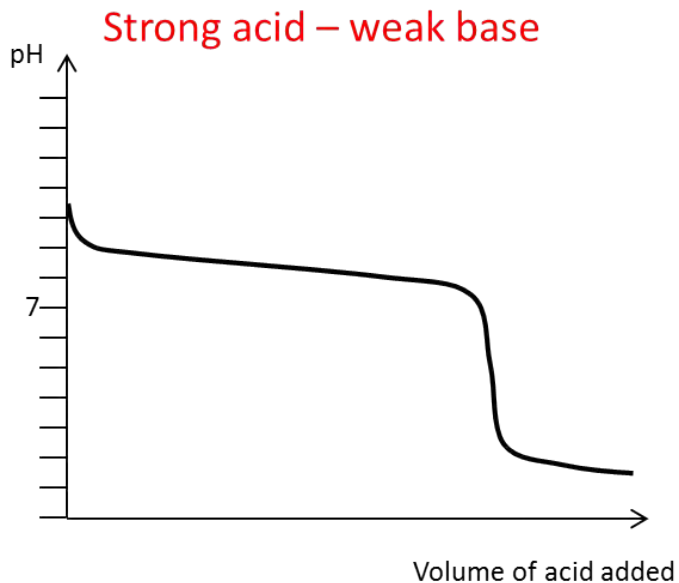
# Draw the titration curve for a strong acid with a strong base added



Draw the titration curve for a  
strong acid with a weak  
base added



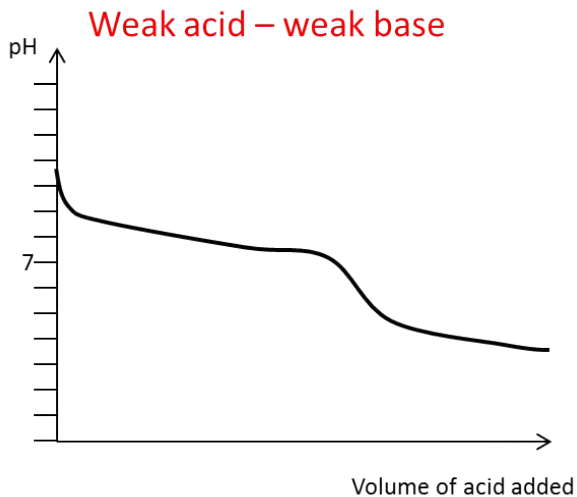
# Draw the titration curve for a strong acid with a weak base added



Draw the titration curve for a weak acid with a weak base added



# Draw the titration curve for a weak acid with a weak base added

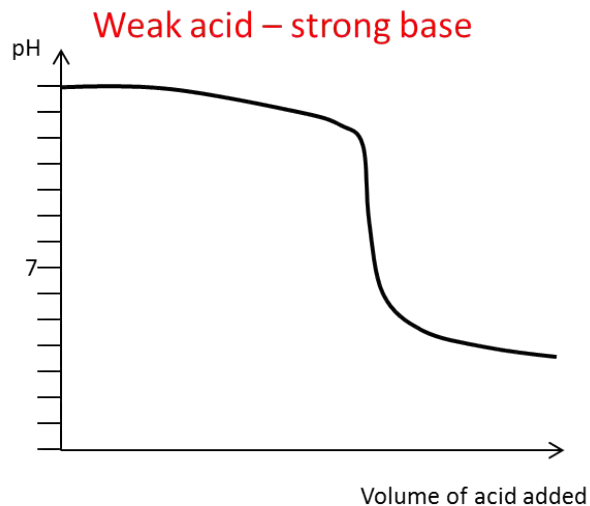


Draw the titration curve for a  
weak acid with a strong  
base added





# Draw the titration curve for a weak acid with a strong base added



Define the term equivalence point.



Define the term equivalence point.

The point at which the exact volume of base has been added to just neutralise the acid, or vice-versa.



What generally happens to the pH of the solution around the equivalence point?



What generally happens to the pH of the solution around the equivalence point?

There is a large and rapid change in pH, except in the weak-weak titration.



How would you calculate the concentration of a reactant if you know the volume and conc of the other reactant and the volume of that reactant added



How would you calculate the concentration of a reactant if you know the volume and conc of the other reactant and the volume of that reactant added

Calculate mols of one reactant

use balanced equation to work out mols of the other

Use  $\text{conc} = \text{mol/vol}$  to calculate concentration



# What is the end point?





## What is the end point?

The volume of acid or alkali added when the indicator just changes colour. If the right indicator is chosen, equivalence point = end point.



What are the properties of a  
good indicator for a  
reaction? (3)



# What are the properties of a good indicator for a reaction? (3)

Sharp colour change (not gradual) - no more than one drop of acid/alkali needed for colour change

End point must be the same as the equivalence point, or titration gives wrong answer.

Distinct colour change so it is obvious when the end point has been reached.



What indicator would you use for a strong acid-strong base titration?



What indicator would you use for a strong acid-strong base titration?

Phenolphthalein or methyl orange, but phenolphthalein is usually used as clearer colour change.



What indicator would you use for a strong acid-weak base titration?



What indicator would you use for a strong acid-weak base titration?

Methyl orange



What indicator would you use for a strong base-weak acid titration?





What indicator would you use for a strong base-weak acid titration?

Phenolphthalein



What indicator would you use from a weak acid-weak base titration?



What indicator would you use from a weak acid-weak base titration?

Neither methyl orange or phenolphthalein is suitable, as neither give a sharp change at the end point.



What colour is methyl orange in acid? In alkali? At what pH does it change?



What colour is methyl orange in acid? In alkali? At what pH does it change?

Red in acid; yellow in alkali. Changes at about pH = 4-5. Approx same as  $pK_a$  value



What colour is phenolphthalein in acid? In alkali? At what pH does it change?



What colour is phenolphthalein in acid? In alkali? At what pH does it change?

Colourless in acid; red in alkali. Changes at about  $\text{pH} = 9-10$ . Approx same as  $\text{pK}_a$  value



# What is the half-neutralisation point?





# What is the half-neutralisation point?

When volume = half the volume that has been added at the equivalence point



# Define a buffer solution



## Define a buffer solution

A solution that resist changes in pH when small amount of acid/alkali are added.



What do acidic buffer solutions contain in general terms?



What do acidic buffer solutions contain in general terms?

A weak acid and a soluble salt of that acid that fully dissociates.



Write a reaction for an  
acidic buffer with added acid



Write a reaction for an acidic buffer with added acid

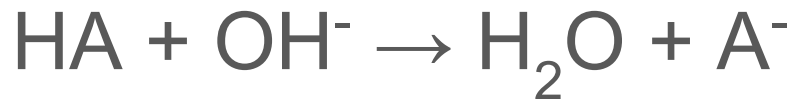


Write a reaction for an  
acidic buffer with added  
alkali.





Write a reaction for an acidic buffer with added alkali.



How else can you achieve  
an acidic buffer solution  
other than just mixing the  
constituents?



How else can you achieve an acidic buffer solution other than just mixing the constituents?

Neutralise half of a weak acid (meaning the acid must be in excess) with an alkali - this forms a weak acid / soluble salt mixture.



What do basic buffer  
solutions contain in general  
terms?



What do basic buffer solutions contain in general terms?

Weak base and soluble salt of that weak base



# How can you calculate the pH of buffer solutions?



How can you calculate the pH of buffer solutions?

Use the  $K_a$  of the weak acid, sub in  $[A^-]$  and  $[HA]$ ,  
calculate  $[H^+] \rightarrow pH$



How can you calculate the new pH of a buffer solution when acid or base is added?





How can you calculate the new pH of a buffer solution when acid or base is added?

Calculate number of moles of  $\text{H}^+$  and  $\text{A}^-$  and HA before acid or base is added. Use equations to work out new moles of  $\text{A}^-$  and HA  $\rightarrow$  find  $[\text{H}^+]$   $\rightarrow$  pH

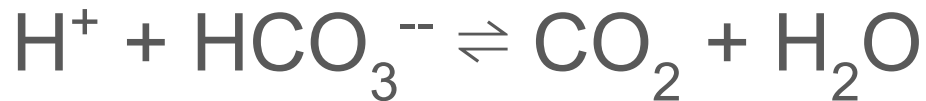


Which buffer system  
maintains blood pH at 7.4?  
What happens when  
acid/alkali is added?



Which buffer system maintains blood pH at 7.4?

What happens when acid/alkali is added?



Add  $\text{OH}^- \rightarrow$  reacts with  $\text{H}^+$  to form  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , then shifts equilibrium left to restore  $\text{H}^+$  lost

Add  $\text{H}^+ \rightarrow$  equilibrium shifts to the right, removing excess  $\text{H}^+$



# What products are buffers found in?



What products are buffers found in?

Shampoos, detergents → important to keep pH right to avoid damage to skin, hair, fabrics

