



Cambridge International AS & A Level

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CHEMISTRY

9701/21

Paper 2 AS Level Structured Questions

May/June 2025

1 hour 15 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You may use a calculator.
- You should show all your working and use appropriate units.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The Periodic Table is printed in the question paper.
- Important values, constants and standards are printed in the question paper.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



1 (a) Solid sodium conducts electricity. Sodium oxide conducts electricity when molten but not when solid.

(i) Name the type of bonding present in sodium and in sodium oxide.

bonding in sodium

bonding in sodium oxide

[1]

(ii) Explain how solid sodium conducts electricity.

.....

..... [1]

(iii) Explain why sodium oxide conducts electricity when molten.

.....

..... [1]

(b) Separate samples of sodium and sodium oxide are each added to an excess of cold water.

(i) Write an equation for the reaction of sodium with cold water.

..... [1]

(ii) Write an equation for the reaction of sodium oxide with cold water.

..... [1]

(iii) Complete Table 1.1.

Do **not** refer to temperature changes when considering observations for these reactions.

Table 1.1

	sodium	sodium oxide
one similarity in observation on addition to cold water		
one difference in observation on addition to cold water		

[2]



- (c) State the oxidation number of the Period 3 elements bonded to Cl in NaCl and PCl_5 . Explain the difference in the oxidation number.

.....

.....

..... [2]

- (d) Table 1.2 shows melting points of some oxides.

Table 1.2

oxide	melting point/°C
SO_2	-73
H_2O	0
SO_3	17
SiO_2	1610
MgO	2852
Al_2O_3	2072

A student suggests the following hypothesis.

*The higher the oxidation number of the element combined with oxygen,
the higher the melting point of the oxide.*

Use Table 1.2 to deduce if this hypothesis is true or false or if there is **not** enough information to make a conclusion. Explain your answer.

.....

.....

..... [2]

[Total: 11]



- 2 A sample of iron is analysed using a mass spectrometer. The mass spectrum shows three isotopes of iron are present in the sample.

(a) Define isotopes.

.....

.....

..... [1]

(b) Fig. 2.1 shows the mass spectrum of the sample of iron.

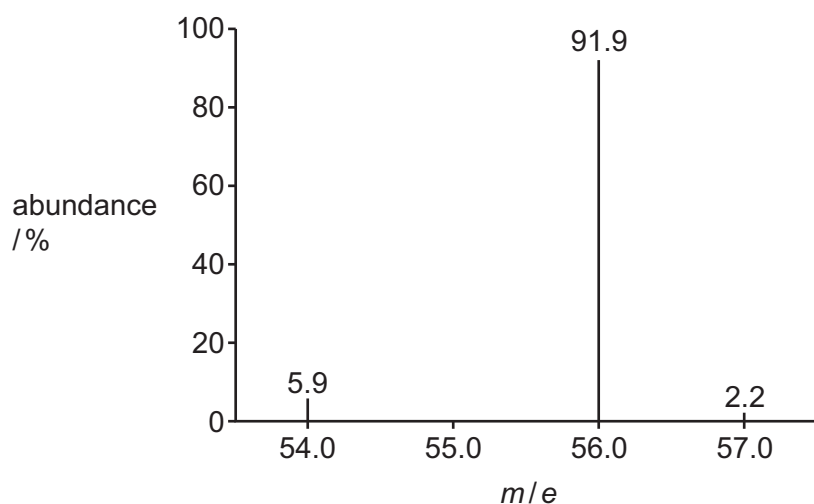


Fig. 2.1

- (i) Use Fig. 2.1 to calculate the relative atomic mass, A_r , of iron to **one** decimal place.

Show your working.

A_r of iron = [2]



(ii) Complete Table 2.1 to show the number of protons and nucleons in one atom of ^{56}Fe .

Table 2.1

particle	number of particles in one atom of ^{56}Fe
protons	
nucleons	

[2]

(c) Deduce the number of pairs of electrons in the shell with principal quantum number $n = 3$ in an Fe atom.

number of pairs of electrons [1]

(d) Write an equation to represent the first ionisation energy of iron.

..... [1]

(e) Suggest how the value for the first ionisation energy of ^{54}Fe compares to the first ionisation energy of ^{56}Fe . Explain your answer in terms of the factors that affect ionisation energy.

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]

[Total: 11]



- 3 (a) Hexene reacts with hydrogen gas to produce hexane.

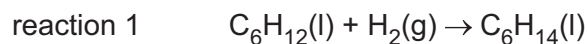


Fig. 3.1 shows the distribution of energies of $\text{H}_2(\text{g})$ molecules at temperature T .

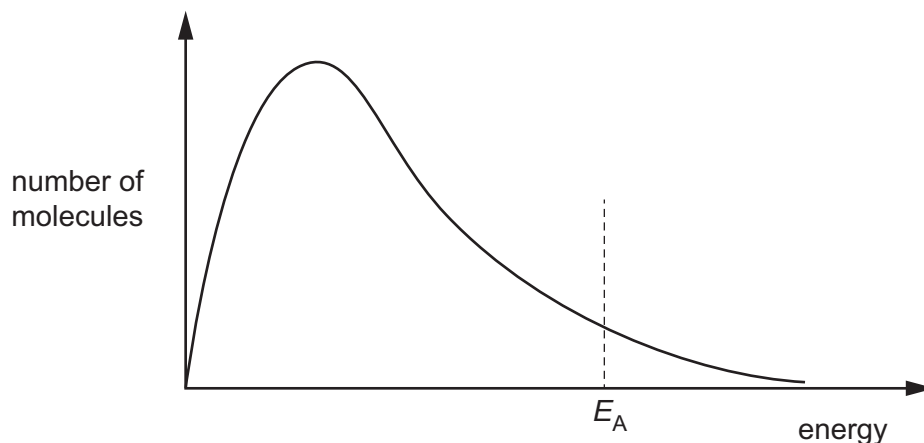


Fig. 3.1

- (i) Sketch on Fig. 3.1 the shape of the curve for the same sample of $\text{H}_2(\text{g})$ molecules when the temperature is increased. [2]
- (ii) Explain why increasing the temperature increases the rate of reaction 1. [2]
-
-
-
- (iii) State the role of nickel when it is added to reaction 1. [1]
-
- (iv) Annotate Fig. 3.2 to show the effect of adding nickel to reaction 1 at temperature T .

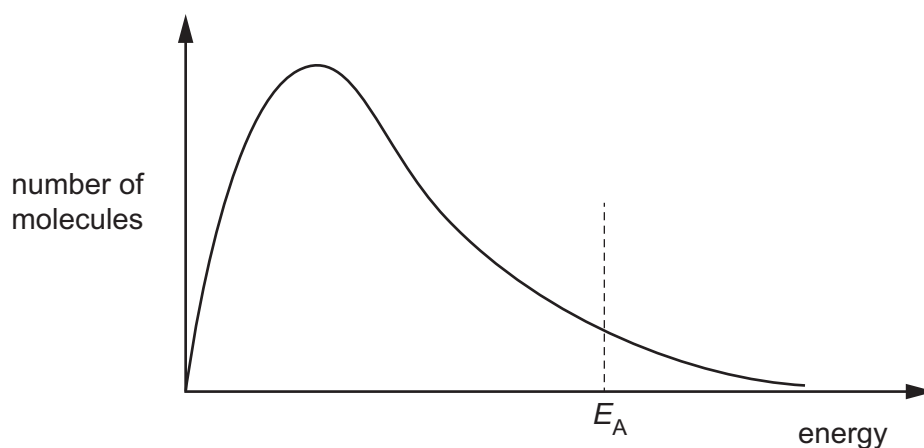


Fig. 3.2



(b) Define Le Chatelier's principle.

.....

.....

..... [2]

(c) Reaction 2 shows the equilibrium reaction between X(g) and Y(g) to produce Z(g) in a sealed container.

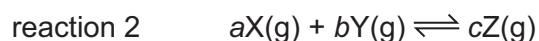


Fig. 3.3 shows the effect of changing pressure on the percentage yield of Z(g) at two different temperatures, 300 K and 350 K.

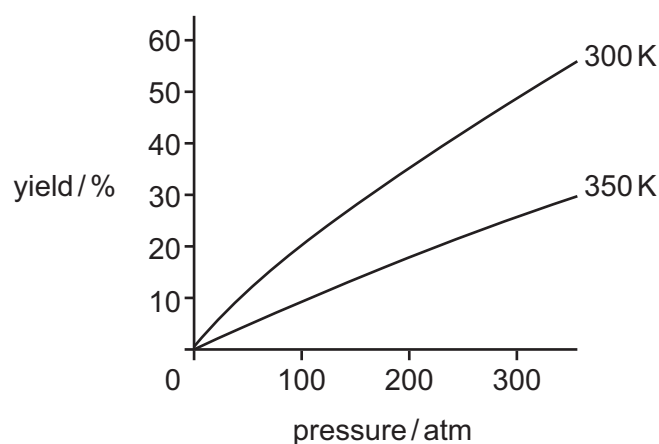


Fig. 3.3

Deduce **two** conclusions about reaction 2 using Fig 3.3.

.....

.....

..... [2]

[Total: 10]



* 0000800000009 *



9

- (ii) Use your answer to (b)(i) to calculate the mass, in g, of vitamin C in the tablet. Show your working.

(If you were unable to calculate a value for the amount of $I_2(aq)$ in (b)(i), use the value $2.64 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}$. This is **not** the correct value.)

mass of vitamin C in tablet =g [2]

- (iii) Deduce the role of $I_2(aq)$ in the reaction in Fig. 4.2.

..... [1]

- (iv) Suggest **two** reasons why hot concentrated acidified potassium manganate(VII) is **not** a suitable reagent for producing **Q** from vitamin C.

1

.....

2

.....

[2]



- (c) Predict **two** absorptions that will be seen in the infrared spectra of both vitamin C and **Q**. Describe the relevant bond and the specific functional group that is responsible for each absorption identified.

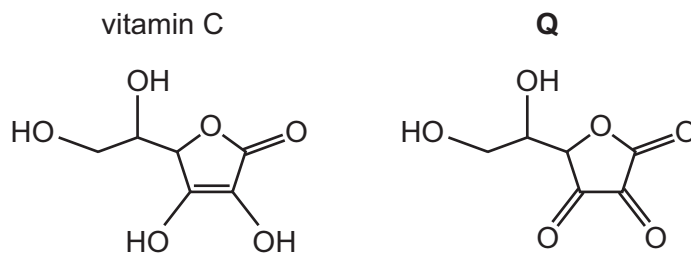


Fig. 4.3

.....

.....

..... [2]

[Total: 9]

Table 4.1

bond	functional groups containing the bond	characteristic infrared absorption range (in wavenumbers)/cm ⁻¹
C–O	hydroxy, ester	1040–1300
C=C	aromatic compound, alkene	1500–1680
C=O	amide carbonyl, carboxyl ester	1640–1690 1670–1740 1710–1750
C≡N	nitrile	2200–2250
C–H	alkane	2850–2950
N–H	amine, amide	3300–3500
O–H	carboxyl hydroxy	2500–3000 3200–3650



* 0000800000011 *



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- 5 Compound **A** contains the elements carbon, hydrogen and oxygen only.
When **A** is heated with $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4(\text{aq})$, compounds **B** and **C** are produced, as shown in Fig. 5.1.

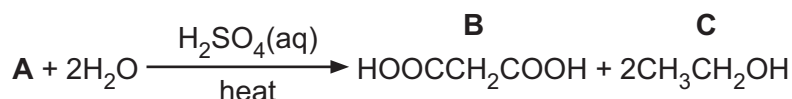


Fig. 5.1

- (a) Draw the structure of **A**.

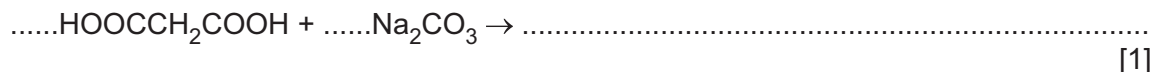
[2]

- (b) Name the type of reaction that occurs when **A** is heated with $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4(\text{aq})$.

[1]

- (c) When aqueous Na_2CO_3 is added to separate samples of **B** and **C**, effervescence is observed with **B** only.

- (i) Complete the equation to describe the reaction between **B** and an excess of aqueous Na_2CO_3 .



- (ii) Suggest why **C** does **not** react with aqueous Na_2CO_3 in a similar type of reaction to **B**.

[1]

- (d) A student suggests a two-step synthesis to produce **B**, as shown in Fig. 5.2.

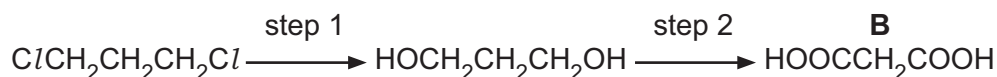


Fig. 5.2

- (i) Identify the reagents and conditions required in steps 1 and 2.

step 1

step 2 [2]

- (ii) Identify the type of reaction that $\text{HOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ undergoes in step 2.

[1]



(e) **B** reacts with an excess of reducing agent **R** to produce **D**.

An excess of PCl_5 is added to **D**.

- A vigorous reaction occurs.
- Misty fumes are seen.
- Organic compound **E** is produced.

(i) Identify the formula of the reducing agent **R**.

..... [1]

(ii) Complete the equation to describe the reaction of **B** with an excess of **R**.

Use [H] to represent one atom of hydrogen from **R**.

..... $\text{HOOCCH}_2\text{COOH}$ +[H] $\rightarrow$ [2]

(iii) Name organic compound **E**.

..... [1]

[Total: 12]



- 6 Three bottles of colourless liquids labelled **F**, **G** and **H** contain separate pure samples of the compounds ethanal, propanal or propanone but **not** necessarily in that order.

(a) State the functional group in ethanal, propanal and propanone.

..... [1]

- (b) State a reagent and the relevant observation that confirm that **F**, **G** and **H** have the same functional group.

reagent

observation [2]

- (c) Separate samples of **F**, **G** and **H** are each tested with Tollens' reagent and with alkaline $I_2(aq)$. The observations are shown in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1

	Tollens' reagent	alkaline $I_2(aq)$
F	no observable change	pale yellow precipitate
G	silver mirror	pale yellow precipitate
H	silver mirror	no precipitate

- (i) Use Table 6.1 to name the organic compounds in bottles **F**, **G** and **H**.

F =

G =

H = [2]

- (ii) Identify the yellow precipitate produced when alkaline $I_2(aq)$ is added to separate samples of **F** and **G**.

..... [1]

- (iii) Compound **J** does **not** contain the same functional group as **F**, **G** and **H**. Compound **J** also reacts with alkaline $I_2(aq)$ to produce a pale yellow precipitate.

Suggest the structure of compound **J**.

[1]

[Total: 7]





Important values, constants and standards

molar gas constant	$R = 8.31 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
Faraday constant	$F = 9.65 \times 10^4 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$
Avogadro constant	$L = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
electronic charge	$e = -1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
molar volume of gas	$V_m = 22.4 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ at s.t.p. (101 kPa and 273 K) $V_m = 24.0 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ at room conditions
ionic product of water	$K_w = 1.00 \times 10^{-14} \text{ mol}^2 \text{ dm}^{-6}$ (at 298 K (25 °C))
specific heat capacity of water	$c = 4.18 \text{ kJ kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ (4.18 J g ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)





The Periodic Table of Elements

Group																			
1	2	Key														17	18		
		1 H hydrogen 1.0																	
		2 He helium 4.0																	
3	4	atomic number atomic symbol name relative atomic mass														9	10		
Li lithium 6.9	Be beryllium 9.0															F fluorine 19.0	Ne neon 20.2		
11	12															16	17		
Na sodium 23.0	Mg magnesium 24.3															S sulfur 32.1	Cl chlorine 35.5		
		3														7	8		
		4														15	16		
		5														31	32		
		6														49	50		
		7														79	80		
		8														117	118		
		9														151	152		
		10														173	174		
		11														195	196		
		12														217	218		
19	20															34	35		
K potassium 39.1	Ca calcium 40.1															Se selenium 79.0	Br bromine 79.9		
37	38															52	53		
Rb rubidium 85.5	Sr strontium 87.6															Te tellurium 127.6	I iodine 126.9		
55	56															84	85		
Cs caesium 132.9	Ba barium 137.3															Po polonium 209	At astatine 210		
87	88															116	117		
Fr francium —	Ra radium —															Lv livermorium —	Ts tennessine —		
																118	119		
																Og oganesson —	120		