Mark scheme

Qu	Question		Answer/Indicative content	Marks	Guidance
					Green solution IGNORE H ⁺ ALLOW Cr ₂ (SO ₄) ₃ OR CrCl ₃ OR Cr ⁺³
			Green solution Cr³+ OR [Cr(H ₂ O) ₆]³+ √		Orange solution IGNORE H ⁺ ALLOW K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇ OR Na ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇ DO NOT ALLOW Cr ⁶⁺
1		i	Orange solution Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻ √ Formulae AND charges must be correct	2	ALLOW 1 mark for correct formulae but wrong way round Examiner's Comments
					Although high attaining candidates responded with the formulae of chromium-containing species, it was common to see organic compounds being suggested. Consequently, a large proportion of candidates did not score either of the 2 marks. Many candidates seem to expect to only give organic species in their responses on this paper and would benefit from understanding that inorganic species may also need to be provided.
		ii	Level 3 (5-6 marks) Reaches a comprehensive conclusion to determine possible correct structures for ALL of F, G, H and I AND ALL functional groups of F, G, H and I There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.	6	Indicative scientific points may include: Identity of F, G, H and I showing CORRECT structures

Level 2 (3-4 marks)

Reaches a conclusion to determine possible **correct** structures for two of **F**, **G**, **H** and **I**

AND most functional groups of **F**, **G**, **H** and **I**

There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure.

The information presented is relevant and supported by some evidence.

Level 1 (1-2 marks)

Reaches a simple conclusion to determine a possible correct structure for one of **F**, **G**, **H** and **I**

OR some functional groups of F, G, H and I

There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning. The information is in the most part relevant.

0 marks No response or no response worthy of credit.

ALLOW enols for F, e.g.

For **G**, **DO NOT ALLOW** tertiary - OH. e.g.

For **G**, **DO NOT ALLOW** tertiary - OH. e.g.

IGNORE names, even if incorrect

For communication, a typical 'logical structure' would link functional groups to **SOME** of the test results, e.g.

2.4-DNP

H and I have carbonyl group/aldehyde or ketone H⁺/Cr₂O₇²⁻

F, **G** and **I** are primary or secondary alcohols or aldehydes **Bromine**

F is unsaturated/has C=C

Tollens

I is aldehyde

Correct functional groups may be shown in correct structures

Examiner's Comments

This Level of Response question was answered well with many candidates identifying compounds **F-I** correctly to reach Level 3. Structures were usually shown skeletally and this practice is to be recommended. Not only is it far quicker and clearer, it eliminates writing every atom in a displayed or structural formula. Some candidates were not given marks for missing hydrogen atoms or for 'sticks' being shown. In these structures, the chemical meaning of a stick is a terminal CH₃ group.

Candidates were also asked to show how the results of the chemical tests helped the identification of the unknown compounds and this formed the basis of the communication strand of the LOR mark. Candidates answered this part of the analysis extremely well and most were given marks for their good communication skills.

This question differentiated very well between well-prepared and less confident candidates. The latter often did not know how the results of these organic tests can be used to identify the functional groups present. It was common for such candidates to identify only one of the four compounds, scoring within Level 1 only.



OCR Support

To better prepare candidates, we recommend using either the digital multiple choice quizzes on Teach Cambridge or creating targeted practise materials using ExamBuilder. If you are unsure of how to access these or ways to make the most of them, get in touch via

science@ocr.org.uk.

				Exemplar 3 Dear your reasoning. Let a be a before the control of
				good communication ensures that the communication strand can be given. This response received all 6
				marks.
		Total	8	
2		Refer to marking instructions on page 5 of mark scheme for guidance on marking this question. Level 3 (5-6 marks) Describes addition reactions including the mechanisms of one alkene AND one carbonyl compound AND some additional details There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.	6	Indicative scientific points may include: Reaction of alkene and mechanism • Suitable reaction, e.g. alkene and Br ₂ OR X ₂ OR HX OR H ₂ O OR H ₂ OR polymerisation May be shown within mechanism • Mechanism, e.g.

Level 2 (3-4 marks)

Describes an addition reaction including the mechanism of **one** alkene **OR one** carbonyl compound **AND** some additional details

OR

Describes addition reactions including an attempt to give the mechanisms of **one** alkene **AND one** carbonyl compound

There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is relevant and supported by some evidence.

Level 1 (1-2 marks)

Selects suitable reagents for addition reactions of **one** alkene **AND one** carbonyl compound.

OR

Attempts to describe an addition reaction including an attempt to give the mechanism of **one** alkene **OR one** carbonyl compound.

There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning. The information is in the most part relevant.

0 marks No response or no response worthy of credit.

ALLOW mechanism for H₂ **AND** H₂O to be shown as electrophilic addition even though incorrect - consider impact on communication statement.

ALLOW suitable non-specification alternative e.g. HCN

Additional details (NOT INCLUSIVE)

- Electrophilic addition
- Systematic names of reactants and/or products
- Details of functional group interconversion e.g. alkene to dibromo
- Details on reagents required e.g.
- H₂ with Ni Catalyst
- $H_2O(g)$ with H_3PO_4 catalyst
- Explanation of major and minor product from electrophilic addition of HX with unsymmetrical alkene
- Explanation of carbocation intermediate stability
- Heterolytic fission

Reaction of carbonyl compound and mechanism

Suitable reactions, e.g.

- Aldehyde or ketone and HCN
 OR H⁻ e.g. RCHO + HCN →
 RCH(OH)CN May be shown
 within mechanism
- Mechanisms, e.g.

	CH.	
- A-	ô-	OH
. Co.	Ī	
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"-"	-p-cn-	- H-C-CN
/ \.	1	- 1
("	н	H
\ -		
': CN		

OR H₂O instead of H⁺ for 2nd stage

ALLOW suitable non-specification alternative e.g. H₂O, NH₃, 1° amine

IGNORE reactions with carboxylic acids (or derivatives) i.e. additionelimination mechanism (condensation reaction)

Additional details (NOT INCLUSIVE)

- Nucleophilic addition
- Systematic names of reactants and/or products
- Details of functional group interconversion e.g. aldehyde to hydroxynitrile
- In reduction, aldehydes form
 1° alcohols and ketones form
 2° alcohols
- Details on reagents required e.g.
- formation of hydroxynitriles with NaCN/H⁺(aq)
- formation of alcohols with
 NaBH₄
- Heterolytic fission

Aspects of the **communication statement** being met might typically include:

- Curly arrows starting from lone pairs / negative charges / bonds.
- All reactants and intermediates have relevant charges and dipoles.
- Mechanisms given are chemically feasible for the reactions.

 No additional incorrect reactants have been included.

Examiner's Comments

A very good proportion of candidates scored all 6 marks, giving well-drawn mechanisms with some additional details such as mechanism names, functional group interconversions or other additional reaction information. Some attempted to 'describe' the mechanism using only words rather than drawing it out with a conventional curly arrow mechanism. Candidates may need more clarity on what 'describe' means in an organic chemistry context. Equally, a few gave just the mechanisms with no additional details, limiting themselves to Level 2.

Candidates were usually more confident with the addition to alkenes using an electrophilic addition mechanism. Some gave additional details about major and minor products, although not always relevant as for a symmetrical alkene. Some represented the addition of hydrogen or water to alkenes via an electrophilic addition mechanism. While not correct it showed an understanding of mechanisms and a correct addition reaction for alkenes, so credit was given. Some candidates included incorrect reagents for reactions, such as acid catalysts with addition of a hydrogen halide, or incorrect conditions, such as the requirement for ultraviolet light on addition of a halogen.

The addition to carbonyl compounds was not always as well-described. Some candidates struggled to identify carbonyl compounds, selecting carboxylic acids or their derivatives, with attempts at addition-elimination mechanism i.e.

condensation reactions. Some gave incorrect reagents for carbonyls, including H_2O and HBr. However, some used off-specification reactions such as the addition of H_2O to form a geminal diol which was given but as the mechanism differs from the nucleophilic addition mechanism taught in this specification, full credit was rarely achieved. Some also considered oxidation of aldehyde or ketone to be an addition reaction.

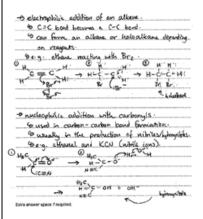
Most who presented a correct mechanism for addition to a carbonyl used the reaction with cyanide rather than reduction with NaBH₄. Common errors included arrows coming from the N of CN⁻, a lack of putting dipoles on carbonyl bonds, missing charges on O in intermediates or showing the wrong direction of arrows.



OCR support

The OCR Guide to Level of Response questions can be found on Teach Cambridge and can be used to help your students better understand this type of question.

Exemplar 1



Level 3 – 6 marks

Two correct addition mechanisms have been shown, one for an alkene

				and one for a carbonyl compound. Additional details include the names of the mechanisms, names of the functional groups in the products, and the fact that a C-C bond is formed in the second mechanism. All curly arrows, charges and dipoles are correctly positioned so this response was also given the communication mark.
		Total	6	
3		C	1	Examiner's Comments The majority of candidates were able to correctly identify the two functional groups and the correct corresponding test i.e. alkene using bromine water and primary alcohol using 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine. The most common incorrect response was B.
		Total	1	
4		Level 3 (5–6 marks) Suggests ALL of the following Reagents and conditions for 3 functional groups Products for 3 functional groups Optical isomerism with description and 3D optical isomers shown There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated. Level 2 (3–4 marks) Suggests two of the following Reagents and conditions for 2 functional groups Products for 2 functional groups Optical isomerism with description OR an attempt to show 3D optical isomers There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is relevant and	6 (AO 3.1 ×3) (AO 3.2 ×3)	CHECK TOP OF QUESTION FOR RESPONSES Indicative scientific points may include: Stereoisomerism Optical isomerism identified with description: e.g. chiral centre /non-superimposable mirror images 3D Optical isomers drawn, e.g. Description is subsumed in 3D diagrams Reactions of ketone/carbonyl e.g. NaBH4

supported by some evidence.

Level 1 (1–2 marks)

Suggests two of the following

- Reagents and conditions for 1 functional group
- Products for 1 functional group
- Identifies optical isomerism with description

OR an attempt to show 3D optical isomers

There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning.

The information is in the most part relevant.

0 mark No response or no response worthy of credit.

Key points to check

CHECK TOP OF QUESTION for responses
IGNORE CONNECTIVITY

in 3D isomer structures

- IGNORE bond angles
- Wedges needed
- ALLOW

Some responses will not fit into this exact pattern and a best-fit match may be needed

Clear communication

Focus on

- Clear diagrams of 3D optical isomers
- Diagrams of unambiguour structures
- Reagents and functional group formed are linked
- Communication is more a general feel for the quality of theresponses.

HCN **OR** CN⁻/H⁺ (e.g. NaCN/H⁺)

Reactions of -OH, e.g.

 $H^+/Cr_2O_7^{2-}$ **OR** $H_2SO_4/K_2Cr_2O_7$ reflux

 $H^+/Cr_2O_7^{2-}$ **OR** $H_2SO_4/K_2Cr_2O_7$ distil

NaBr/KBr/Br- AND acid/H+ OR HBr

Acid/H⁺ (catalyst) (e.g. H₂SO₄)

Reactions of C-CN, e.g.

Slips and minor errors in structures

- Do not penalise the odd slip or omission, e.g. An extra C in a chain; a C short in a chain, C shown instead of CH₂ or skeletal
- You need to judge the extent of any slip based on the whole response.
 Remember that each candidate

H₂ **AND** metal catalyst e.g. Ni, Pt, Pd

H⁺/H₂O e.g. HCl(aq) or H₂SO₄(aq)

OTHER REAGENTS, CONDITIONS AND PRODUCTS e.g. LiAIH₄ as reagent

Check with Team Leader

Examiner's Comments

Overall, candidates performed well when answering this question. They were required to identify that compound **A** shows optical isomerism and to choose a reaction for each of the three functional groups. Candidates were also expected to use structures for the organic products.

To achieve the highest level of response, a description of optical isomerism should be accompanied by 3D diagrams of the optical isomers.

Optical isomerism was usually identified, with associated diagrams with almost all candidates identifying the chiral centre. Most attempted 3D diagrams but candidates do need to take care that the groups attached to the chiral C atom are those in compound A and that no parts of chains are omitted. Optical isomers do also require use bold and dashed wedges to be used.

Most candidates showed good knowledge and understanding of reactions for the three functional groups.

- For the primary alcohol, most chose H⁺/Cr₂O₇²⁻, with distil
 (→ aldehyde) or reflux (→ carboxylic acid); a significant number chose a concentrated acid (→ alkene) or Br—/H+ (→ haloalkane)
- For the ketone, most chose NaBH₄ (→ secondary alcohol)
- For the nitrile, most chose either H₂/Ni (→ amine) or H⁺(aq) (→ carboxylic acid).

Clear diagrams of the products were usually seen although many omitted a CH₂ from the amine branch for hydrolysis of the nitrile or an extra CH₂ in the aldehyde or carboxylic acid branch from oxidation of the primary alcohol.

Some candidates chose 2,4-DNP for a reaction of the ketone and treated the question as one requiring tests, and then proving that the compound was a ketone from no reaction with Tollens' reagent. The question asked for the organic product and the 2,4- DNP product is beyond the demands of this specification (although this was seen very rarely). Candidates adopting this reaction were limiting the extent of their response and candidate should have considered this requirement before selecting 2.4-DNP.

Exemplar 2

					This exemplar shows a good response that lacks 3D diagrams for the optical isomers. The candidate has clearly given reagents and conditions and has shown the organic products. In the response, you can see that the candidate initially showed an extra CH2 in the COOH branch, and a mistake in the amine branch. The absence of 3D structures limits the response to Level 2 and 4 marks have been awarded for the clear communication of the structures.
			Total	6	
5	а	i	NOTE: curly arrows can be straight, snake-like, etc. but NOT double headed or half headed arrows Nucleophilic attack 2 marks Curly arrow from -CN to C of C=O ✓ Correct dipole shown on C=O AND curly arrow showing breaking of C=O ✓	4 (AO1.2 ×2) (AO2.5 ×2)	ANNOTATIONS MUST BE USED
			Intermediate 1 mark		(H (

H₂C=CH — C—CN H₃C=CH — C—CN DO NOT ALLOW δ- on O of intermediate IGNORE connectivity of H₂C=CH-

Product

1 mark

Possible alternative 1,4 (conjugate) addition can be credited as follows (not in specification):

Nucleophilic attack

2 marks

Intermediate

1 mark

Product

1 mark

2nd curly arrow must

- start from, OR be traced back to any part of δ+C=O δ- bond
 - AND
- go to $O^{\delta-}$ (across width of $O^{\delta-}$)

3rd curly arrow must

- go to H⁺
 - AND
- start from, **OR** be traced back to any point across width of lone pair on :O⁻
- OR start from charge of Oof intermediate (then lone pair on O- does not need to be shown)

NOTE: For arrow to H⁺ **ALLOW** arrow to H of H₂O i.e.

IGNORE attempt to draw curly arrow showing breaking of H–O in H₂O

IGNORE lack of dipole on H₂O

IGNORE absence of OH⁻ as 2nd product

Otherwise this more difficult mechanism could cost 2 marks

	Either tautomer as correct product v		Product mark can only be given here if clear from mechanism that there is nucleophilic attack of CH₂ in C=C. Same product could be seen with an attempt at electrophilic addition across C=C. Examiner's Comments There were many excellent examples of precisely drawn mechanisms for the reaction of acrolein with sodium cyanide in acidic conditions and so most candidates gained at least 3 marks. The importance of accuracy when drawing curly arrows needs to be emphasised when teaching mechanisms - arrows must start at lone pairs or negative charges or come from bonds. Many candidates lost marks due to incorrect arrows. Common errors included the use of NaCN or HCN rather than the cyanide ion, the first curly arrow coming from the N of CN-, omission of partial charge across the C=O double bond and addition of partially charges to hydrogen or oxygen. Lower scoring responses often included an intermediate and/or product containing sodium. Some attempted electrophilic addition using HCN across the double bond. A few gained some credit for the mechanism for a competing reaction with nucleophilic addition on CH₂ of C=C. This is not covered in the A Level specification and no candidates scored full marks for this
ii	Nucleophilic addition √	1	alternative. IGNORE just 'addition' Examiner's Comments
"	radicoprillo addition v	(AO1.1)	Most candidates were able to recall the correct response here, especially

			for those more confident with drawing out the mechanism. The most common incorrect response was nucleophilic substitution. Some suggested reduction or nucleophilic addition elimination. Misspellings of 'nucleophilic' were often seen.
b	Only possible alternative that can gain credit: Reaction with NaCN/H+	9 (AO1.2 ×4) (AO2.5 ×5)	ALLOW any combination of skeletal OR structural OR displayed formula as long as unambiguous ALLOW Correct names instead of formula for all reagents throughout e.g. For H⁺ and Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻ , ALLOW acidified dichromate For Steam and acid • For steam, ALLOW H ₂ O(g) OR H ₂ O with T ≥ 100°C • For acid, ALLOW H⁺ OR H ₂ SO ₄ OR H ₃ PO ₄ • Note both needed for 1 mark. ALLOW either way round. For NaBH ₄ • IGNORE water / aqueous /acid • ALLOW LiAIH ₄ For SOC/ ₂ , ALLOW PC/ ₅ OR COC/ ₂ • IGNORE H⁺ OR HC/ For H⁺ and Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻ , ALLOW H ₂ SO ₄ AND K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇ OR Na ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇ ALLOW Tollens' reagent IGNORE connectivity except DO NOT ALLOW -COH for aldehyde For polymer ALLOW alternating side chains. IGNORE brackets and use of 'n' 'End bonds' MUST be shown (solid or dotted) IF NaCN/H⁺ reacted with acrolein instead of NaBH ₄

 No mark for NaCN/H+ OR HCN

- Unsaturated alcohol award mark for product as shown
- Final product must have CN hydrolysed as shown

Examiner's Comments

This question discriminated well. Many candidates were able to demonstrate an excellent knowledge of organic reactions and it was not uncommon to see scores of at least 7 marks. This question identified which candidates had learned their synthetic routes including necessary reagents and conditions. Marks were often lost for small details such as missing Hs (check all Cs have four bonds) or not specifying that steam is required for hydration of alkenes or missing the acid needed for oxidation. Many suggested the use of NaOH or just a mixture of acids to product the diol. The minor 1,3-diol or 1,1-diol product was often seen.

The sequence leading to an acyl chloride from acrolein was usually the most well answered. However, quite a few tried to use HCl to make the acyl chloride. Many lost marks for the polymer for incorrect connectivity on the aldehyde, e.g. - COH or attempting to make a polymer via connection of the aldehyde group.



OCR support

This topic guide provides a summary of synthetic routes. Copies of the summary posters without the conditions can be found on Teach Cambridge. This should be used in conjunction with the organic synthesis topic exploration pack.

Total 14

			Examiner's Comments
6	A	1 (AO1.2)	Drawing out the structures often helped candidates to identify each functional group and therefore spot the ketone which is key to correctly answering this question.
	Total	1	
7	C ₆ H ₅ COOH/H ₂ SO ₄ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₃	4 (AO2.5×4)	ALLOW any combination of skeletal OR structural OR displayed formula as long as unambiguous ALLOW any vertical bond to the OH group e.g. ALLOW IGNORE connectivity of CH ₃ CH ₂ group IGNORE inorganic by-products ALLOW HCI/H ₂ O, H ₂ SO ₄ /H ₂ O IGNORE dilute Examiner's Comments The majority of candidates were able to identify at least one of the structures. A significant number of candidates did not check the number of bonds of each atom in their structures and frequently had too many or too few hydrogen atoms attached. Most candidates identified that acidic conditions were required but some missed the aqueous condition that was also required for the mark.
	Total	4	
8	Level 3 (5–6 marks) Describes, in detail, reactions of two aliphatic compounds that form a C–C bond AND mechanisms for the two aliphatic	6 (AO1.2×4) (AO2.5×2)	Indicative scientific points may include: Reactions of aliphatic compounds

reactions.

There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.

Level 2 (3-4 marks)

Describes a reaction of **one** aliphatic compound that forms a C–C bond with few omissions/errors.

AND mechanism for **one** aliphatic reaction. **OR**

Describes reactions of **two** compounds that forms a C–C bond

AND attempts a mechanism for **one** of the reactions

There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is relevant and supported by some evidence.

Level 1 (1-2 marks)

Selects suitable reagents for reactions of **two** compounds that form a C–C bond. **OR**

Attempts to describe a reaction and mechanism of **one** compound that forms a C–C bond, with omissions/errors.

There is an attempt at a logical structure with a line of reasoning. The information is in the most part relevant.

0 marks No response or no response worthy of credit.

and mechanisms

• Haloalkane, RX and $CN^- \rightarrow RCN + X^-$

Reagents: NaCN and ethanol

Reaction: Nucleophilic substitution

Mechanism:

$$R \xrightarrow{\int_{0}^{h} \int_{0}^{h} \int_{0}^{h}$$

Aldehyde or ketone and HCN

e.g. RCHO + HCN \rightarrow RCH(OH)CN

Reagents: NaCN and H⁺

Reaction: Nucleophilic addition

Mechanism:

OR H₂O instead of H⁺ for 2nd stage

If alternative reactions are shown contact your TL e.g. radical substitution, polymerisation

Examiner's Comments

This question differentiated well.
Candidates who were given Level 3
(5-6 marks) understood the term
aliphatic and were able to provide
two different mechanisms that
produced a C-C bond. The most

				common responses seen involved the nucleophilic substitution of a halogenoalkane and a cyanide ion and the nucleophilic addition of a carbonyl with a cyanide ion. Some candidates offered radical substitution mechanisms, detailing initiation, propagation and termination steps, with the termination step producing a C-C bond. Candidates who scored Level 2 (3-4 marks) frequently detailed a reaction involving aromatic compounds or polymerisation of alkenes for which they were unable to give a mechanism.
		Total	6	
9	i	(Add) 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine AND orange/yellow/red precipitate ✓ Take melting point (of crystals) ✓ Compare to known values/database ✓	3 (AO1.2 × 3)	ALLOW errors in spelling ALLOW 2,4(-)DNP OR 2,4(-)DNPH ALLOW Brady's reagent or Brady's Test ALLOW solid OR crystals OR ppt as alternatives for precipitate Mark second and third points independently of response for first marking point DO NOT ALLOW 2 nd and 3 rd marks for taking and comparing boiling points OR chromatograms
	ii	Tollens' (reagent) AND Silver (mirror/precipitate/ppt/solid) √	1 (AO1.2)	ALLOW ammoniacal silver nitrate OR Ag ⁺ /NH ₃ ALLOW black ppt OR grey ppt ALLOW Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻ /H ⁺ AND Turns green √ IGNORE reference to conditions, e.g. Heat or reflux

		Examiner's Comments The use of 2,4- dinitrophenylhydrazine as a test for the carbonyl group is well known by candidates at this level. The majority of the cohort correctly identified this test and the subsequent analysis of the melting point of the products as a method of identifying each compound. Lower ability candidate responses made reference to analysis of the boiling points or omitted the reference to analysis of the melting points. Almost all candidates were able to correctly describe the use of Tollens' reagent as a test for an aldehyde fictional group
Total	4	