

Chem Notes

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This compilation of notes are meant to be used as a reference for the GCE "A"-level Chemistry Paper, focusing on brief explanations on theories as well as (ideally) exhaustive collections of writing for answering technique. These notes are meant for free, public use, but at the reader's own risk. Good luck with your exams.

1 Stoichiometry

1.1 Particles and Relative Mass

Definition 1.1: Proton Number / Atomic Number

The Proton Number is the number of protons in an atom of that element. This determines the identity of the atom.

Definition 1.2: Nucleon Number / Mass Number

The Nucleon Number is the total number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom.

Definition 1.3: Nuclide

A Nuclide is a species of atom with a specific proton number and nucleon number, written $\frac{\text{Atomic Number}}{\text{Nucleon Number}}\text{X}$

Definition 1.4: Isotope

Isotopes of an element are atoms with the same proton number but different nucleon numbers

Definition 1.5: Relative Isotopic Mass

Relative Isotopic Mass is the mass of an atom of a specific isotope divided by $\frac{1}{12}$ the mass of a carbon-12 atom, and is unitless

Definition 1.6: Relative Atomic Mass

Relative Atomic Mass is the weighted average of the masses of naturally occurring species of a specific element, and is unitless. The value is calculated as

$$A_r = \frac{\sum \text{Nucleon number} \times \text{Fractional abundance}}{\frac{1}{12} \text{ the mass of a carbon-12 atom}}$$

Definition 1.7: Relative Molecular / Formula Mass

Relative Molecular Mass is the relative mass of one covalent molecule of a certain substance, obtained as the sum of the A_r s of its constituent atoms. Relative Formula Mass is similar but used for ionic compounds and is calculated using the smallest collection of atoms from which a formula can be made (AKA a formula unit).

1.2 The Mole

Definition 1.8: Mole

A mole of substance is the amount of a substance which contains as many elementary elements (molecules, ions, electrons, atoms, particles etc) as there are atoms in 12 grams of carbon-12. Alternatively, it is the amount of substance which contains 6.0×10^{23} elementary elements, also known as the Avogadro constant and written as L .

Definition 1.9: Molar Mass

Molar mass is the mass of a mole of substance with units grams per mole.

1.3 Chemical Formulae

Definition 1.10: Empirical Formula

The Empirical Formula of a compound is the simplest ratio of number of atoms of different elements in one molecule.

Definition 1.11: Molecular Formula

The Molecular Formula of a compound is the actual number of atoms of each element in one molecule of the compound.

A molecular formula of a substance is always a multiple of its empirical formula. Since ionic compounds do not exist in single molecules, they do not have a molecular formula.

1.4 Stoichiometry

Definition 1.12: Stoichiometry

Stoichiometry is defined as the study of the proportions of which molecules react with each other.

Definition 1.13: Stoichiometric Amounts

Stoichiometric Amounts of a substance are the amounts which undergo reaction.

From a balanced equation, one can obtain ratios of moles of reactants and products, masses of reactants and products and volumes of gases evolved.

1.4.1 Limiting Reagent

When reacting substances, reactants may exceed stoichiometric amounts and not be reacted.

Definition 1.14: Limiting Reagent

The Limiting Reagent in a reaction is the reactant which is deficient and consumed completely in a reaction.

1.4.2 Yield

Definition 1.15: Theoretical Yield

The Theoretical Yield of a reaction is the mass of product formed calculated using the chemical equation and the amount of limiting reagent used.

Definition 1.16: Actual Yield

The Actual Yield of a reaction is the mass of product that is actually obtained after reaction.

Definition 1.17: Percentage Yield

The Percentage Yield is the ratio of actual yield to theoretical yield presented in percent.

1.4.3 Volume of Gases

Avogadro's hypothesis states that at constant temperature and pressure, any volume of gas will have the same number of molecules.

Definition 1.18: Molar Volume

The Molar Volume V_m is the volume taken up by 1 mole of gas at a certain temperature and pressure. Common temperatures and pressures include:

Standard Temperature and Pressure (s.t.p.) at 273K and 100000Pa or 1bar gives $V_m = 22.7 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$.

Room Temperature and Pressure (r.t.p.) at 293K and 101325Pa or 1bar gives $V_m = 24 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$.

1.5 Concentration

Definition 1.19: Solution

A Solution is a homogeneous mixture of two or more substances, with the more abundant substance being the solvent and the less abundant substance the solute.

Definition 1.20: Concentration

The Concentration of a substance is the amount or mass of substance dissolved per unit of solvent or solution. The molar concentration is written by enclosing the name of substance in square brackets and has units mol dm^{-3} . The mass concentration has units g dm^{-3} .

Definition 1.21: Standard Solution

A Standard Solution is a solution of known constitution and concentration.

1.6 Acid-Base Titration

Definition 1.22: Volumetric Analysis

Volumetric Analysis, otherwise called Titrimetric Analysis, is a category of experiments which involve the precise measurement of volumes of solutions which react, typically involving the reaction of a standard solution (titrant) with a solution of unknown concentration (titre) to obtain the concentration of the unknown solution by adding one solution to another solution until stoichiometric amounts of reactants have reacted.

1.6.1 Acids and Bases

Definition 1.23: Arrhenius Acids and Bases

Arrhenius Acids are substances which increase the concentration of H^+ in a solution while an Arrhenius Base increases the concentration of OH^- in a solution. Both react to form H_2O .

Definition 1.24: Brønsted Acids and Bases

Brønsted-Lowry Acids are substances which donate protons while Brønsted-Lowry Bases receive protons.

Definition 1.25: Strength of Acid / Base

The Strength of an Acid or a Base is the extent of which it dissociates in an aqueous solution. Strong acids and bases exist as completely disassociated solutions while weak acids and bases are observed to exist in their complete molecules. The acidity constant, K_a or $\text{p}K_a$ of an acid HA is defined by $\frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$ when the dissociation is in equilibrium.

Definition 1.26: Basicity

The Basicity of an acid is how many H^+ ions it ionizes per molecule.

1.6.2 Titration Curves and Indicators

Definition 1.27: Equivalence Point

The Equivalence Point is said to be reached when an acid-base mixture has undergone complete neutralization and is signified by a region of rapid pH change in the pH-Volume curve.

The equivalence point of a acid-base titration depends on whether its acid and base used is strong or weak. Strong acid - weak base reactions have rapid pH change from 3.5 to 6.5 and call for indicators like methyl orange (red-orange-yellow) and screened methyl orange (violet-grey-green) while weak acid - strong base reactions call for thymol blue (yellow-green-blue), phenolphthalein (colorless-pink) and thymolphthalein (colorless-blue). For phenolphthalein and thymolphthalein, the endpoint colors depend on the titrant. Strong-acid strong-base reactions can use all of the above indicators while weak-acid weak-base reactions have no suitable indicator.

1.6.3 Back Titration

Back titrations are used when the qualities of a substance need to be assessed when they cannot be easily dissolved into a solution, such as solid carbonates. Samples are reacted fully with a standard solution and the standard solution is then titrated against to investigate the change in its concentration to determine the properties of the sample.

1.6.4 Double Indicator Method

The double indicator method is used when assessing titrations which have more than one region of rapid pH change. Multiple equivalence points suggest that there are multiple stages to a reaction and hence the amount of titrant used to reach a certain stage can be examined at multiple points and used to infer more data.

For a titration of a mixture of Na_2CO_3 and NaHCO_3 , phenolphthalein can be added as an indicator to find the first equivalence point. After reaching that point, methyl orange is then added to find the second equivalence point.

1.7 Redox

Definition 1.28: Redox

Redox reactions occur when reduction and oxidation occurs simultaneously.

Definition 1.29: Disproportionation

Disproportionation reactions occur when the same element is simultaneously oxidized and reduced. The opposite reaction is called comproportionation.

	Oxidation	Reduction
O ₂	+	-
H	-	+
e ⁻	-	+
Oxidation Number	+	-

1.7.1 Oxidation Number

1. Elements have 0 oxidation state.
2. All F in compounds have +1.
3. All H in compounds have +1, except for -1 in metal hydrides.
4. All O in compounds have -2, except for -1 in peroxides, -0.5 in superoxides and +2 in OF₂.
5. All ions and compounds have net oxidation state equal to their charge.
6. More electronegative atoms have lower oxidation numbers than less electronegative atoms.

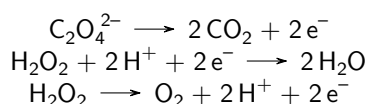
1.7.2 Balancing Redox Equations

Note that given a reduction and oxidation process, the net amount of e⁻ does not change. Use this to determine the ratio of other reactants and the amount of e⁻ consumed or produced in an unknown reduction or oxidation reaction.

1. Write and balance half equations of products and reactants.
2. Balance O with H₂O and H with H⁺ or OH⁻ depending on which is present.
3. Balance charges with e⁻.
4. Combine both reactions to balance e⁻ and remove common reactants and products.

1.7.3 Redox Titration

Common half-equations include:

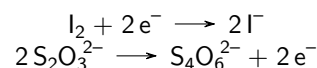


Manganate(VII) titrations involve the half-reaction $\text{MnO}_4^- + 8\text{H}^+ + 5\text{e}^- \longrightarrow \text{Mn}^{2+} + 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in acidic medium and $\text{MnO}_4^- + 4\text{H}^+ + 3\text{e}^- \longrightarrow \text{MnO}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in basic medium. Due to the purple color of MnO_4^- , the reaction is self-indicating and the end point is reached whenever there is an appearance or disappearance of purple tint in the solution.

Fe³⁺ solutions in MnO_4^- titrations are yellow before titration, while H₂O₂ solutions are colorless.

Dichromate(VI) titrations involve the half-reaction $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-} + 14\text{H}^+ + 6\text{e}^- \longrightarrow 2\text{Cr}^{3+} + 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in acidic medium. Though orange $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$ ions turn into green Cr³⁺ ions, green appears significantly before an end-point is reached and hence requires indicators like barium / sodium diphenylamine p-sulphonate or diphenylamine (green to blue-violet) or N-phenylanthranilic acid (green to red-violet).

Iodine and thiosulphate react with each other with the half-equations:



And a titration of thiosulphate ions into a solution containing I₂ can be used to assess the amount of I₂ in said solution. Otherwise called Iodometric titrations, they usually involve the creation of I₂ by adding some substance to KI and then titrating with standard S₂O₃²⁻ solution until the solution turns near colorless, at which starch solution is added to create starch-iodine complexes which are blue-black and can easily identify an endpoint, with the color change of dark blue to colorless. Solutions left exposed to air will eventually turn blue again due to atmospheric oxidation of I⁻.

2 Atomic Structure

3 Chemical Bonding I

4 Gases

5 Energetics

6 Kinetics