7. The following equation shows the reaction between copper and concentrated nitric acid:

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$$HNO_3(l) + Cu(s) \rightarrow Cu(NO_3)_2(aq) + 2 NO_2(g) + 2 H_2O(l)$$

Observable changes associated with this reaction are the dissolving of the copper, the formation of a deep blue solution and the evolution of a pungent brown gas.

Which of the following are some of the atomic/molecular scale events needed for these observable changes to occur?

- (i) collisions between HNO₃ molecules and Cu atoms
- (ii) donation and acceptance of protons
- (iii) reduction of copper atoms
- (a) i only
- (b) ii only
- (c) i and iii only
- (d) i, ii and iii