

NOTES FOR QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Test for anions

anion	test	test result
carbonate (CO_3^{2-})	add dilute acid	effervescence, carbon dioxide produced
chloride (Cl^-) [in solution]	acidify with dilute nitric acid, then add aqueous silver nitrate	white ppt.
iodide (I^-) [in solution]	acidify with dilute nitric acid, then add aqueous silver nitrate	yellow ppt.
nitrate (NO_3^-) [in solution]	add aqueous sodium hydroxide, then aluminium foil; warm carefully	ammonia produced
sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) [in solution]	acidify with dilute nitric acid, then add aqueous barium nitrate	white ppt.

Test for aqueous cations

cation	effect of aqueous sodium hydroxide	effect of aqueous ammonia
aluminium (Al^{3+})	white ppt., soluble in excess giving a colourless solution	white ppt., insoluble in excess
ammonium (NH_4^+)	ammonia produced on warming	–
calcium (Ca^{2+})	white ppt., insoluble in excess	no ppt.
copper(II) (Cu^{2+})	light blue ppt., insoluble in excess	light blue ppt., soluble in excess giving a dark blue solution
iron(II) (Fe^{2+})	green ppt., insoluble in excess	green ppt., insoluble in excess
iron(III) (Fe^{3+})	red-brown ppt., insoluble in excess	red-brown ppt., insoluble in excess
zinc (Zn^{2+})	white ppt., soluble in excess giving a colourless solution	white ppt., soluble in excess giving a colourless solution

Test for gases

gas	test and test result
ammonia (NH_3)	turns damp red litmus paper blue
carbon dioxide (CO_2)	gives white ppt. with limewater (ppt. dissolves with excess CO_2)
chlorine (Cl_2)	bleaches damp litmus paper
hydrogen (H_2)	'pops' with a lighted splint
oxygen (O_2)	relights a glowing splint
sulfur dioxide (SO_2)	turns aqueous acidified potassium manganate(VII) from purple to colourless