
CBSE Class-12 Chemistry Quick Revision Notes
Chapter-07: The P-Block Elements

- **The p-Block elements:**

Elements belonging to groups 13 to 18 of the periodic table are called p-block elements.

- **General electronic configuration of p-block elements:**

The p-block elements are characterized by the ns^2np^{1-6} valence shell electronic configuration.

- **Representative elements:**

Elements belonging to the s and p-blocks in the periodic table are called the representative elements or main group elements.

- **Inert pair effect:**

The tendency of ns^2 electron pair to participate in bond formation decreases with the increase in atomic size. Within a group the higher oxidation state becomes less stable with respect to the lower oxidation state as the atomic number increases. This trend is called 'inert pair effect'. In other words, the energy required to unpair the electrons is more than energy released in the formation of two additional bonds.

GROUP 15 ELEMENTS

- **Nitrogen family:**

The elements of group 15 – nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), arsenic (As), antimony (Sb) and bismuth (Bi) belong to configuration is ns^2np^3 .

- **Atomic and ionic radii:**

- a) Covalent and ionic radii increase down the group.
- b) There is appreciable increase in covalent radii from N to P.
- c) There is small increase from As to Bi due to presence of completely filled d or f orbitals in heavy elements.

- **Ionisation energy:**

- a) It goes on decreasing down the group due to increase in atomic size.
- b) Group 15 elements have higher ionisation energy than group 14 elements due to smaller size of group 15 elements.
- c) Group 15 elements have higher ionization energy than group 16 elements because they have stable electronic configuration i.e., half-filled p-orbitals.

- **Allotropy:**

All elements of Group 15 except nitrogen show allotropy.

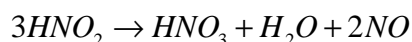
- **Catenation:**

- a) Nitrogen shows catenation to some extent due to triple bond but phosphorus shows catenation to maximum extent.
- b) The tendency to show catenation decreases down the group.

- **Oxidation states:**

- a) The common oxidation states are +3, +5 and –3.

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- b) The tendency to show -3 oxidation state decreases down the group because of decrease in electronegativity by the increase in atomic size.
 - c) The stability of +5 oxidation state decreases whereas stability of +3 oxidation state increases due to inert pair effect.
 - d) Nitrogen shows oxidation states from -3 to +5.
 - e) Nitrogen and phosphorus with oxidation states from +1 to +4 undergo oxidation as well as reduction in acidic medium. This process is called disproportionation.



- **Reactivity towards hydrogen:**

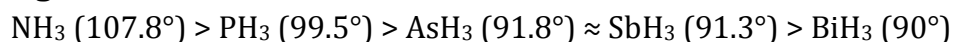
- a) All group 15 elements form trihydrides, MH_3 .
- b) It belongs to sp^3 hybridisation.
- c) The stability of hydrides decreases down the group due to decrease in bond dissociation energy down the group.
 $\text{NH}_3 > \text{PH}_3 > \text{AsH}_3 > \text{SbH}_3 > \text{BiH}_3$

- **Boiling point:**



- a) Boiling point increases with increase in size due to increase in van der Waals forces.
- b) Boiling point of NH_3 is more because of hydrogen bonding.

- **Bond angle:**



- a) Electronegativity of N is highest. Therefore, the lone pairs will be towards nitrogen and hence more repulsion between bond pairs. Therefore bond angle is the highest. After nitrogen, the electronegativity decreases down the group.
- d) Basicity decreases as $\text{NH}_3 > \text{PH}_3 > \text{AsH}_3 > \text{SbH}_3 < \text{BiH}_3$. This is because the lone pair of electrons are concentrated more on nitrogen and hence the basicity will be maximum in the case of NH_3 . It will decrease down the group as the electronegativity decreases down the group. The reducing power of hydrides increases down the group due to decrease in bond dissociation energy down the group.

- **Reactivity towards oxygen:**

- a) All group 15 elements form trioxides (M_2O_3) and pentoxides (M_2O_5).
- b) Acidic character of oxides decreases and basicity increases down the group. This is because the size of nitrogen is very small.
- c) It has a strong positive field in a very small area. Therefore, it attracts the electrons of water O-H bond to itself and release H^+ ions easily.
- d) As we move down the group, the atomic size increases and so, the acidic character of oxide decreases and basicity increases down the group.

- **Reactivity towards halogen:**

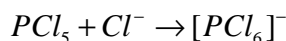
Group 15 elements form trihalides and pentahalides.

- a) Trihalides

These are covalent compounds and become ionic down the group with sp^3 hybridisation, pyramidal shape.

b) Pentahalides

- i) They are lewis acids because of the presence of vacant d – orbitals.
- ii) They possess sp^3d hybridisation and hence possess trigonal bipyramidal shape.



- iii) PCl_5 is ionic in solid state and exist as $[PCl_4]^+ [PCl_6]^-$.
- iv) In PCl_5 , there are three equatorial bonds and two axial bonds. The axial bonds are longer than equatorial bonds because of greater repulsion from equatorial bonds.
- v) Nitrogen does not form pentahalides due to absence of d- orbitals.

- **Reactivity towards metals:**

All elements react with metals to form binary compounds in –3 oxidation state.

- **Anomalous behaviour of nitrogen:**

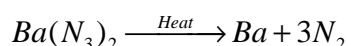
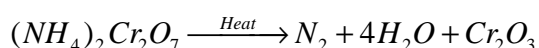
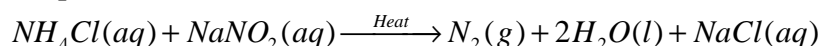
The behaviour of nitrogen differs from rest of the elements.

Reasons:

- i. It has a small size.
- ii. It does not have d – orbitals
- iii. It has high electronegativity
- iv. It has high ionization enthalpy

- **Dinitrogen:**

a) **Preparation:**



b) **Physical Properties:**

- i) It is a colourless, odourless, tasteless and non – toxic gas.
- ii) It is chemically un-reactive at ordinary temperature due to triple bond in $N \equiv N$ which has high bond dissociation energy.

- **Ammonia:**

- a) Ammonia molecule is trigonal pyramidal with nitrogen atom at the apex.
- b) It has 3 bond pairs and 1 lone pair.
- c) N is sp^3 hybridised.
- d) Preparation:

Haber's process:

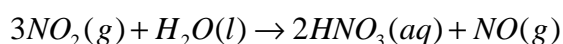
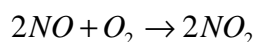
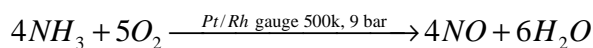


Pressure 200×10^5 Pa Temperature 773 K Catalyst is FeO with small amounts of K_2O and Al_2O_3

- **Nitric Acid:**

- **Ostwald Process:**

- The NO thus formed is recycled and the aqueous HNO₃ can be concentrated by distillation upto ~ 68% by mass. Further concentration to 98% can be achieved by dehydration with concentrated H₂SO₄. Nitric acid is strong oxidizing agent in the concentrated as well as in the dilute state.



- **Phosphorus:**

- a) It shows the property of catenation to maximum extent due to most stable P – P bond.
 - b) It has many allotropes, the important ones are:
 - i. White phosphorus
 - ii. Red phosphorus
 - iii. Black phosphorus

- **White phosphorus:**

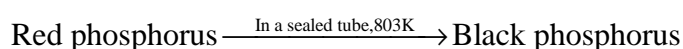
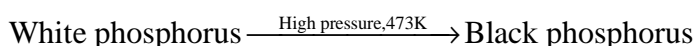
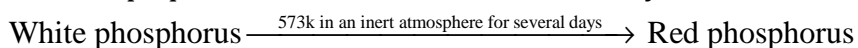
- a) Discrete tetrahedral P₄ molecules
 - b) Very reactive
 - c) Glows in dark
 - d) Translucent waxy solid
 - e) Soluble in CS₂ but insoluble in water
 - f) It has low ignition temperature, therefore, kept under water

- **Red phosphorus**

- a) Polymeric structure consisting of chains of P₄ units linked together
 - b) Less reactive than white phosphorus
 - c) Does not glow in dark
 - d) Has an iron grey lustre
 - e) Insoluble in water as well as CS₂

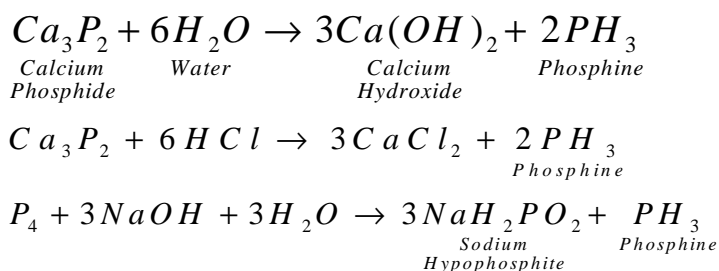
- **Black phosphorus**

- a) Exists in two forms - α black phosphorus and β black phosphorus
 - b) Very less reactive
 - c) Has an opaque monoclinic or rhombohedral crystals



- **Phosphine**

- a) It is highly poisonous, colourless gas and has a smell of rotten fish.
 - b) Preparation
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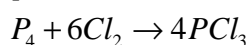


- **Chlorides of Phosphorous:**

- a) **Phosphorus Trichloride**

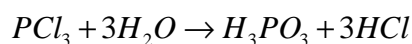
- i) It is a colourless oily liquid.

- ii) Preparation



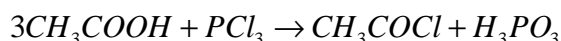
- iii) With water,

- It gets hydrolysed in the presence of moisture.

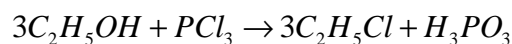


- iv) Pyramidal shape, sp³ hybridisation

- v) With acetic acid



- vi) With alcohol

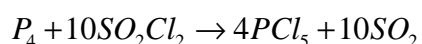
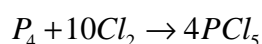


- b) **Phosphorus pentachloride**

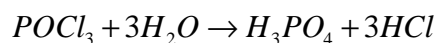
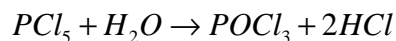
- i) Yellowish white powder.

- ii) Trigonal bipyramidal shape, sp³d hybridisation .

- iii) Preparation



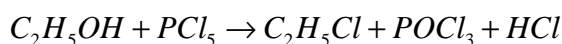
- iv) With water



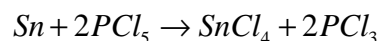
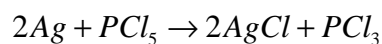
- v) With acetic acid



- vi) With alcohol



- vii) With metals



GROUP 16 ELEMENTS

- **Oxidation states:**
 - a) They show -2, +2, +4, +6 oxidation states.
 - b) Oxygen does not show +6 oxidation state due to absence of d – orbitals.
 - c) Po does not show +6 oxidation state due to inert pair effect.
 - d) The stability of -2 oxidation state decreases down the group due to increase in atomic size and decrease in electronegativity.
 - e) Oxygen shows -2 oxidation state in general except in OF_2 and O_2F_2
 - f) Thus, the stability of +6 oxidation state decreases and +4 oxidation state increases due to inert pair effect.
- **Ionisation enthalpy:**
 - a) Ionisation enthalpy of elements of group 16 is lower than group 15 due to half-filled p-orbitals in group 15 which is more stable.
 - b) However, ionization enthalpy decreases down the group.
- **Electron gain enthalpy:**
 - a) Oxygen has less negative electron gain enthalpy than S because of small size of O.
 - b) From S to Po electron gain enthalpy becomes less negative to Po because of increase in atomic size.
- **Melting and boiling point:**
 - a) It increases with increase in atomic number.
 - b) Oxygen has much lower melting and boiling points than sulphur because oxygen is diatomic (O_2) and sulphur is octatomic (S_8).
- **Reactivity with hydrogen:**
 - a) All group 16 elements form hydrides.
 - b) They possess bent shape.
 - c) Bond angle: H_2O [373K] > H_2S [213K] < H_2Se [232K] < H_2Te [269K]
- **Acidic nature:**

$\text{H}_2\text{O} < \text{H}_2\text{S} < \text{H}_2\text{Se} < \text{H}_2\text{Te}$

This is because the H-E bond length increases down the group. Therefore, the bond dissociation enthalpy decreases down the group.
- **Thermal stability:**

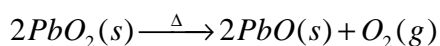
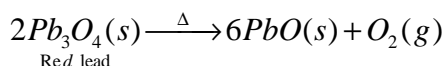
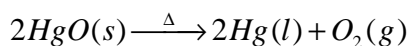
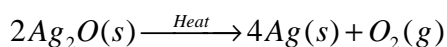
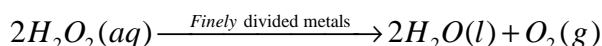
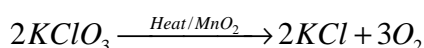
$\text{H}_2\text{O} < \text{H}_2\text{S} < \text{H}_2\text{Se} < \text{H}_2\text{Te} < \text{H}_2\text{Po}$

This is because the H-E bond length increases down the group. Therefore, the bond dissociation enthalpy decreases down the group.
- **Reducing character:**

$\text{H}_2\text{O} < \text{H}_2\text{S} < \text{H}_2\text{Se} < \text{H}_2\text{Te} < \text{H}_2\text{Po}$

This is because the H-E bond length increases down the group. Therefore, the bond dissociation enthalpy decreases down the group.
- **Reactivity with oxygen:** EO_2 and EO_3

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- a) Reducing character of dioxides decreases down the group because oxygen has a strong positive field which attracts the hydroxyl group and removal of H^+ becomes easy.
 - b) Acidity also decreases down the group.
 - c) SO_2 is a gas whereas SeO_2 is solid. This is because SeO_2 has a chain polymeric structure whereas SO_2 forms discrete units.
 - **Reactivity with halogens:** EX_2 , EX_4 and EX_6
 - a) The stability of halides decreases in the order $F^- > Cl^- > Br^- > I^-$.
 - b) This is because E-X bond length increases with increase in size.
 - c) Among hexa halides, fluorides are the most stable because of steric reasons.
 - d) Dihalides are sp^3 hybridised and so, are tetrahedral in shape.
 - e) Hexafluorides are only stable halides which are gaseous and have sp^3d^2 hybridisation and octahedral structure.
 - f) H_2O is a liquid while H_2S is a gas. This is because strong hydrogen bonding is present in water. This is due to small size and high electronegativity of O.
 - **Oxygen:**
 - a) Preparation:

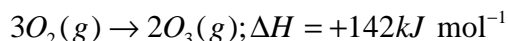


- **Oxides:**
The compounds of oxygen and other elements are called oxides.
 - **Types of oxides:**
 - a) Acidic oxides: Non-metallic oxides are usually acidic in nature.
 $SO_2 + H_2O \rightarrow H_2SO_3$ (Sulphurous acid)
 - b) Basic oxides: Metallic oxides are mostly basic in nature. Basic oxides dissolve in water forming bases e.g.,
 $Na_2O + H_2O \rightarrow 2NaOH$
 $K_2O + H_2O \rightarrow 2KOH$
 $CaO + H_2O \rightarrow Ca(OH)_2$
 - c) Amphoteric oxides: They show characteristics of both acidic as well as basic oxides.
 $Al_2O_3 + 6HCl(aq) \rightarrow 2AlCl_3(aq) + 3H_2O$
 $Al_2O_3 + 6NaOH(aq) + 3H_2O(l) \rightarrow 2Na_3[Al(OH)_6](aq)$
 - d) Neutral oxides: These oxides are neither acidic nor basic. Example: Co, NO and N_2O
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- **Ozone:**

- a) Preparation:

It is prepared by passing silent electric discharge through pure and dry oxygen 10 – 15 % oxygen is converted to ozone.



- b) Structure of Ozone:

Ozone has angular structure. Both O = O bonds are of equal bond length due to resonance.

- **Sulphur:**

- a) Sulphur exhibits allotropy:

- i. Yellow Rhombic (α - sulphur)

- ii. Monoclinic (β - sulphur)

- b) α - sulphur $\xrightarrow{369K}$ β - sulphur

- c) At 369 K both forms are stable. It is called transition temperature.

- d) Both of them have S_8 molecules.

- e) The ring is puckered and has a crown shape.

- f) Another allotrope of sulphur – cyclo S_6 ring adopts a chair form.

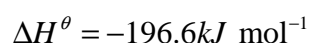
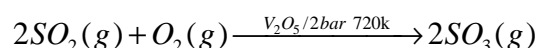
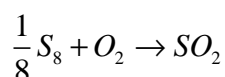
- g) S_2 is formed at high temperature (~ 1000 K).

- h) It is paramagnetic because of 2 unpaired electrons present in anti bonding π^* orbitals like O_2 .

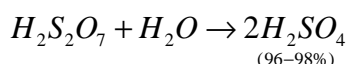
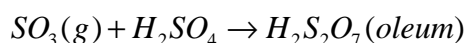
- **Sulphuric acid:**

- a) Preparation:

By contact process



- b) Exothermic reaction and therefore low temperature and high pressure are favourable.



- c) It is dibasic acid or diprotic acid.

- d) It is a strong dehydrating agent.

- e) It is a moderately strong oxidizing agent.

GROUP 17 ELEMENTS

- **Atomic and ionic radii:**

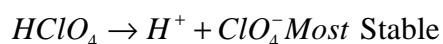
Halogens have the smallest atomic radii in their respective periods because of maximum effective nuclear charge.

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- **Ionisation enthalpy:**
They have very high ionization enthalpy because of small size as compared to other groups.
 - **Electron gain enthalpy:**
 - a) Halogens have maximum negative electron gain enthalpy because these elements have only one electron less than stable noble gas configuration.
 - b) Electron gain enthalpy becomes less negative down the group because atomic size increases down the group.
 - **Electronegativity:**
 - a) These elements are highly electronegative and electronegativity decreases down the group.
 - b) They have high effective nuclear charge.
 - **Bond dissociation enthalpy:**
 - a) Bond dissociation enthalpy follows the order: $\text{Cl}_2 > \text{Br}_2 > \text{F}_2 > \text{I}_2$
 - b) This is because as the size increases bond length increases.
 - c) Bond dissociation enthalpy of Cl_2 is more than F_2 because there are large electronic repulsions of lone pairs present in F_2 .
 - **Colour:**
All halogens are coloured because of absorption of radiations in visible region which results in the excitation of outer electrons to higher energy levels.
 - **Oxidising power:**
 - a) All halogens are strong oxidising agents because they have a strong tendency to accept electrons.
 - b) Order of oxidizing power is: $\text{F}_2 > \text{Cl}_2 > \text{Br}_2 > \text{I}_2$
 - **Reactivity with Hydrogen:**
 - a) Acidic strength: $\text{HF} < \text{HCl} < \text{HBr} < \text{HI}$
 - b) Stability: $\text{HF} > \text{HCl} > \text{HBr} > \text{HI}$. This is because of decrease in bond dissociation enthalpy.
 - c) Boiling point: $\text{HCl} < \text{HBr} < \text{HI} < \text{HF}$. HF has strong intermolecular H bonding. As the size increases van der Waals forces increases and hence boiling point increases.
 - d) % Ionic character: $\text{HF} > \text{HCl} > \text{HBr} > \text{HI}$ Dipole moment: $\text{HF} > \text{HCl} > \text{HBr} > \text{HI}$. Electronegativity decreases down the group.
 - e) Reducing power: $\text{HF} < \text{HCl} < \text{HBr} < \text{HI}$
 - **Reactivity with metals:**
 - a) Halogens react with metals to form halides.
 - b) Ionic character: $\text{MF} > \text{MCl} > \text{MBr} > \text{MI}$. The halides in higher oxidation state will be more covalent than the one in the lower oxidation state.
 - **Interhalogen compounds:**
Reactivity of halogens towards other halogens:
 - a) Binary compounds of two different halogen atoms of general formula $\text{X X}'_n$ are called interhalogen compounds where $n = 1, 3, 5, \text{ or } 7$. All these are covalent compounds.
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- b) Interhalogen compounds are more reactive than halogens because X-X' is a more polar bond than X-X bond.
- c) All are diamagnetic.
- d) Their melting point is little higher than halogens.
- e) XX' (ClF, BrF, BrCl, ICl, IBr, IF) (Linear shape) XX'₃ (ClF₃, BrF₃, IF₃, ICl₃) (Bent T-shape) XX'₅ – ClF₅, BrF₅, IF₅, (square pyramidal shape) XX'₇ – IF₇ (Pentagonal bipyramidal shape)

- **Oxoacids of halogens:**

- a) Fluorine forms only one oxoacid HOF (Fluoric (I) acid or hypofluorous acid) due to high electronegativity.
- b) Acid strength: HOCl < HClO₂ < HClO₃ < HClO₄
- c) Reason:



- d) Acid strength: HOF > HOCl > HOBr > HOI. This is because Fluorine is most electronegative.

GROUP 18 ELEMENTS:

- **Ionisation enthalpy:**

- a) They have very high ionization enthalpy because of completely filled orbitals.
- b) Ionisation enthalpy decreases down the group because of increase in size.

- **Atomic radii:**

Increases down the group because the number of shells increases down the group.

- **Electron gain enthalpy:** They have large electron gain enthalpy because of stable electronic configuration.

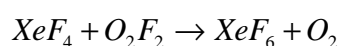
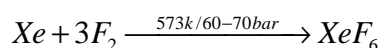
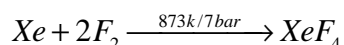
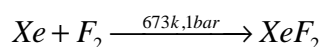
- **Melting and boiling point:**

It has low melting and boiling point due to the presence of only weak dispersion forces.

- **Shapes:**

XeF₂ is linear, XeF₄ is square planar and XeF₆ is distorted octahedral. KrF₂ is known but no true compound of He Ne and Ar are known.

- **Compounds of Xe and F:**



XeF₂, XeF₄ and XeF₆ are powerful fluorinating agents.

- **Compounds of Xe and O:**

