

2008 AP® CHEMISTRY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Answer the following questions relating to gravimetric analysis.

In the first of two experiments, a student is assigned the task of determining the number of moles of water in one mole of $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot n \text{H}_2\text{O}$. The student collects the data shown in the following table.

Mass of empty container	22.347 g
Initial mass of sample and container	25.825 g
Mass of sample and container after first heating	23.982 g
Mass of sample and container after second heating	23.976 g
Mass of sample and container after third heating	23.977 g

- (a) Explain why the student can correctly conclude that the hydrate was heated a sufficient number of times in the experiment.
- (b) Use the data above to
- (i) calculate the total number of moles of water lost when the sample was heated, and
 - (ii) determine the formula of the hydrated compound.
- (c) A different student heats the hydrate in an uncovered crucible, and some of the solid spatters out of the crucible. This spattering will have what effect on the calculated mass of the water lost by the hydrate? Justify your answer.

In the second experiment, a student is given 2.94 g of a mixture containing anhydrous MgCl_2 and KNO_3 . To determine the percentage by mass of MgCl_2 in the mixture, the student uses excess $\text{AgNO}_3(aq)$ to precipitate the chloride ion as $\text{AgCl}(s)$.

- (d) Starting with the 2.94 g sample of the mixture dissolved in water, briefly describe the steps necessary to quantitatively determine the mass of the AgCl precipitate.
- (e) The student determines the mass of the AgCl precipitate to be 5.48 g. On the basis of this information, calculate each of the following.
- (i) The number of moles of MgCl_2 in the original mixture
 - (ii) The percent by mass of MgCl_2 in the original mixture