

Chemistry of chalk and MgCO_3 explored through the sport of weightlifting.

Weightlifting utilises chemistry as participants use chalk to stop the bar from slipping. Natural chalk has now been replaced by a man-made substance for this use. Attempt the following questions, in the spaces provided, to revise what you have learnt about natural and man-made chalk.

1. Chalk, when occurring naturally in the ground, comes from a sedimentary rock. Name the sedimentary rock and two other sediments that are sometimes found in this layer of rock.

Fact

Chalk is used in many different sports such as weightlifting and gymnastics but can also be found in sports such as triathlon where it is used as a reinforcing agent for neoprene rubber in the athletes' wetsuits.

2. How is natural chalk formed?

3. Describe a chemical process used to manufacture magnesium carbonate.

4. Name five uses of chalk other than in sport.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Key Point

The chemical name for chalk is magnesium carbonate and its empirical formula is MgCO_3 .