

| | KS1 | Lower KS2 | Upper KS2 | KS3 | KS4 (higher content embedded) | KS5 | Higher Education (Year 1 and 2) |
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| Atomic structure and the periodic table | | | | Existence of atoms, elements and compounds | Atomic structure; protons, neutrons electrons and electron shells, and their relative masses, charges and sizes; relative atomic mass, charge and isotopes; how the theory of atomic structure has changed over time | Atomic orbitals; structure and atomic configuration of atoms, ions and isotopes in terms of s, p and d orbitals and subshells. How electronic configurations (drawn as 'electrons in a box') affect the chemical properties of an element | Quantum chemistry; wave properties of electrons, Schrödinger equation, potential energy boxes Electronic structure of atom including shape of orbitals Magneto-chemistry |
| | | | | The periodic table; principles underpinning it; periods and groups; metals and non-metals; how patterns in reactions can be predicted | Structure of the periodic table; elements arranged relating to electronic and atomic structure Trends in the periodic table; Explain the reactivity and general properties as related to the atomic structure of groups 1, 7 and 0; between metals and non-metals | Structure of the periodic table by proton number; s, p and d Trends down groups related to electronic structure, including Group 1 and 2 (atomic radii, reactivity, characteristic reactions) and Group 7; (electronegativity; disproportion, reducing power, identification with silver nitrate) Trends across periods related to electronic structure, including ionisation energy, melting points, atomic radii, electronegativity | Trends in s, p and d blocks, including ionisation energy, formation and reaction of common compounds, anomalous behaviour of the first element in each group Periodicity - Hard and soft acid-base theory (HSAB) s-block; electron deficient compounds and organometallic chemistry and structure f block trends; lanthanides and actinides |
| Inorganic chemistry | | | | | Transition metal properties | Transition metal properties as related to electronic structure; Complex ion formation, coloured ions, catalysis, variable oxidation state due to partially filled d orbitals Complex ions; coordination number, charge on the complex and oxidation state of the metal Ligand substitution reactions; coordinate bonds, equations for ligand substitution reactions, including aqua complexes and redox reactions | Inorganic chemistry in biological systems; metallo-enzyme chemistry, photobiology, metals in medicine Crystal field theory and valence field theory; Metal-ligand and metal-metal bonding in terms of molecular orbital theory Mechanisms of reactions of metal complexes |
| Properties of matter | Changing materials by applying physical force | Changing the state of materials by applying temperature; including evaporation/condensation in the water cycle Compare and group materials as solid, liquid, gas | State change is reversible | Particle model: Including relating to states of matter, and conservation of mass in changes of state. And in relating bulk properties of states to particles including gas pressure and diffusion | The main features of the particle model in terms of states of matter, and use to predict the state of substances under given conditions Limitations of the inelastic sphere model | | Real and ideal gases; liquids and solutions |
| Bonding | | | | | Bonds formation by transferring or sharing electrons; dot and cross diagrams for simple, ionic and covalent structure | Covalent bonding, dative bonding and double bonds in terms of electrons and orbitals. Giant covalent compounds and their properties as a consequence of bonding Aromatic compounds; structure and bonding of benzene Ionic and metallic bonds; dot and cross diagrams of electron transfer; electrostatic forces; how this relates to their bulk properties | Linear combination of atomic orbitals (LCAO) to form bonds (molecular orbitals) Solid state; Crystal structure and symmetry, lattices, diffraction, crystallography Metallic and ionic solid state structure; radius ratio rule, ionic model; lattice energies and Born-Haber cycles |
| | | | | | Relative strengths of intra and inter-molecular bonds as related to state changes | Intermolecular bonding: The relative strengths of different types of intermolecular bonding, including hydrogen bonding, and their effect on bulk properties Electronegativity; as measured by the Pauling scale, how it relates to bonding and bulk properties Shape of molecules; work out using VSEPR theory | Walsh diagrams for predicting orbital geometries of small molecules Symmetry; group theory, assignment of point groups, classification of axes |
| Materials | Describe the physical properties of everyday materials. Compare and group everyday materials with respect to physical properties | | Compare and group together materials using more advanced physical properties (solubility, conductivity) | Physical properties of useful materials: metals and non-metals, ceramics, polymers and composites | Compare the physical properties of materials and justify their use; corrosion, know the composition of different alloys | | Inorganic materials chemistry; chemistry of functional materials and interfaces, synthesis Materials chemistry; polymerisation; synthesis and chemical properties of polymers and macromolecules Materials chemistry; Nano-scale chemistry Surfactants, micelles and meso-phases; stability in dispersions |
| | Identify and compare the physical properties of everyday materials and relate these to purpose; know the difference between the object and the materials from which it was made | | Give reasons, based on evidence from fair and comparative tests, for particular uses of everyday materials | | Nanomaterial; nano-scale, describe how the surface area to volume relationship affects properties and how this dictates their uses | | |
| Earth science | | Compare and group rocks based on simple physical properties Formation; fossils and soils (from rocks and organic matter) | | Earth and rocks; the composition and structure of the Earth; the rock cycle and formation of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks | | | |
| | | | Irreversible reactions lead to formation (baking, burning, and bicarbonate of soda) | Chemical reactions: in terms of rearrangements of atoms; including combustion, thermal decomposition, oxidation, displacement reactions; conservation of mass in reactions Acids, bases, the pH scale and indicators: reactions of acids with metals and reactions of acids with alkalis; chemical properties of metal and non-metal oxides with respect to acidity. | Reactions take place via electron or proton transfer, or electron sharing Reactions of acids; neutralisation, reaction with carbonates, reactivity of metals and acid as related to the tendency of metal to form positive ions Acids as sources of hydrogen ions; alkalis contain hydroxide ions in solution Difference between weak/strong acids and dilute/concentrated acids; recall how pH is related to hydrogen ion concentration | Bronsted-Lowry acid theory; formation of acid base conjugate pairs Determination of equilibrium constants for weak and strong acids; also equilibrium constant for the ionic product of water Buffer solutions minimise changes in pH Redox as electrons lost and gained; applied to s, p and d block elements; oxidation numbers, oxidising/reducing reagents disproportionation Electrode potentials and their uses; the standard hydrogen electrode, the electrochemical series and the reactivity of metals Electrode potentials; Structure of electrochemical cells | Structure and bonding as related to pKa Electrochemical processes and potentials, polarography, electric properties of materials and solids |
| Chemical changes, redox and acids | | | | | Redox: reduction and oxidation in terms of loss and gain of oxygen Redox in terms of electrons lost and gained Electrolysis; common species at the cathode and anode, electrolysis of binary ionic compounds, competing reactions Chemical cells produce a potential difference until the reactants are used up Hydrogen fuel cells | | |
| | | | | | Carbon can form 4 covalent bonds, and this property allows it to form a vast array of natural and synthetic compounds Functional groups in organic compounds; (limited to alkanes, alkenes, alcohols and carboxylic acids) and structural formulae of these Functionality can be used to predict reactions; simple reactions for the functional groups listed above (combustion, addition across a double bond, and oxidation of alcohols) | Homologous series (limited to alkanes, branched alkanes, cycloalkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, aldehydes, ketones); draw using molecular, structural, displayed and skeletal forms Types of organic reactions: addition, elimination and substitution (nucleophilic and electrophilic), oxidation and reduction, halogenation, hydrolysis, addition and condensation polymerisation, combustion, transesterification, cracking/reforming; link bond polarity to enthalpy and reactivity Organic synthesis; reactions of alkanes, alkenes, halogenoalkanes, alcohols, arenes, ketones, aldehydes, phenols, acyl chlorides, carboxylic acids, esters, amines, amino acids, amides, nitriles. Use the above reactions to work out synthetic routes to some of these species. | Reactions and structure of alkanes, alkenes and alkyenes Reactions and structure of aromatic compounds; nucleophilic/electrophilic substitution, infrared, ortho/para/meta directing Reactions and structure of carbonyl compounds; aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, esters, acetals, ketals, imines, enamines, enols, enolates Reactions and structure of alcohols, thiols, ethers, sulfonate esters, amines, alkyl halides, organometallics Synthetic techniques in organic and biological systems; retro-synthesis, asymmetric synthesis, synthetic pathways and total synthesis Drug discovery and synthesis; design, targets, shape and synthesis, computational chemistry |
| Organic chemistry | | | | | Fractional distillation and cracking to make useful materials; carbon compounds as a finite feedstock and fuel Principles of addition polymerisation, including monomers, repeat units and naturally occurring polymers Condensation polymerisation; repeat units, importance of functional groups | Alkanes as fuels; balance word equation for their combustion; use in cracking and reforming processes Polymerisation; Addition polymerisation and condensation polymerisation Uses of polymers and prevalence of polymers in biological systems (DNA and proteins) Nucleophiles and electrophiles Mechanisms for radical, nucleophilic and electrophilic reactions; both addition and substitution | |
| | | | | | Rates: factors that affect frequency and energy of collisions; activation energy; interpretation of simple rate graphs Catalysts: how they affect activation energy Interpret graphs of reaction vs rate; trade off between rate of production of a desired product and position of equilibrium; commercially used conditions relate to cost, raw materials, rate and control Energy changes in changes of state Definitions of exothermic and endothermic reactions Relative bond energies as related to exothermic and endothermic reactions Principles of dynamic equilibrium Fertilisers; Haber process, industrial production and lab synthesis of fertilisers Predict how changing conditions leads to a changing equilibrium position | Define rate of reaction, rate constant and order of reaction Heterogeneous catalysis; including examples of industrial use Determination of rate equations, orders of reaction and the rate limiting step by taking tangents from graphs; know qualitatively the effect of changes in temperature on the rate constant Collision theory, Boltzmann distribution and activation energy; factors that lower the activation energy or increase the rate; in relation to enthalpy profile diagrams and bond strengths; and related to changes in the Boltzmann distribution Enthalpy of combustion, reaction, formation, solution and average bond enthalpies; calculate using Hess's cycle and DeltaH = mc Delta T Entropy; qualitative description of disorder in a system (solid, liquid, gas); calculable change in the entropy of a system Feasibility using entropy and enthalpy | Mechanisms within rates; Precursor states, common mechanisms, transition state theory, chain reactions Different types of catalysis (homo- and hetero-geneous) including enzyme catalysis; examples, applications, mechanisms Solid state kinetics; Rates of adsorption and desorption, surface active models Derivations of simple rate equations for complex reactions; rate equations and constants; calculating rates; steady state and equilibrium approximations Kinetic theory of gases and related calculations of mean speeds and degrees of freedom; using kinetic theory to derive the Boltzmann distribution Describing motion using degrees of freedom, matrices and determinants Statistical thermodynamics; laws of thermodynamics (zero-th, first, second, third); statistical definitions of internal energy, entropy and chemical potential; calculations Deriving the Boltzmann entropy formula Electrochemistry and thermodynamics; ionic strength of ions (activity), redox potentials Applications: Thermodynamics of equilibrium and of organic reactions; thermodynamics of gases, liquids and solids, and of interfaces; biological equilibrium, thermodynamics and reactions |
| Rates, equilibria and thermodynamics | | | | | | | |
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| Chemical symbols, units and calculations | | | | Representing elements and reactions using chemical symbols and formulae | Balancing simple chemical equations and ionic equations; use state symbols; calculate empirical formulae Write balanced half and full ionic equations Explain why one reaction pathway is chosen over another; all factors considered Quantitative interpretations of balanced equations, conservation of mass Calculating per cent yield, atom economy and theoretical yield Moles and determining the stoichiometry of an equation; know relationship between volume, mass and molar concentration; and the relationship between molar volume, volume and mass in gases | Balancing ionic and molecular chemical equations Yields; atom economies and per cent yields; theoretical and actual Stoichiometric amounts from reacting masses, mole concentrations, volumes of gases, empirical and molecular formula Definitions of relative atomic, formula, isotopic and molecular mass | Units, conventions, nomenclature |
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| Chemical analysis and preparation | | Mixing and dissolving are reversible reactions Mixtures may be separated by filtering, sieving, evaporation | Identification and definitions of impure (mixtures) and pure substances Impure substances can be separated by filtration, evaporation, distillation and chromatography Dissolving | Melting points and chromatography to define if a substance is pure Separation techniques; filtration, crystallisation, advanced chromatography, simple and fractional distillation Analytical techniques; identification of common gases, flame tests, tests for aqueous ions, and a type of instrumental analysis, including interpreting an instrumental result in tabular or chart form | | Titration calculations; including those with transition metals Chromatography: Liquid-gas, TLC, use for separating mixtures Modern analytical techniques; IR as causing bonds to vibrate, NMR and spin-spin coupling; be able to interpret spectra of both Mass spectroscopy; calculate relative atomic mass, how MS works, interpret a mass spec. | Classical techniques; titrations, gravimetry, colorimetry Analytical techniques; sampling, data treatment, statistics, quantitative analysis, quality assurance The nature of electric and magnetic fields Modern spectroscopy; NMR spectroscopy, IR spectroscopy, mass spec, UV-VIS spectroscopy; as applied to organic and inorganic species Rotational and vibrational spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy; using molecular rotations and vibrations Electronic transitions and spectra; Atomic absorbance/emission spec, ICP-MS and x-ray fluorescence; quantum transitions leading to spectroscopy; excited states; apply this knowledge to transition complexes and organic molecules Crystallography and diffraction; lasers |
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| Chemistry in the environment and industry | | | | The reactivity series and its application to metal purification Composition of the atmosphere; carbon cycle; climate change Resources; recycling and life cycle assessments | Extraction and purification in the industrial processes; including electrolysis and biological methods Composition and evolution of the atmosphere; evidence, causes, prevention and effects of climate change and pollutants Resources; recycling and life cycle assessments | | Atmospheric chemistry Natural resources and pollution |
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