



Rewarding Learning

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Chemistry

Unit A21: Practical Manual

Teacher / Technician Notes



Practical 1.1

Investigating the effect of changing concentration on the rate of a chemical reaction (spec ref 4.3.7)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- safety goggles
- stop clock
- 100 cm³ conical flask
- 2 × plastic dropping pipettes
- 3 × 10 cm³ measuring cylinder
- card marked with an X
- approximately 50 cm³ hydrochloric acid (1.0 mol dm⁻³)
- approximately 100 cm³ sodium thiosulfate solution (0.1 mol dm⁻³)
- Bottle of deionised water

A graph of rate of reaction against concentration of sodium thiosulfate should be a straight line graph through the origin, indicating that the reaction is first order with respect to sodium thiosulfate.

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 1.2

Investigating the effect of changing concentration on the rate of a chemical reaction (spec ref 4.3.7)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- approximately 50 cm³ of 1.0 mol dm⁻³ propanone solution
- approximately 50 cm³ of 1.0 mol dm⁻³ sulfuric acid
- approximately 50 cm³ of 0.02 mol dm⁻³ iodine solution
- approximately 150 cm³ 0.01 mol dm⁻³ sodium thiosulfate solution
- approximately 20 cm³ of 1% starch solution
- sodium hydrogen carbonate
- 2 × 25 cm³ measuring cylinders
- 50 cm³ measuring cylinder
- 250 cm³ beaker
- 5 × 250 cm³ conical flasks
- 10 cm³ graduated pipette
- pipette filler
- spatula
- stop clock
- safety goggles

A graph of concentration of iodine against time should be a straight line graph, indicating that the reaction is zero order with respect to iodine.

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 1.3

Investigating the effect of changing concentration on the rate of a chemical reaction (spec ref 4.3.7)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- 5 × boiling tubes
- 5 × plastic dropping pipettes
- 20 cm³ of 1.0 mol dm⁻³ potassium iodide solution
- 15 cm³ of 0.04 mol dm⁻³ potassium peroxodisulfate(VI) solution
- 15 cm³ of 0.01 mol dm⁻³ sodium thiosulfate solution
- 15 cm³ of deionised water
- 10 cm³ of 1% starch solution
- stop clock

A graph of rate against concentration of iodide ions against should be a straight line graph through the origin, indicating that the reaction is first order with respect to iodide ions.

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 2.1

Making buffer solutions and investigating their pH values (spec ref 4.5.5)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- 5 × 100 cm³ beakers
- 2 × 25 cm³ measuring cylinders
- 10 cm³ measuring cylinder
- 25 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ ethanoic acid
- 25 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ potassium ethanoate solution
- 25 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ methanoic acid
- 25 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ potassium methanoate solution
- 25 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ ammonia solution
- 25 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ ammonium chloride solution
- 10 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ hydrochloric acid
- 10 cm³ of 0.5 mol dm⁻³ sodium hydroxide solution
- pH meter/Universal indicator paper (1–14)
- glass rod
- deionised water

Pupils could be asked to calculate the required mass of each salt to produce the corresponding 0.5 mol dm⁻³ solution and make the salt solutions up.

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Practical 2.2

Determining the shape of a titration curve
(spec ref: 4.5.6)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- approximately 25 cm³ of 0.1 mol dm⁻³ hydrochloric acid
- approximately 40 cm³ of 0.1 mol dm⁻³ sodium hydroxide solution
- pH meter/Universal indicator solution
- 50.0 cm³ burette
- 25.0 cm³ pipette
- pipette filler
- 250 cm³ conical flask
- bottle of deionised water

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 2.3

Determining the pH of salts (spec ref: 4.5.8)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- sodium chloride
- sodium ethanoate
- ammonium chloride
- ammonium ethanoate
- pH meter
- 250 cm³ deionised water
- 50 cm³ measuring cylinder
- 4 × 100 cm³ beakers
- 4 × weighing boats
- glass rod
- access to a mass balance (2 d.p)

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 3.1

Preparation of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazones (spec ref: 4.7.8)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- 2 × 100 cm³ beakers
- 250 cm³ beaker
- glass rod
- 2 × plastic dropping pipettes
- approximately 5 cm³ of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine solution
- approximately 2 cm³ of an aldehyde or ketone labelled X
- Büchner funnel and flask
- filter funnel
- 100 cm³ conical flask
- spatula
- ethanol
- filter paper
- access to a drying oven
- a capillary tube sealed at one end
- access to melting point apparatus

There are a number of aldehydes/ketones that can be used. The melting points of some hydrazone derivatives are given below.

Aldehyde/Ketone	Melting point of hydrazone (°C)
Ethanal	164
Propanal	156
Propanone	128
Butanone	115

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 3.2

Using Fehling's solution and Tollens' reagent to distinguish between aldehydes and ketones (spec ref 4.7.9)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- 4 × test tubes (these should be very clean)
- 250 cm³ beaker
- 4 × plastic dropping pipettes
- approximately 5 cm³ of Fehling's solution 1
- approximately 5 cm³ of Fehling's solution 2
- approximately 5 cm³ of 0.1 mol dm⁻³ silver nitrate solution
- approximately 5 cm³ of 1 mol dm⁻³ ammonia solution
- approximately 2 cm³ of ethanal
- approximately 2 cm³ propanone
- safety goggles

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 4.1

Preparing a carboxylic acid from an alcohol (spec ref 4.8.3)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- safety goggles
- gloves
- 10 cm³ measuring cylinder
- spatula
- plastic dropping pipette
- funnel
- pear-shaped flask, still head, condenser with rubber tubing attached, receiver adapter with vent
- 100 cm³ conical flask
- 2 × retort stands, bosses and clamps
- Bunsen burner, tripod, gauze, heatproof mat
- weighing boat
- thermometer (0–200 °C) and adapter
- anti-bumping granules
- approximately 10 cm³ sulfuric acid (1 mol dm⁻³)
- approximately 2 cm³ concentrated sulfuric acid
- approximately 5 g sodium dichromate(VI)
- approximately 1 cm³ ethanol
- access to a mass balance (1 d.p)
- Universal indicator paper (1–14)
- approximately 0.5 g sodium carbonate

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 4.2

Carrying out test tube reactions of a carboxylic acid with sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and aqueous ammonia and measuring pH changes (spec ref 4.8.5)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- safety goggles
- 3 × plastic dropping pipettes
- 4 × test tubes
- test tube rack
- spatula
- approximately 1 cm³ ethanoic acid (1 mol dm⁻³)
- approximately 0.5 g sodium carbonate
- approximately 1 cm³ sodium hydroxide solution (1 mol dm⁻³)
- approximately 1 cm³ ammonia solution (1 mol dm⁻³)
- Universal indicator paper (1–14)
- thermometer (0–100 °C)
- delivery tube with bung
- limewater

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 5.1

Preparing a liquid ester from a carboxylic acid and an alcohol (spec ref 4.9.5)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- safety glasses
- 50 cm³ pear-shaped flask, still head, condenser with rubber tubing attached, receiver adapter, conical flask to collect distillate
- tripod, heat mat, wire gauze, Bunsen burner
- 10 cm³ measuring cylinder
- 25 cm³ measuring cylinder
- spatula
- plastic dropping pipette
- 2 × retort stands, bosses & clamps
- 250 cm³ beaker
- separating funnel & stopper
- 4 × 100 cm³ conical flasks
- thermometer (0–100 °C) and adapter
- anti-bumping granules
- approximately 10 cm³ ethanol
- approximately 12 cm³ glacial ethanoic acid
- approximately 1 cm³ concentrated sulfuric acid
- approximately 20 cm³ sodium carbonate solution (1 mol dm⁻³)
- anhydrous sodium sulfate

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.



Practical 6.1

Preparation of methyl 3-nitrobenzoate (spec ref 4.10.5)

Teacher / Technician Notes

Each pupil/group will need:

- safety glasses & protective gloves
- 2 × 100 cm³ conical flasks
- 3 × 10 cm³ measuring cylinders
- test tube
- plastic dropping pipette
- thermometer (-10 – 100 °C)
- 250 cm³ beaker
- glass rod
- Büchner funnel and flask
- filter paper
- watch glass
- access to a drying oven
- access to a mass balance (2 d.p)
- melting point apparatus
- capillary tube sealed at one end
- approximately 12 cm³ concentrated sulfuric acid
- approximately 4 cm³ methyl benzoate
- approximately 3 cm³ concentrated nitric acid
- approximately 20 cm³ of ethanol
- ice
- deionised water wash bottle

The melting point of methyl 3-nitrobenzoate is 78–80 °C.

Centres are responsible for their own hazard analysis and risk assessment before beginning this practical work with pupils.