Indian National Chemistry Olympiad 2026
Theory (3 hours)

Total 106 marks **Time- 3 hours**

Date: January 31, 2026

Instructions for students

Roll No. ☐☐☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐

- Write your Roll No. in the space provided above.
- This question booklet consists of **14** printed pages including a periodic table. Check that the booklet has all the pages. If not, report to the invigilator immediately.
- Do not write any part of your answer in this question paper.
- A copy of the Periodic Table of the Elements is provided at the end.
- Do not leave the examination room until directed to do so.

Useful Constants and Formulae

Avogadro number $N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23}$ mol^{-1}

Molar gas constant $R = 8.314$ J K^{-1} mol^{-1}

$= 0.08205$ L atm K^{-1} mol^{-1}

Electronic Charge, $e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}$ C

Mass of electron, $m_e = 9.109 \times 10^{-31}$ kg

1 atm = 101325 Pa

Density of water at 4 ºC = 1000 kg m^{-3}

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Problem 1 28 Marks

Fuel for Petrol Engines

Petrol is a common liquid fuel used for two and four-wheeler light passenger vehicles. It is a mixture of about 150 volatile hydrocarbons with carbon atoms between 4 to 12 per molecule. Petrol contains straight and branched-chain alkanes (paraffins), cyclic alkanes (naphthenes), unsaturated hydrocarbons with one double bond (olefins) and aromatic hydrocarbons, with an average chemical composition of $C_{8.26}H_{15.5}$. This problem will explore combustion of petrol and related fuels being used commercially in petrol engines. Some useful data:

Compound	*n*-octane (*l*)	cyclohexane (*l*)	isooctane (*l*)	ethanol (*l*)
Density (g cm^{-3})	0.70	0.77	0.69	0.79
$\Delta H^\circ_{combustion}$ (kJ mol^{-1})	– 5470.3	– 3918.6	– 5461.0	– 1366.8

HBCSE

PART A: Combustion in Petrol Engines

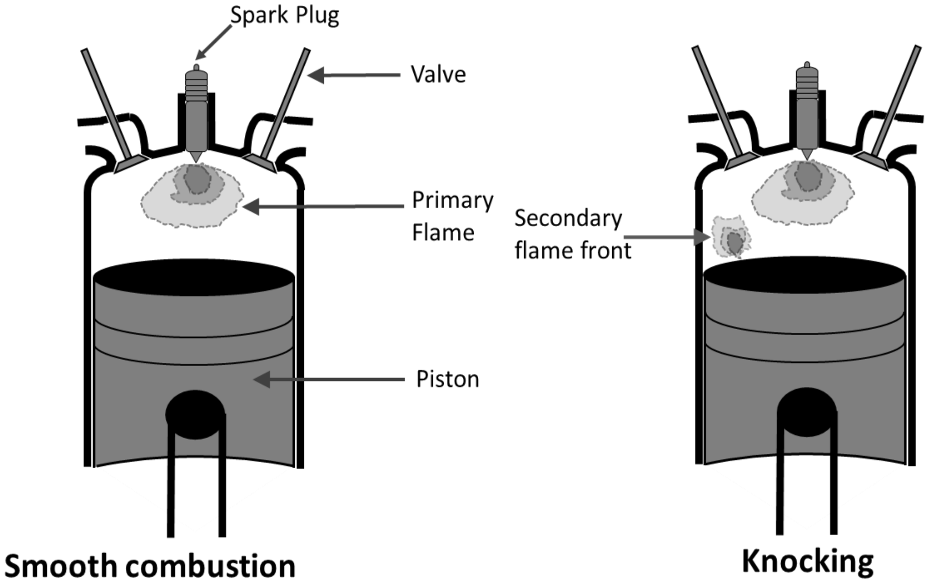
The combustion of petrol can be understood with octane as a model fuel.

1.1 Draw structures of all possible stereoisomer(s) of octane having two chiral centers, in the wedge-dash representation.

The combustion of fuel starts with a homolytic cleavage of a C–H bond in a hydrocarbon, forming alkyl radicals. These radicals can undergo rearrangement to form more stable radicals. If the radicals generated are unstable even after rearrangement, the fuel can burn at low temperatures. Among the alkyl radicals generated by the octane isomers during combustion, those formed by isooctane (2,2,4-trimethylpentane) are most stable, some of which are stabilized by rearrangement.

1.2. Draw the structure(s) of all probable alkyl radical(s) that are formed from isooctane including those after rearrangement. Identify the most stable free radical by circling its structure.

In a petrol engine under certain conditions, some components of the fuel-air mixture forming less-stable free radicals may self-ignite without ignition by the primary flame front as shown in the diagram below. Such secondary flames outside the primary flame front create secondary heat and pressure waves. Multiple pressure waves in the cylinder can create shock waves and cause jerky movements of the piston. The shock waves also create a characteristic "pinging" sound, known as knocking. Knocking tendency of a fuel (causing jerky movements in vehicle) is quantified by octane number. The fuel that causes less knocking is considered better and is assigned a higher octane number.



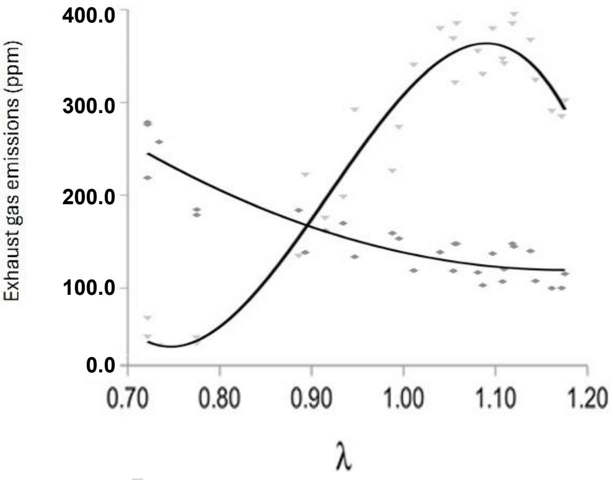
Smooth combustion **Knocking**

1.3. Arrange the following hydrocarbons in ascending order of their knocking tendency.
methylcyclohexane, isooctane, *n*-octane, toluene (methylbenzene)

1.4. Estimate the stoichiometric amount of air (in g) required for the complete combustion of 100 cm^3 of a liquid fuel mixture containing *n*-octane and cyclohexane [70:30, v/v assuming volumes are additive]. Write balanced equations for the combustion of each component. Assume composition of air (v/v) at NTP as: Argon (0.95%), Nitrogen (78.08%) & Oxygen (20.95%).

Air-fuel ratio (λ) is the relative stoichiometric ratio between the mass of air and the mass of fuel that are injected in the engine. When $\lambda = 1$, the combustion mixture in the engine contains a stoichiometric amount of air and fuel; values of $\lambda < 1$ signify fuel-rich mixtures, while $\lambda > 1$ correspond to air-rich mixtures. This ratio affects the composition of emitted gases from the engine.

Concentration values of two gases in a petrol engine exhaust as a function of λ are presented as two curves in the graph here.



1.5. If 20% excess air ($\lambda = 1.2$) is injected in a petrol engine for combustion of a fuel mixture containing octane (85% v/v), cyclohexane (5% v/v), 2-butene (5% v/v) and toluene (5% v/v), identify the gases emitted in the exhaust in significant concentrations (above 200 ppm). Mark **X** for the correct option(s).

a) CO_2 **b)** CO **c)** Ar **d)** NOx

e) N_2 **f)** O_2 **g)** unburnt hydrocarbons (HC)

PART B: Mixing Ethanol with Isooctane

Most governments have been imposing vehicle emissions regulations that are continually being tightened further. BS VI emission standards notified by the Government of India limit values of exhaust gases for two wheelers fitted with spark ignition engines as follows: CO (500 mg km^{-1}), HC (100 mg km^{-1}), NOx (90 mg km^{-1}).

[Reference: *The Emission Standards for Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, May 2020*].

Changing fuel compositions can address some of the emission concerns. Ethanol is one of the alternative transportation fuels which is available as a byproduct from agricultural sources.

1.6. Consider the liquid fuel for an engine is changed from isooctane (F_0) to a mixture containing 80% isooctane and 20% ethanol (v/v, assuming volumes are additive), known as F_{20}.

(i) Estimate the difference in calorific values of these two fuels, $C(F_{20}) - C(F_0)$, heat released per g.

(ii) By what percent CO_2 emission is reduced on changing the fuel from F_0 to F_{20} for the same distance covered by the vehicle? Assume 100% efficient combustion and the efficiency of engines in the two cases to be identical.

PART C: Ethanol Blended Petrol

Ethanol blended petrol in different proportions is being used in different parts of the world including India. E_{85} is blend of 85% ethanol and 15% petrol, E_{20} is 20% ethanol blended with 80% petrol and so on. The ignition temperature of fuel is the temperature at which it spontaneously ignites in atmospheric air without an external source of ignition. Certain facts associated with ethanol blended fuels are:

F1. Ethanol forms an azeotrope with water.
F2. Addition of double bonds to alkyl chain of a fuel mixture stabilizes some of its alkyl radicals.
F3. Ethanol molecules are inherently rich in oxygen.
F4. The ignition temperature of ethanol is 365 ^{o}C and that of petrol is 247 - 280 ^{o}C.
F5. Ethanol-blended petrol absorbs water from atmosphere.
F6. Oxygen containing fuels inhibit formation of soot.
F7. Latent heat of evaporation of ethanol is much higher than that of octanes.

1.7. State which of the following statements are correct/ incorrect for petrol engines and write the fact/s (**F1** - **F7**) which justify your answer.

S1. The E_{20} blended fuel will exhibit lower knocking than E_0.
S2. Temperature of air fuel mixture in an engine at the start of combustion would be lower for E_{85} than for E_{20}.
S3. E_{85} fuel can be more damaging to the engine parts having metallic surfaces than E_{20}.
S4. E_{85} fuel will result in more emissions of unburnt HC than E_{20} fuel, at $\lambda = 1$.
S5. Emission of particulate matter is significantly increased with E_{85}.

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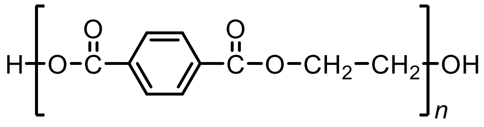
Problem 2 21 Marks

Polymer Recycling

Polymer recycling aims at recovering and reusing polymers to reduce waste as well as to obtain new raw materials. This is achieved through mechanical or chemical recycling. In mechanical recycling, polymers are melted and reshaped. In chemical recycling, polymers are broken down into molecular building blocks (monomers) for creating new materials or getting back the same material. Both approaches aim to create a circular economy or give value added products. Here we look at two polymers.

Part A. Polyethylene terephthalate

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is chemically recycled by cleaving its ester bonds, converting it into its monomers one of which is terephthalic acid (TPA, benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid).



PET

The ester bonds can be cleaved using various methods, two of which are:

1. **Neutral hydrolysis:** PET is broken down at high temperatures and high pressures in the presence of water or steam.
2. **Acid or alkaline hydrolysis:** PET is broken down at relatively lower temperature and moderate pressures in presence of acids (like H_2SO_4) or bases (like NaOH) as catalysts.

Consider a sample of 1 kg PET pieces heated with aqueous NaOH (molar equivalents > 2*n* in PET).

2.1. (i) Write the structures of the products obtained when the reaction with NaOH is complete.

(ii) From this reaction mixture, one can separate out two monomers which can be reacted together to produce fresh PET. One of these compounds is a solid at room temperature, and other is a water-miscible liquid (B.P. 196 °C).
From the following list of possible processes (I - IX), identify the sequence required to obtain the two monomers from the above reaction mixture.

- (I) filtration
- (II) distillation at 100 °C and pressure < 1 atm
- (III) solvent extraction with toluene
- (IV) treatment with $NaHCO_3$ (aq)
- (V) addition of water
- (VI) treatment with I_2 (s)
- (VII) treatment with H_2SO_4 (aq)
- (VIII) distillation at 100 °C and 1 atm
- (IX) heating in inert gas atmosphere

Write the process numbers in correct sequence in the second column in the given table (assuming that each separation step is 100% efficient). For each step, write the constituents of mixture on which the process is to be carried out in third column. In the fourth column, write the compound(s) which is/are separated out in that process.

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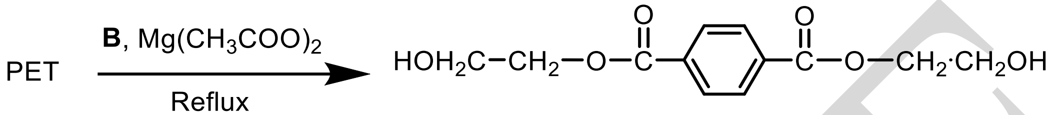
S. No.	Process No. (I - IX)	Constituents of Mixture on which the process is carried out	Compound(s) separated out after the process (if applicable)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

In a third method, PET is boiled (refluxed) with a liquid **B** ($3n$ equivalent) in presence of $Mg(CH_3COO)_2$ as per the following scheme.



bis(2-hydroxyethyl) terephthalate

2.2 (i) Draw the structure of **B.**

(ii) Identify the role of magnesium acetate in the above reaction. [Mark X against the correct option(s)]

(a) Lewis acid catalyst **(b)** Dehydrating agent
(c) Acetylating reagent **(d)** Brønsted base catalyst

(iii) This process is an example of: [Mark X against the correct option(s)]

(a) elimination reaction. **(b)** addition reaction.
(c) nucleophilic substitution reaction. **(d)** electrophilic substitution reaction.

In a fourth process, PET pieces are heated with excess liquid ethanolamine (2-aminoethanol, $4n$ equivalents) in presence of $Zn(CH_3COO)_2$.

2.3. Write the structure(s) of the product(s) obtained after completion of the reaction.

The four methods described above can be used (with appropriate subsequent separation and reaction steps) to obtain fresh PET.

2.4. Among the four depolymerization pathways, it is possible to obtain the PET polymer back with least amount of chemical waste/by products as well as with least energy input by:
[Mark X against the correct option]
(a) hydrolysis with H_2O
(b) hydrolysis with NaOH (aq)
(c) treatment with **B** in presence of $Mg(CH_3COO)_2$
(d) treatment with ethanolamine in presence of $Zn(CH_3COO)_2$

Part B: Polythene

Polythene is usually recycled mechanically. The quality of recycled products depends a lot on the purity of polythene.

While polythene is inert to many substances (gases, water, acids, bases, oils, etc), mechanical tension/compressions or abrasion can cause chemical changes in it. When the molecules of polythene are pulled apart, the force may break some bonds. When a polythene sample abrased in presence of air was studied using spectroscopy, it showed presence of -CHO functional groups. Aldehydes can also undergo slow oxidation in air via free-radical pathways.

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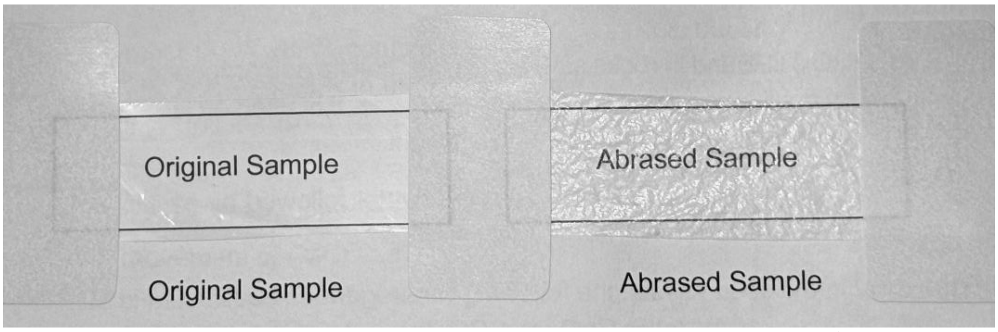
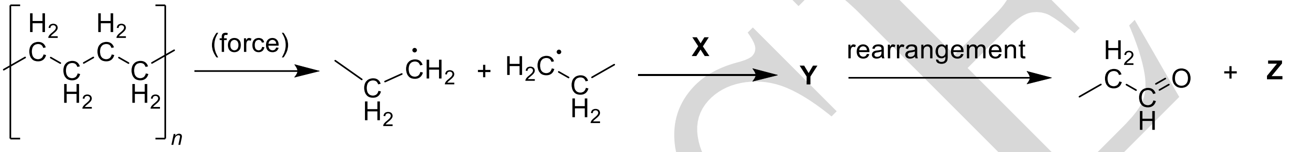
Samples of original and abrased (damaged) polythene sheets are given below.



The formation of aldehydes during mechanical abrasion can take place through the following pathway



2.5. Draw the structures of the species **X**, **Y**, **Z**.

2.6. The abrased plastic looks less transparent than the fresh polymer. This is because (Mark X against the correct option(s)):

- **(a)** the carbonyl groups change the refractive index of plastic in some regions.
- **(b)** the carbonyl groups enhance light absorption by polymer across the whole visible spectrum.
- **(c)** the carbonyl groups attract more dust particles to the plastic as these are positively charged.
- **(d)** during abrasion, the molecular arrangements/packing change, increasing scattering of light through the sample.

Polythene is recycled by melting the polymer (in ambient air) and recasting it into required shape(s) on cooling.

2.7. Assuming that there is no external substance added during melting, the alkyl chains having –CHO groups can affect recycling of abrased polythene by (Mark X against the correct option(s))

- **(a)** decreasing the melting point of polythene.
- **(b)** causing free-radical driven cleavage in polymer chains.
- **(c)** increasing the viscosity of molten polymer.
- **(d)** decreasing the branching in polymer.

2.8. Which of the following limitations of polymer recycling apply to mechanical and chemical recycling. Mark X in the appropriate cells.

		Mechanical Recycling	Chemical recycling
(a)	Lower quality plastic products		
(b)	By-products generated as waste during recycling		
(c)	Limited number of recycling cycles due to change in composition after every cycle		

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Problem 3 21 Marks

CaO Production

Calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) is found in rocks as minerals *viz*. calcite and aragonite, limestone, eggshells, etc. It has medical use as calcium supplement and as an antacid. It is used on large scale in construction industry as a building material and as an ingredient of cement.

3.1. $CaCO_3$ can be prepared by mixing calcium oxide and water followed by passing CO_2 (g). Write the balanced equations for the two reactions.

When $CaCO_3$ is heated in a closed vessel, the following heterogenous equilibrium is attained

$$CaCO_3\,(s) \rightleftharpoons CaO\,(s) + CO_2\,(g) \qquad \text{----} \qquad \text{reaction 1}$$

3.2. Consider K_c is the equilibrium constant where c indicates the concentrations of reacting species in moles per litre. Calculate K_c for the equilibrium at 835 °C and a CO_2 partial pressure of 0.236 atm, assuming ideal gas behaviour.

3.3. Using the values given in the table below, calculate

(i) the standard free energy change of reaction 1 at 25 °C and 850 °C. (Assume that the enthalpy and entropy values are temperature independent)

(ii) the temperature below which $CaCO_3$ (s) will not convert to CaO (s) in presence of CO_2 at a partial pressure of 1 atm.

Thermodynamic Data at 1 atm and 25 °C		
Substance	ΔH°_f (kJ mol^{-1})	S° (J K^{-1} mol^{-1})
CO_2 (g)	– 393.5	213.6
CO_3^{2-} (aq)	– 676.3	– 53.1
Ca^{2+} (aq)	– 542.9	– 55.2
$CaCO_3$ (s)	–1206.9	92.9
CaO (s)	– 635.6	39.8
CO_2 (aq)	– 412.9	121.3

3.4. Consider a 10 kg block of $CaCO_3$ taken in a 20 L closed container and the system is allowed to reach equilibrium at 600 °C. In the table below, certain modifications are listed. For each of the modification in Column I, write the relative change/s (from the list A-E) observed in the modified system at equilibrium with respect to the original 20 L system.

A) The amount of CaO (s) increases.
B) The amount of CO_2 (g) increases.
C) No change in the system.
D) The amount of CaO (s) decreases.
E) The amount of CO_2 (g) decreases.

Modification	Observed relative change/s (A – E)
1] Temperature of the 20 L container is increased.	
2] The same amount of $CaCO_3$ is taken in a 40 L container at 600 °C.	
3] Half of $CaCO_3$ is removed from the (original) 20 L container at 600 °C.	
4] Finely powdered 10 kg $CaCO_3$ solid is taken in another 20 L container at 600 °C.	

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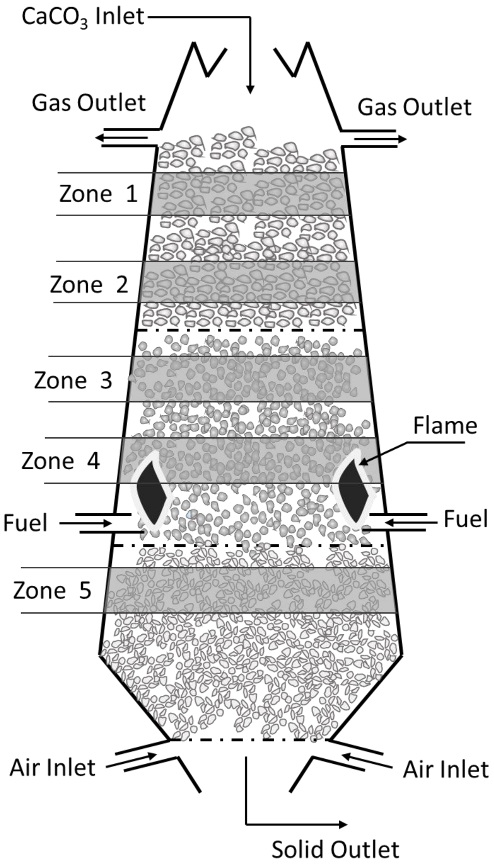
A schematic diagram of a furnace for conversion of limestone to lime is given here.



3.5. Write correct symbol (>, =, or <) comparing average temperatures (*T*) of Zone 3 and 4 in the space below and mark X against options (**a**) – (**d**) supporting your answer.

T(zone 3) ____ *T*(Zone 4), due to:
- **(a)** downward movement of $CaCO_3$ (s)
- **(b)** positive ΔH of reaction 1
- **(c)** low specific heat of $CaCO_3$ (s)
- **(d)** upward flow of air

3.6. Identify the zones in the diagram where
- **A)** CO_2 pressure is the lowest.
- **B)** $CaCO_3$ is the hottest.
- **C)** maximum percent conversion of $CaCO_3$ takes place.
- **D)** solid has maximum percentage of CaO.
- **E)** the gaseous mixture has highest pressure.

Portland cement is made up of four main components designated as *C_2S* (Ca_2SiO_3), *C_3S*, (Ca_3SiO_5), *C_3A* and *C_4AF* where *C* stands for calcium oxide, *S* for Silica, *A* for Alumina and *F* for iron(III) oxide.

3.7. Write balanced equation for the formation of *C_4AF* starting from CaO and appropriate oxides.

Cement production is the largest single industrial emitter of CO_2 (~ 8% of global CO_2) as 1 kg of cement produced releases 1 kg of CO_2 in atmosphere. Reduction of CO_2 emissions from cement manufacturing will require reducing or utilising the CO_2 from decomposition of $CaCO_3$ and from combustion of fuels in the CaO furnace.

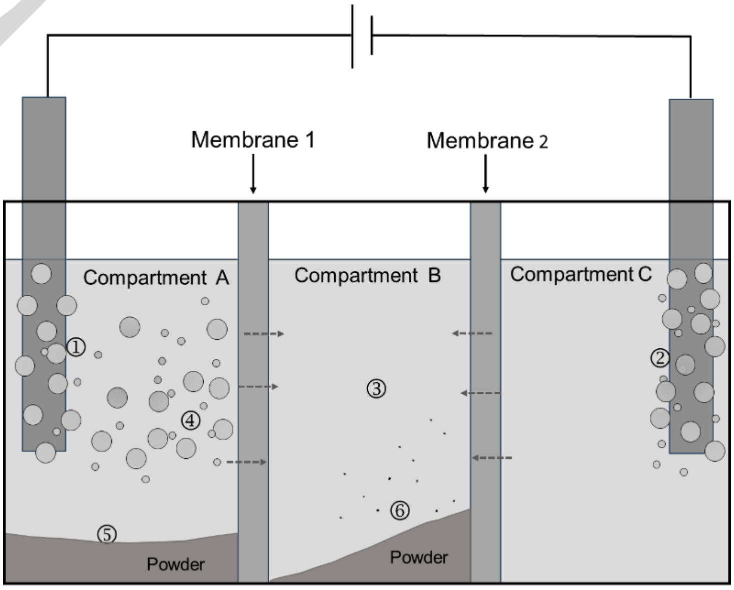
Some of these emissions can be reduced by using $Ca(OH)_2$ partly in place of CaO as input in cement production, which produces hydrated phases of the cement components.

3.8. Write balanced equation for the formation of hydrated phase of *C_3A* starting from calcium hydroxide and appropriate oxides.

An electrochemical set up uses $CaCO_3$ and produces $Ca(OH)_2$ along with gases that can be separately collected and utilized. This setup shown in diagram here consists of three compartments separated by two ion-selective membranes. $CaCO_3$(s) is added to one of the compartments and all compartments are filled with water.

Different reactions take place in different regions in the three compartments. For example, in region labelled by 3, the predominant reaction is:

$$H^+(aq) + OH^-(aq) \rightarrow H_2O(l)$$

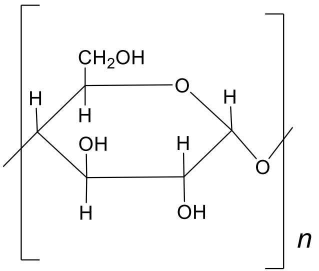


3.9. (i) Write the balanced chemical equations for predominant reaction in regions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.
(ii) Write the overall reaction for the process taking place in the electrochemical setup.

Problem 4 17 Marks

Urinary Amylase

Amylase is an enzyme that hydrolyses starch into smaller carbohydrates such as glucose, maltose, maltotriose (containing 3 glucose units), and oligosaccharides (containing a few units of glucose). Over time, amylase may also break oligosaccharides, maltotriose, etc into glucose units. It is present in plant and animal bodies supporting starch metabolism. Very small concentrations of amylase or other enzymes may be found in human and animal urines.



Starch

4.1. Draw the structure of the cyclic form of maltose with proper stereochemistry. Note: Do not use Fischer projection.

In humans and animals, amylase is significantly produced in the pancreas and used in the intestinal tract to digest food. However, if the pancreas is diseased or injured, amylase may get into blood and later in urine. Thus, an increased level of amylase in urine is an indicator of pancreatic dysfunction.

In a biochemical training course, students were trying different analytical methods for urine analysis. Urine samples were obtained from two persons, one of whom was having pancreatic dysfunction. These urine samples were diluted 10 times and the diluted samples U1 and U2 were given to three students, who used different approaches to analyze the samples.

Student 1 : To 10 mL each of U1 and U2 in two test tubes, he added 2 mL of 1% starch solution. After keeping these mixtures for 10 minutes, he added 2 mL of Tollen's reagent and placed the test tubes in a hot water bath. In 30 minutes, both test tubes developed a silver mirror.

Student 2 : She followed the following steps:

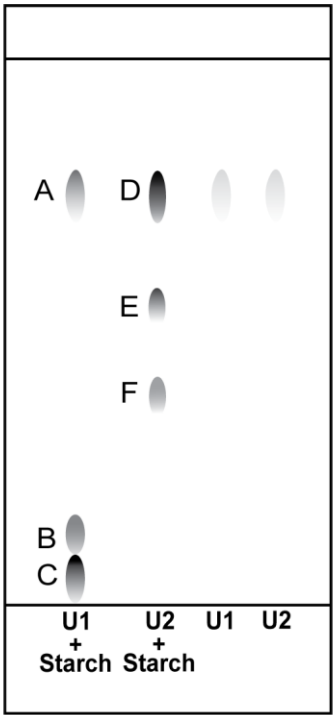
i. Took 5 mL of U1 and U2 each in two test tubes and added 1 mL of 1% starch solution each.

ii. After 10 minutes, she took these two mixtures (U1 + starch; U2 + starch) and spotted these at the baseline on a TLC plate coated with silica gel. She also spotted U1 and U2 on the TLC plate.

iii. She ran the chromatogram using butanol-water mixture as eluent, with small amount of acetic acid added (to enhance miscibility of butanol in water).

iv. She dried the plate and then dipped it in 0.1% $AgNO_3$ solution, followed by a dip in 2 M NaOH solution. The plate turned completely brownish black.

v. She dipped this brownish-black plate in a 1 M $Na_2S_2O_3$ solution. Most of the colour on the plate disappeared except for few spots which are shown here.



4.2. **a)** For the positive Tollen's test observed by *Student 1* (in test tube), write a balanced chemical equation for reaction of one of the components of urine-starch mixture with the Tollen's reagent. Draw the structures of the components and products with correct stereochemistry.

b) Write balanced chemical equation(s) for the reaction(s) which took place during Step iv of the procedure done by *Student 2* causing grey-black colouration all over the TLC plate.

c) Write balanced chemical reaction which led to the disappearance of the black color from most regions of the TLC plate in Step v.

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d) Spots B and E correspond to oligosaccharides and maltose, respectively. Write balanced chemical equation for the reaction(s) responsible for the formation of the coloured spot for maltose in the TLC plate.

e) Identify the compounds in the reaction mixture responsible for the spots A, D, F in the TLC plates.

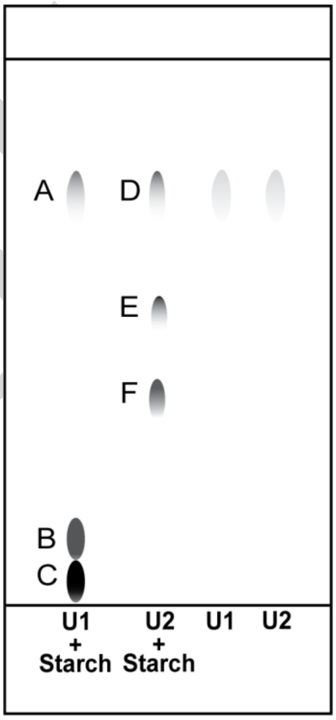
f) In the TLC plate, the sequence and positions of spots are consistent with (mark X against the correct option/s):

(A) compounds with more -OH groups having higher mobility in the eluent (mobile phase) than compounds with fewer -OH groups.

(B) compounds with more -OH groups having lower affinity with silica gel (stationary phase) than compounds with fewer -OH groups.

(C) increased mobility of compounds with increased number of -OH groups per unit molar mass.

(D) lower mobility of larger carbohydrate molecules than smaller ones.



Student 3 : She followed Steps i-iii as *student 2* but after running the TLC, dipped the TLC plate in a mixture of conc. sulphuric acid with phenol. She also got the same spots but their colour intensities were different from the TLC obtained by *student 2*. She could recall that (i) colour intensity of a spot would approximately depend on the amount of coloured substance(s) present in it and (ii) volume of each solution placed initially on the TLC plate may vary.

4.3. a) The colour of the maltose spot after treatment of the TLC plate with the phenol-acid mixture was due to a compound **Z** (molecular formula:$C_{18}H_{14}O_4$). Before formation of **Z**, an intermediate **Y** ($C_6H_6O_3$) was formed at the spot region. Write the structures of **Y** and **Z**.

b) Consider $I(S_i)$ represents the light absorption intensity of spot S_i. The ratio $I(D)$: $I(E)$ in TLC of *student 3* was lower than in TLC of *student 2*. Write the balanced equation for the reaction that took place on TLC of *student 3* which caused decrease in the intensity ratio $I(D)$: $I(E)$.

c) Intensity ratio of spots $I(F)$: $I(B)$ in TLC of *student 3* : (Mark X against the correct statement(s))

(A) would be always higher than ratio of spots in TLC of *student 2* because of the same reaction mentioned in **4.3 (b)**.

(B) would be always lower than ratio of spots in TLC of *student 2* because of a chemical process different from that mentioned in **4.3 (b)**.

(C) cannot be compared with ratio of spots in TLC of *student 2* as all these spots may be obtained by spotting different volumes of sample mixtures.

4.4. Which of the two urine samples came from the patient with pancreatic dysfunction.

(A) U1 **(B)** U2

4.5. In this experiment, urine samples (without starch) were spotted on the TLC plates to (Mark X against the correct box(es)):

(A) ensure that the urine samples do not have identical compositions.

(B) identify any substances in urine which can lead to wrong interpretations from the analysis of urine starch mixture.

(C) identify reference spots for the urinary amylase in the TLC.

(D) check if any amount of glucose or starch is already present in the urine.

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Problem 5 19 Marks

A purple haze

Iodine is a purple-black crystalline solid at room temperature that has a unique ability to sublime into a violet-purple vapour.
Iodine was accidentally discovered by French chemist Bernard Courtois while preparing potassium nitrate for gunpowder. He took seaweed ash and mixed it with sulfuric acid. The mixture gave off purple vapour, which then formed shiny purplish-black crystals on the sides of the vessel. Courtois had discovered solid iodine!

5.1. The ground-state electronic configuration of iodine atom is represented by (Mark X against the correct answer).

(a) [Ar]$3d^{10}4s^24p^5$ **(b)** [Xe]$5d^{10}6s^2\ 6p^5$ **(c)** [Kr]$4d^{10}5s^25p^5$ **(d)** [Ar]$4d^{10}5s^25p^5$

Part A: Extraction of Iodine

Iodine discovery had a profound impact on medical practice. Many commercial uses evolved, including as a disinfectant, in pharmaceuticals, as a catalyst, pigments for ink, etc. Radioactive isotopes of iodine are today used to treat thyroid cancer.
Elemental iodine is not naturally found in its free state. It is found in seaweeds as iodide (I^-), and in caliche (saltpetre deposits) and associated groundwaters as iodate (IO_3^-).

5.2. Write the balanced chemical equation(s) of the reaction(s) which produced iodine in the accidental discovery by Bernard Courtois.

To meet the growing market demand, extraction of iodine from natural resources has grown, with Chile and Japan as the leading producers. The commercial recovery of iodine depends on the source. Two of the methods are given below -
Method 1 (From iodates): To heaps of Chilean saltpetre containing trace amounts of iodates, water is poured to dissolve the saltpetre and the iodate. After crystalizing out nitrate salts, the mother liquor is collected, concentrated and divided into two parts.

i. One part of the concentrate is first reduced with **slight excess** of sodium bisulphite to give iodide.
ii. The solution obtained in step i is then mixed with the remaining concentrate to yield iodine.

5.3. Write balanced ionic equations for the two steps in the production of iodine from iodate.
5.4. Write the oxidation number of all iodine species in the above reaction mixture.
5.5. The nature of solution in step ii after iodine formation is: (Mark X against the correct answer)

(a) acidic **(b)** basic **(c)** neutral

Method 2 (From iodide): Iodide solution from natural sources is first treated with aqueous copper sulphate and ferrous sulphate. The white solid that precipitates out is filtered, washed with water, dried, and finely ground. This purified white solid is then heated with potassium carbonate solution to give potassium iodide solution and a red-brown precipitate. The precipitate is filtered off and the solution is oxidized with sodium dichromate and sulfuric acid to liberate iodine.

5.6. Write balanced chemical equations for the three steps described in Method 2.

Common table salt is "iodised" by the addition of potassium iodide or iodate. In an experiment, 50 g of iodised salt (containing iodate) was dissolved in 250 mL water. To 50 mL of this salt solution taken in a 250 mL conical flask, 2 mL of 2 M sulphuric acid and 5 mL of 0.6 M potassium iodide solution were added. The yellow-brown solution obtained was titrated against 0.002 M sodium thiosulfate until solution colour in the flask became very pale. Then 1 mL of starch indicator was added, and the titration was continued till the dark blue-black colour completely disappeared. The burette reading was 12.4 mL.

5.7. Write balanced chemical equations for the reactions involved in titration and calculate the iodine content (in mg) per kg of salt.

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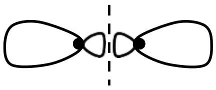
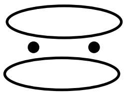
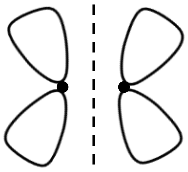
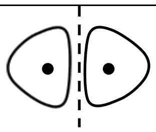
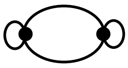
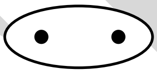
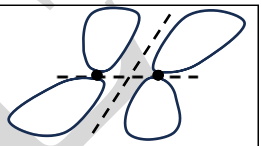
Part-II: Bonding and Colour of Iodine

Iodine exists as a highly coloured diatomic molecule and the colour arises from an electronic transition between the molecular orbitals (MOs) of iodine.

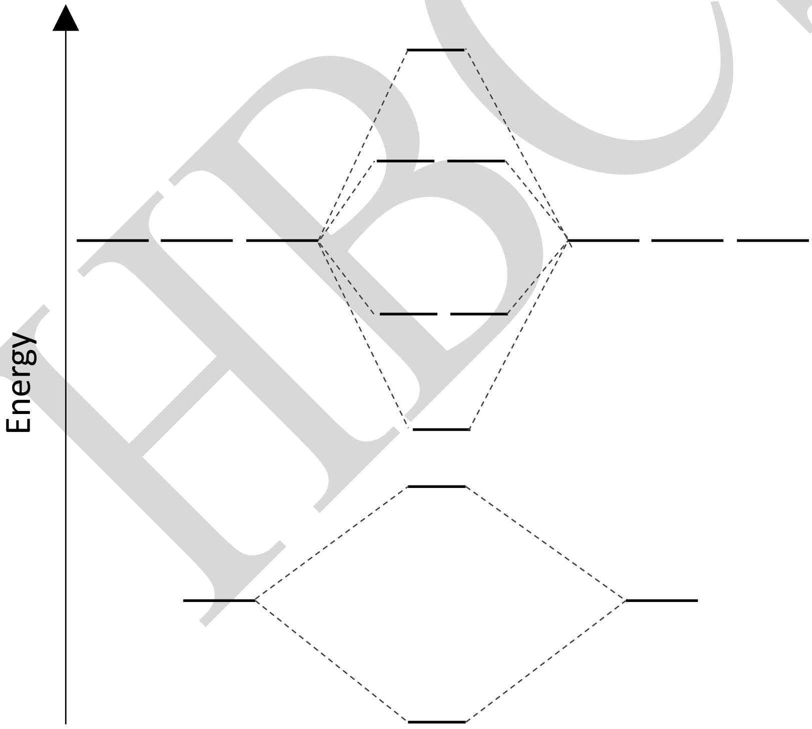
5.8. Assign labels to appropriate MO shape of I_2 molecules arising from the valence shell atomic orbitals (AOs) of two iodine atoms. Take *z*-axis as the internuclear axis. Four of the eight labels are given:

σ_{5s}, σ^*_{5s}, π_{5px}, π_{5py}

Orbital Shape				
Label				

Orbital Shape				
Label				

5.9. The diagram given below shows relative energies of some of the valence shell AOs of iodine combining to form MOs of I_2. Label the MOs of I_2 and fill in the electrons in MOs.



5.10. The violet colour of iodine vapour is a result of the excitation of electron(s) between molecular orbitals. Identify the MOs involved in this electronic transition in initial and final state.

5.11. Iodine has poor solubility in water, but solubility increases in KI solution due to formation of the triiodide ion I_3^-. Identify the AO of I^- and MO of I_2 which combine to form the HOMO in triiodide ion.

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IUPAC Periodic Table of the Elements

Key:

atomic number
Symbol
name
conventional atomic weight
standard atomic weight

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1 **H** hydrogen 1.008 [1.0078, 1.0082]																	2 **He** helium 4.0026
3 **Li** lithium 6.94 [6.938, 6.997]	4 **Be** beryllium 9.0122											5 **B** boron 10.81 [10.806, 10.821]	6 **C** carbon 12.011 [12.009, 12.012]	7 **N** nitrogen 14.007 [14.006, 14.008]	8 **O** oxygen 15.999 [15.999, 16.000]	9 **F** fluorine 18.998	10 **Ne** neon 20.180
11 **Na** sodium 22.990	12 **Mg** magnesium 24.305 [24.304, 24.307]											13 **Al** aluminium 26.982	14 **Si** silicon 28.085 [28.084, 28.086]	15 **P** phosphorus 30.974	16 **S** sulfur 32.06 [32.059, 32.076]	17 **Cl** chlorine 35.45 [35.446, 35.457]	18 **Ar** argon 39.95 [39.792, 39.963]
19 **K** potassium 39.098	20 **Ca** calcium 40.078(4)	21 **Sc** scandium 44.956	22 **Ti** titanium 47.867	23 **V** vanadium 50.942	24 **Cr** chromium 51.996	25 **Mn** manganese 54.938	26 **Fe** iron 55.845(2)	27 **Co** cobalt 58.933	28 **Ni** nickel 58.693	29 **Cu** copper 63.546(3)	30 **Zn** zinc 65.38(2)	31 **Ga** gallium 69.723	32 **Ge** germanium 72.630(8)	33 **As** arsenic 74.922	34 **Se** selenium 78.971(8)	35 **Br** bromine 79.904 [79.901, 79.907]	36 **Kr** krypton 83.798(2)
37 **Rb** rubidium 85.468	38 **Sr** strontium 87.62	39 **Y** yttrium 88.906	40 **Zr** zirconium 91.224(2)	41 **Nb** niobium 92.906	42 **Mo** molybdenum 95.95	43 **Tc** technetium	44 **Ru** ruthenium 101.07(2)	45 **Rh** rhodium 102.91	46 **Pd** palladium 106.42	47 **Ag** silver 107.87	48 **Cd** cadmium 112.41	49 **In** indium 114.82	50 **Sn** tin 118.71	51 **Sb** antimony 121.76	52 **Te** tellurium 127.60(3)	53 **I** iodine 126.90	54 **Xe** xenon 131.29
55 **Cs** caesium 132.91	56 **Ba** barium 137.33	57-71 lanthanoids	72 **Hf** hafnium 178.49(2)	73 **Ta** tantalum 180.95	74 **W** tungsten 183.84	75 **Re** rhenium 186.21	76 **Os** osmium 190.23(3)	77 **Ir** iridium 192.22	78 **Pt** platinum 195.08	79 **Au** gold 196.97	80 **Hg** mercury 200.59	81 **Tl** thallium 204.38 [204.38, 204.39]	82 **Pb** lead 207.2	83 **Bi** bismuth 208.98	84 **Po** polonium	85 **At** astatine	86 **Rn** radon
87 **Fr** francium	88 **Ra** radium	89-103 actinoids	104 **Rf** rutherfordium	105 **Db** dubnium	106 **Sg** seaborgium	107 **Bh** bohrium	108 **Hs** hassium	109 **Mt** meitnerium	110 **Ds** darmstadtium	111 **Rg** roentgenium	112 **Cn** copernicium	113 **Nh** nihonium	114 **Fl** flerovium	115 **Mc** moscovium	116 **Lv** livermorium	117 **Ts** tennessine	118 **Og** oganesson

57 **La** lanthanum 138.91	58 **Ce** cerium 140.12	59 **Pr** praseodymium 140.91	60 **Nd** neodymium 144.24	61 **Pm** promethium	62 **Sm** samarium 150.36(2)	63 **Eu** europium 151.96	64 **Gd** gadolinium 157.25(3)	65 **Tb** terbium 158.93	66 **Dy** dysprosium 162.50	67 **Ho** holmium 164.93	68 **Er** erbium 167.26	69 **Tm** thulium 168.93	70 **Yb** ytterbium 173.05	71 **Lu** lutetium 174.97
89 **Ac** actinium	90 **Th** thorium 232.04	91 **Pa** protactinium 231.04	92 **U** uranium 238.03	93 **Np** neptunium	94 **Pu** plutonium	95 **Am** americium	96 **Cm** curium	97 **Bk** berkelium	98 **Cf** californium	99 **Es** einsteinium	100 **Fm** fermium	101 **Md** mendelevium	102 **No** nobelium	103 **Lr** lawrencium

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2019 IYPT
International Year
of the Periodic Table
of Chemical Elements

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