

# SAAT Chemistry

## Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 40 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

### Instructions

- This paper contains **40** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Chemistry section of the **SAAT** (Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Admission Test).
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Attempt every question, since wrong answers are not penalised.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

**Q1.** When 4 g of hydrogen ( $H_2$ ) reacts with 32 g of oxygen ( $O_2$ ) to form water, the maximum mass of water that can be produced is (atomic masses:  $H = 1$ ,  $O = 16$ )

- (A) 36 g
- (B) 18 g
- (C) 32 g
- (D) 72 g

**Q2.** The total number of moles of ions produced when 1 mol of aluminium sulphate,  $Al_2(SO_4)_3$ , is completely dissolved in water is

- (A) 2
- (B) 5
- (C) 3
- (D) 4



**Q3.** The total number of atoms present in 16 g of methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ , molar mass 16 g/mol) is ( $N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23}$ )

(A)  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$

(B)  $1.2 \times 10^{24}$

(C)  $3.011 \times 10^{24}$

(D)  $5 \times 10^{23}$

**Q4.** In the hydrogen atom, the spectral line of *longest* wavelength in the Lyman series arises from the electronic transition

(A)  $n = 3 \rightarrow n = 1$

(B)  $n = 4 \rightarrow n = 2$

(C)  $n = 3 \rightarrow n = 2$

(D)  $n = 2 \rightarrow n = 1$

**Q5.** The number of valence electrons in a sulphur atom ( $Z = 16$ ) is

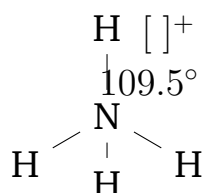
(A) 4

(B) 6

(C) 2

(D) 8

**Q6.** The hybridization of the central nitrogen atom in the ammonium ion ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), whose tetrahedral shape is shown, is



(A)  $sp$

(B)  $sp^2$

(C)  $sp^3$



(D)  $sp^3d$

**Q7.** According to molecular orbital theory, regarding the magnetic nature of  $N_2$  and  $O_2$ , which statement is correct?

(A)  $N_2$  is diamagnetic while  $O_2$  is paramagnetic

(B) Both are paramagnetic

(C)  $N_2$  is paramagnetic while  $O_2$  is diamagnetic

(D) Both are diamagnetic

**Q8.** Which of the following molecules exhibits intermolecular hydrogen bonding?

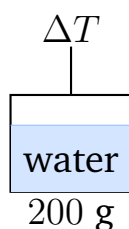
(A)  $CH_4$

(B)  $H_2S$

(C)  $PH_3$

(D)  $HF$

**Q9.** In the calorimetry set-up shown, the heat required to raise the temperature of 200 g of water by  $10^\circ C$  is (specific heat of water =  $4.2 \text{ J g}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ )



(A) 4200 J

(B) 8400 J

(C) 840 J

(D) 2100 J

**Q10.** For a reaction with  $\Delta H = +30 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  and  $\Delta S = +100 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ , the minimum temperature above which the reaction becomes spontaneous is



- (A) 300 K
- (B) 100 K
- (C) 30 K
- (D) 3000 K

**Q11.** For a weak electrolyte, the degree of dissociation  $\alpha$  at equilibrium is defined as

- (A) the total number of moles of electrolyte taken
- (B) the number of undissociated moles per litre
- (C) the fraction of the electrolyte that has dissociated into ions
- (D) the rate of the forward reaction

**Q12.** Which of the following salts, on dissolving in water, gives a *basic* solution?

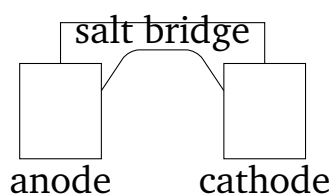
- (A)  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$
- (B)  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$
- (C)  $\text{NaCl}$
- (D)  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$

**Q13.** Among 0.1 m aqueous solutions of the following, which shows the *highest* elevation in boiling point? (assume complete dissociation of electrolytes)

- (A)  $\text{NaCl}$
- (B)  $\text{AlCl}_3$
- (C) glucose
- (D)  $\text{CaCl}_2$

**Q14.** The main function of the salt bridge in a galvanic cell, shown below, is to





- (A) maintain electrical neutrality and complete the circuit  
(B) act as the site of oxidation  
(C) supply electrons to the external circuit  
(D) increase the cell EMF indefinitely
- Q15.** In a multi-step reaction mechanism, the overall rate of the reaction is governed by
- (A) the fastest step  
(B) the step with the most molecules  
(C) the slowest (rate-determining) step  
(D) the final product-forming step
- Q16.** The oxidation number of nitrogen in nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ) is
- (A) +3  
(B) -3  
(C) +4  
(D) +5
- Q17.** Compared with its neutral parent atom, a cation is
- (A) smaller in size  
(B) larger in size  
(C) equal in size  
(D) always identical in radius



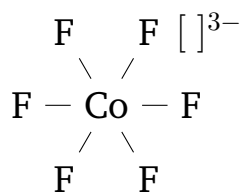
- Q18.** The net positive charge experienced by a valence electron, after accounting for the screening by inner electrons, is called the
- (A) total nuclear charge
  - (B) effective nuclear charge
  - (C) ionic charge
  - (D) formal charge
- Q19.** Among the alkaline earth metals beryllium, magnesium, calcium and barium, which is the *most* reactive towards water?
- (A) Beryllium
  - (B) Magnesium
  - (C) Barium
  - (D) Calcium
- Q20.** Graphite is a good conductor of electricity, whereas diamond is not. This is because in graphite
- (A) all four valence electrons of each carbon are used in  $\sigma$  bonds
  - (B) the carbon atoms are  $sp^3$  hybridized
  - (C) it contains free metallic ions
  - (D) each carbon is  $sp^2$  hybridized, leaving one delocalised electron per atom
- Q21.** The property of sulphur atoms to link together forming long  $-S-S-$  chains and rings (e.g.  $S_8$ ) is known as
- (A) catenation
  - (B) allotropy
  - (C) disproportionation
  - (D) polymerisation by addition



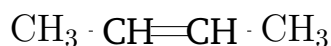
- Q22.** Which noble gas is used to fill electric light bulbs and to provide an inert atmosphere in high-temperature metallurgical operations such as welding?
- (A) Helium
  - (B) Argon
  - (C) Neon
  - (D) Krypton
- Q23.** Zinc is generally *not* regarded as a typical transition metal because
- (A) it has a fully filled  $4s$  orbital
  - (B) it is a soft, low-melting metal
  - (C) it shows several oxidation states
  - (D) its ion and atom both have a completely filled  $3d^{10}$  configuration
- Q24.** A direct consequence of the lanthanide contraction is that the atomic radii of
- (A) all lanthanides are equal
  - (B) the actinides increase steadily
  - (C) zirconium (Zr) and hafnium (Hf) are almost identical
  - (D) potassium and sodium become equal
- Q25.** According to Werner's theory of coordination compounds, the *secondary valence* of a metal corresponds to its
- (A) coordination number
  - (B) oxidation number
  - (C) atomic number
  - (D) ionic charge only



- Q26.** The spin-only magnetic moment of the octahedral complex ion  $[\text{CoF}_6]^{3-}$  (high spin,  $\text{Co}^{3+}$ ,  $d^6$ ), shown below, is approximately (use  $\mu = \sqrt{n(n+2)}$  BM)



- (A) 0 BM  
 (B) 4.90 BM  
 (C) 2.83 BM  
 (D) 5.92 BM
- Q27.** The IUPAC name of the ester  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOC}_2\text{H}_5$  is
- (A) methyl ethanoate  
 (B) ethyl methanoate  
 (C) ethyl ethanoate  
 (D) methyl propanoate
- Q28.** How many geometrical (cis-trans) isomers are possible for but-2-ene,  $\text{CH}_3 - \text{CH}=\text{CH} - \text{CH}_3$ , shown below?



- (A) 3  
 (B) 1  
 (C) 4  
 (D) 2
- Q29.** Among the following alkenes, which is the *most* stable (most substituted double bond)?

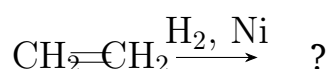


- (A) ethene ( $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2$ )
- (B) 2,3-dimethylbut-2-ene ( $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ )
- (C) propene ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ )
- (D) but-1-ene ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ )

**Q30.** In a saturated alkane, all the carbon–carbon and carbon–hydrogen bonds are

- (A) single covalent ( $\sigma$ ) bonds
- (B) ionic bonds
- (C) one  $\sigma$  and one  $\pi$  bond each
- (D) coordinate bonds

**Q31.** The catalytic hydrogenation of ethene ( $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2$ ), shown below, in the presence of finely divided nickel gives



- (A) ethyne
- (B) ethanol
- (C) ethanal
- (D) ethane

**Q32.** Benzene, shown below, is unusually stable compared with a hypothetical cyclohexatriene. This extra stability is called its



- (A) lattice energy
- (B) ionization energy
- (C) resonance (delocalisation) energy



(D) activation energy

**Q33.** When an optically active alkyl halide undergoes an  $S_N1$  reaction through a planar carbocation intermediate, the product is

(A) a racemic mixture (largely racemised)

(B) a single inverted enantiomer only

(C) the unchanged starting material

(D) a meso compound

**Q34.** Phenol gives a characteristic *violet* colouration when treated with neutral

(A) aqueous NaOH

(B) ferric chloride ( $FeCl_3$ )

(C) Tollens' reagent

(D) Fehling's solution

**Q35.** Which of the following compounds is an *ether*?

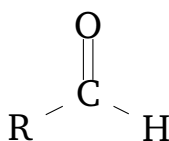
(A)  $CH_3CH_2OH$

(B)  $CH_3CHO$

(C)  $CH_3-O-CH_3$

(D)  $CH_3COOH$

**Q36.** Which reagent can be used to distinguish an aldehyde (carbonyl group shown) from a ketone by forming a brick-red precipitate with the aldehyde only?



(A) aqueous NaCl

(B) dilute  $H_2SO_4$



- (C) bromine water
- (D) Fehling's solution

- Q37.** The correct order of *decreasing* acidic strength among acetic acid, phenol and ethanol is
- (A) acetic acid > phenol > ethanol
  - (B) phenol > acetic acid > ethanol
  - (C) ethanol > phenol > acetic acid
  - (D) acetic acid > ethanol > phenol
- Q38.** Aniline ( $C_6H_5NH_2$ ) is a *weaker* base than ammonia or aliphatic amines because
- (A) nitrogen has no lone pair
  - (B) the lone pair on nitrogen is delocalised into the benzene ring
  - (C) it is a stronger acid
  - (D) it cannot accept a proton at all
- Q39.** Enzymes, which catalyse biochemical reactions in living organisms, are chemically
- (A) lipids
  - (B) carbohydrates
  - (C) proteins
  - (D) nucleic acids
- Q40.** Unlike soaps, synthetic detergents can be used effectively in hard water because they
- (A) are sodium salts of long-chain carboxylic acids
  - (B) form insoluble scum with  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $Mg^{2+}$  ions
  - (C) are biodegradable in every case
  - (D) form soluble calcium and magnesium salts and do not precipitate



## Detailed Solutions

Q1.

## Solution

**Concept — Limiting reagent:**  $2\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Identify which reactant runs out first.

**Step 1 — Moles:**  $\text{H}_2 = \frac{4}{2} = 2 \text{ mol}$ ;  $\text{O}_2 = \frac{32}{32} = 1 \text{ mol}$ .

**Step 2 — Ratio:** 2 mol  $\text{H}_2$  needs exactly 1 mol  $\text{O}_2$ , so both are consumed completely, giving 2 mol  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

**Step 3 — Mass:**  $2 \times 18 = 36 \text{ g water}$ .

**Why other options are wrong:** 18 g is only 1 mol; 32 and 72 g ignore the stoichiometry.

**Final Answer:** 36 g of water  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

## Solution

**Concept — Ions from an ionic salt:** Count the cations and anions released on full dissociation.

**Step 1 — Dissociation:**  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \rightarrow 2\text{Al}^{3+} + 3\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ .

**Step 2 — Total ions:**  $2 + 3 = 5 \text{ mol of ions per mole of salt}$ .

**Why other options are wrong:** 2 counts only cations; 3 only anions; 4 is incorrect.

**Final Answer:** 5 mol of ions  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

## Solution

**Concept — Atoms from moles:**  $\text{Atoms} = n \times (\text{atoms per formula unit}) \times N_A$ .

**Step 1 — Moles of  $\text{CH}_4$ :**  $n = \frac{16}{16} = 1 \text{ mol}$ .

**Step 2 — Atoms:** Each  $\text{CH}_4$  has 5 atoms, so  $1 \times 5 \times 6.022 \times 10^{23} = 3.011 \times 10^{24}$  atoms.



**Why other options are wrong:**  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$  counts molecules only;  $1.2 \times 10^{24}$  uses 2 atoms;  $5 \times 10^{23}$  is mis-scaled.

**Final Answer:**  $3.011 \times 10^{24}$  atoms  $\Rightarrow$   C

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

### Solution

**Concept — Lyman series:** All transitions end at  $n = 1$ . The longest wavelength corresponds to the *smallest* energy gap, i.e. the transition from the nearest higher level.

**Step 1 — Smallest gap to  $n = 1$ :** The transition  $n = 2 \rightarrow n = 1$  has the least energy and hence the longest wavelength.

**Why other options are wrong:**  $n = 3 \rightarrow 1$  is a larger gap (shorter  $\lambda$ );  $n = 4 \rightarrow 2$  and  $n = 3 \rightarrow 2$  belong to the Balmer series.

**Final Answer:**  $n = 2 \rightarrow n = 1 \Rightarrow$   D

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

### Solution

**Concept — Valence electrons:** The electrons in the outermost ( $n$ ) shell.

**Step 1 — Configuration of S ( $Z = 16$ ):**  $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^4$ .

**Step 2 — Outermost shell ( $n = 3$ ):**  $3s^2 3p^4 = 6$  valence electrons.

**Why other options are wrong:** 4 counts only  $p$ ; 2 only  $s$ ; 8 exceeds the outer count.

**Final Answer:** 6 valence electrons  $\Rightarrow$   B

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q5](#)



Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept — Hybridization of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ :** Count  $\sigma$  bonds and lone pairs on the central atom.

**Step 1 — Bonding in  $\text{NH}_4^+$ :** Nitrogen forms four N–H  $\sigma$  bonds with no lone pair (the lone pair is used to bond the fourth H).

**Step 2 — Hybridization:** Four electron domains  $\Rightarrow sp^3$ , tetrahedral.

**Why other options are wrong:**  $sp$  (linear) and  $sp^2$  (trigonal planar) have fewer domains;  $sp^3d$  needs five.

**Final Answer:** Nitrogen is  $sp^3 \Rightarrow$

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

**Solution**

**Concept — Magnetism from MOT:** A species is paramagnetic if it has unpaired electrons.

**Step 1 —  $\text{N}_2$  (14  $e^-$ ):** All molecular orbitals up to  $\sigma 2p_z$  are filled in pairs; no unpaired electrons  $\Rightarrow$  diamagnetic.

**Step 2 —  $\text{O}_2$  (16  $e^-$ ):** Two electrons occupy the degenerate  $\pi^* 2p$  orbitals singly  $\Rightarrow$  two unpaired electrons  $\Rightarrow$  paramagnetic.

**Why other options are wrong:** They reverse or misstate the magnetic character.

**Final Answer:**  $\text{N}_2$  diamagnetic,  $\text{O}_2$  paramagnetic  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept — Hydrogen bonding:** Requires H bonded to a highly electronegative atom (F, O or N).

**Step 1 — Examine HF:** H is bonded to fluorine, the most electronegative element, so HF forms strong intermolecular H-bonds.

**Why other options are wrong:**  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{PH}_3$  lack H bonded to F/O/N, so no significant H-bonding.



**Final Answer:** HF shows hydrogen bonding  $\Rightarrow$  **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q8](#)

Q9.

### Solution

**Concept — Calorimetry:**  $q = m c \Delta T$ .

**Step 1 — Substitute:**  $q = 200 \times 4.2 \times 10$ .

**Step 2 — Compute:**  $q = 8400 \text{ J}$ .

**Why other options are wrong:** 4200 J uses  $\Delta T = 5$ ; 840 J drops a factor of 10; 2100 J uses wrong values.

**Final Answer:**  $q = 8400 \text{ J} \Rightarrow$  **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

### Solution

**Concept — Threshold of spontaneity:** A reaction with  $+\Delta H$  and  $+\Delta S$  becomes spontaneous when  $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S < 0$ , i.e. above  $T = \Delta H/\Delta S$ .

**Step 1 — Convert units:**  $\Delta H = 30000 \text{ J/mol}$ ,  $\Delta S = 100 \text{ J/K}\cdot\text{mol}$ .

**Step 2 — Compute:**  $T = \frac{30000}{100} = 300 \text{ K}$ .

**Why other options are wrong:** 30 K and 100 K ignore unit conversion; 3000 K is off by a factor of 10.

**Final Answer:**  $T = 300 \text{ K} \Rightarrow$  **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

### Solution

**Concept — Degree of dissociation:**  $\alpha = \frac{\text{moles dissociated}}{\text{moles initially taken}}$

**Step 1 — Definition:** It is the *fraction* of the electrolyte that has broken into ions at equilibrium.

**Why other options are wrong:** It is a fraction, not a total amount, not the undis-



sociated moles, and not a rate.

**Final Answer:** Fraction dissociated into ions  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

### Solution

**Concept — Salt hydrolysis:** A salt of a strong base and weak acid hydrolyses to give a basic solution.

**Step 1 — Examine  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$ :** From strong base  $\text{NaOH}$  and weak acid  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ ; the acetate ion hydrolyses to make the solution basic ( $\text{pH} > 7$ ).

**Why other options are wrong:**  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  are acidic (weak base + strong acid);  $\text{NaCl}$  is neutral.

**Final Answer:**  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$  gives a basic solution  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

### Solution

**Concept — Colligative property:**  $\Delta T_b = i K_b m$ . For equal molality, the largest van't Hoff factor  $i$  gives the highest elevation.

**Step 1 — Compute  $i$ :**  $\text{AlCl}_3 \rightarrow \text{Al}^{3+} + 3\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $i = 4$ ;  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $i = 3$ ;  $\text{NaCl}$ ,  $i = 2$ ; glucose,  $i = 1$ .

**Step 2 — Largest  $i$ :**  $\text{AlCl}_3$  with  $i = 4$  gives the maximum  $\Delta T_b$ .

**Why other options are wrong:** They have smaller  $i$  values.

**Final Answer:**  $\text{AlCl}_3 \Rightarrow$

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

### Solution

**Concept — Salt bridge:** It connects the two half-cells while preventing direct mixing.

**Step 1 — Function:** It allows ion migration to balance charge build-up, maintaining electrical neutrality in both half-cells and completing the internal circuit.



**Why other options are wrong:** Electrons flow through the external wire, not the bridge; oxidation occurs at the anode; the bridge does not raise EMF indefinitely.

**Final Answer:** Maintains neutrality and completes the circuit  $\Rightarrow$   A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q14](#)

Q15.

### Solution

**Concept — Rate-determining step:** The slowest elementary step controls the overall rate of a multi-step reaction.

**Step 1 — Reasoning:** Just as the slowest worker sets the pace, the slowest step is the bottleneck and determines the observed rate law.

**Why other options are wrong:** The fastest step is not limiting; molecularity or being the final step does not determine the rate.

**Final Answer:** The slowest (rate-determining) step  $\Rightarrow$   C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

### Solution

**Concept — Oxidation number:** Sum of oxidation numbers in a neutral molecule is zero.

**Step 1 — Assign:** H = +1, O = -2 ( $\times 3 = -6$ ).

**Step 2 — Solve for N:**  $+1 + x - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow x = +5$ .

**Why other options are wrong:** +3 is N in  $\text{HNO}_2$ ; +4 is in  $\text{NO}_2$ ; -3 is in  $\text{NH}_3$ .

**Final Answer:** N is +5 in  $\text{HNO}_3 \Rightarrow$   D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q16](#)

Q17.

### Solution

**Concept — Cation size:** Removing electron(s) reduces electron-electron repulsion and increases effective nuclear charge per electron.

**Step 1 — Result:** A cation is always *smaller* than its parent atom; often an entire shell is lost.



**Why other options are wrong:** A cation is never larger or equal to the neutral atom.

**Final Answer:** A cation is smaller than its parent atom  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

### Solution

**Concept — Effective nuclear charge:**  $Z_{\text{eff}} = Z - S$ , where  $S$  is the screening by inner electrons.

**Step 1 — Definition:** The net positive charge actually felt by a valence electron is the effective nuclear charge.

**Why other options are wrong:** Total nuclear charge ignores screening; ionic and formal charges are different concepts.

**Final Answer:** Effective nuclear charge  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q18](#)

Q19.

### Solution

**Concept — Reactivity of group-2 metals:** Reactivity towards water increases down the group as ionization enthalpy falls.

**Step 1 — Order:**  $\text{Be} < \text{Mg} < \text{Ca} < \text{Ba}$  in reactivity.

**Step 2 — Pick:** Barium is the most reactive of those listed.

**Why other options are wrong:** Be reacts hardly at all; Mg reacts only with hot water/steam; Ca is less reactive than Ba.

**Final Answer:** Barium  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q19](#)



Q20.

**Solution**

**Concept — Structure of graphite:** Layered sheets of  $sp^2$  carbons.

**Step 1 — Bonding:** Each carbon uses three electrons in  $\sigma$  bonds; the fourth electron is delocalised over the layer.

**Step 2 — Conduction:** These mobile  $\pi$  electrons carry current, so graphite conducts.

**Why other options are wrong:** In diamond all four electrons are in  $\sigma$  bonds ( $sp^3$ ), leaving none free; graphite has no metallic ions.

**Final Answer:** Each C is  $sp^2$  with one delocalised electron  $\Rightarrow$  **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q20](#)

Q21.

**Solution**

**Concept — Catenation:** The self-linking of like atoms through covalent bonds into chains or rings.

**Step 1 — Sulphur:** Sulphur shows strong catenation, forming  $S_8$  rings and longer  $-S-S-$  chains.

**Why other options are wrong:** Allotropy is the existence of different forms; disproportionation is a redox process; this is not addition polymerisation.

**Final Answer:** The property is catenation  $\Rightarrow$  **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

**Solution**

**Concept — Uses of noble gases:** Argon is cheap, abundant and chemically inert.

**Step 1 — Application:** Argon fills incandescent bulbs (prevents filament oxidation) and shields the weld pool in arc welding.

**Why other options are wrong:** Helium is used in balloons/cryogenics; neon in glow signs; krypton in special lamps, but argon is the standard for bulbs and welding.

**Final Answer:** Argon  $\Rightarrow$  **B**



Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q22](#)

Q23.

### Solution

**Concept — Definition of a transition metal:** An element having a partially filled  $d$  subshell in the atom or in one of its common ions.

**Step 1 — Zinc:** Zn is  $[\text{Ar}]3d^{10}4s^2$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  is  $3d^{10}$  — both completely filled  $d$ .

**Step 2 — Conclusion:** Since neither the atom nor its ion has a partly filled  $d$  shell, Zn is not a typical transition metal.

**Why other options are wrong:** A filled  $4s$  or being soft/low-melting is not the defining criterion; Zn shows essentially only the +2 state.

**Final Answer:**  $3d^{10}$  in both atom and ion  $\Rightarrow$   D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

### Solution

**Concept — Lanthanide contraction:** The size decrease across the  $4f$  series almost cancels the expected increase from period 5 to period 6 in the  $d$ -block.

**Step 1 — Consequence:** Zirconium (period 5) and hafnium (period 6) end up with nearly identical atomic radii and very similar chemistry.

**Why other options are wrong:** Lanthanide radii actually decrease (not equal); actinides do not increase steadily; Na and K are unrelated.

**Final Answer:** Zr and Hf have almost identical radii  $\Rightarrow$   C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q24](#)

Q25.

### Solution

**Concept — Werner's theory:** A metal has a *primary* valence (ionisable, = oxidation number) and a *secondary* valence (non-ionisable, = coordination number).

**Step 1 — Secondary valence:** It equals the number of ligands directly attached, i.e. the coordination number.

**Why other options are wrong:** Oxidation number is the primary valence; atomic



number and ionic charge are unrelated to secondary valence.

**Final Answer:** Secondary valence = coordination number  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q25](#)

Q26.

### Solution

**Concept — Spin-only magnetic moment:**  $\mu = \sqrt{n(n+2)}$  BM, where  $n$  is the number of unpaired electrons.

**Step 1 — [CoF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>:** Co<sup>3+</sup> is  $d^6$ ; F<sup>-</sup> is a weak-field ligand, so the complex is high spin with  $t_{2g}^4 e_g^2$  giving  $n = 4$  unpaired electrons.

**Step 2 — Compute:**  $\mu = \sqrt{4(4+2)} = \sqrt{24} \approx 4.90$  BM.

**Why other options are wrong:** 0 is low-spin  $d^6$ ; 2.83 is  $n = 2$ ; 5.92 is  $n = 5$ .

**Final Answer:**  $\mu \approx 4.90$  BM  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q26](#)

Q27.

### Solution

**Concept — Naming esters:** An ester R-COO-R' is named "(alkyl from R') (acid as -oate)".

**Step 1 — Identify parts:** CH<sub>3</sub>COO- comes from ethanoic (acetic) acid  $\rightarrow$  "ethanoate"; -C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> is the ethyl group.

**Step 2 — Combine:** ethyl ethanoate.

**Why other options are wrong:** methyl ethanoate is CH<sub>3</sub>COOCH<sub>3</sub>; ethyl methanoate is HCOOC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>; methyl propanoate is C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>COOCH<sub>3</sub>.

**Final Answer:** ethyl ethanoate  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q27](#)



Q28.

**Solution**

**Concept — Geometrical isomerism:** A C=C with two *different* groups on each doubly bonded carbon gives cis and trans forms.

**Step 1 — Examine but-2-ene:** Each alkene carbon bears one CH<sub>3</sub> and one H, so both cis and trans exist.

**Step 2 — Count:** Exactly 2 geometrical isomers (cis and trans).

**Why other options are wrong:** 3, 1 and 4 are incorrect counts for this simple disubstituted alkene.

**Final Answer:** 2 isomers ⇒  D

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q28](#)

Q29.

**Solution**

**Concept — Alkene stability:** Stability increases with the number of alkyl substituents on the double bond (hyperconjugation + inductive stabilisation).

**Step 1 — Compare substitution:** 2,3-dimethylbut-2-ene is tetrasubstituted; propene and but-1-ene are monosubstituted; ethene is unsubstituted.

**Step 2 — Pick:** The tetrasubstituted alkene is the most stable.

**Why other options are wrong:** They are less substituted and therefore less stable.

**Final Answer:** 2,3-dimethylbut-2-ene ⇒  B

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q29](#)

Q30.

**Solution**

**Concept — Bonding in alkanes:** Alkanes are saturated; carbon is  $sp^3$  hybridized.

**Step 1 — Bond type:** Every C–C and C–H bond is a single covalent ( $\sigma$ ) bond formed by head-on orbital overlap.

**Why other options are wrong:** There are no  $\pi$  bonds (no unsaturation), no ionic or coordinate bonds in a simple alkane.

**Final Answer:** All are single covalent ( $\sigma$ ) bonds ⇒  A



Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q30](#)

Q31.

### Solution

**Concept — Catalytic hydrogenation:**  $H_2$  adds across the  $C=C$  double bond over a metal catalyst.

**Step 1 — Reaction:**  $CH_2=CH_2 + H_2 \xrightarrow{Ni} CH_3-CH_3$ .

**Step 2 — Product:** ethane.

**Why other options are wrong:** ethyne is more unsaturated; ethanol and ethanal require O, which is not added here.

**Final Answer:** ethane  $\Rightarrow$   D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q31](#)

Q32.

### Solution

**Concept — Resonance energy:** Delocalisation of the six  $\pi$  electrons over the ring lowers benzene's energy below that of a localised cyclohexatriene.

**Step 1 — Identify:** This stabilisation (about  $150 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) is the resonance (delocalisation) energy.

**Why other options are wrong:** Lattice energy applies to ionic solids; ionization and activation energies are different quantities.

**Final Answer:** Resonance (delocalisation) energy  $\Rightarrow$   C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q32](#)

Q33.

### Solution

**Concept —  $S_N1$  stereochemistry:** The intermediate is a planar carbocation that the nucleophile can attack from either face.

**Step 1 — Outcome:** Attack from both faces gives roughly equal amounts of the two enantiomers, i.e. a racemic (largely racemised) mixture, with loss of optical activity.

**Why other options are wrong:** Pure inversion is the  $S_N2$  result; the starting



material is not recovered; no meso compound forms from a single stereocentre.

**Final Answer:** A racemic mixture  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q33](#)

Q34.

### Solution

**Concept — Test for phenols:** Phenols form coloured iron(III) complexes.

**Step 1 — Reaction:** Neutral  $\text{FeCl}_3$  with phenol gives a violet/purple coloured complex — a confirmatory test for the phenolic  $-\text{OH}$ .

**Why other options are wrong:**  $\text{NaOH}$  only forms the salt (no colour); Tollens' and Fehling's are tests for aldehydes/reducing sugars.

**Final Answer:** Neutral  $\text{FeCl}_3$  gives a violet colour  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q34](#)

Q35.

### Solution

**Concept — Ether functional group:** An ether has the structure  $\text{R}-\text{O}-\text{R}'$ , with oxygen bonded to two carbon atoms.

**Step 1 — Identify:**  $\text{CH}_3-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$  (dimethyl ether / methoxymethane) fits this pattern.

**Why other options are wrong:**  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  is an alcohol;  $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$  an aldehyde;  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  a carboxylic acid.

**Final Answer:**  $\text{CH}_3-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$  is the ether  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q35](#)

Q36.

### Solution

**Concept — Distinguishing aldehyde and ketone:** Aldehydes are readily oxidised; ketones are not.

**Step 1 — Fehling's test:** Aldehydes reduce blue Fehling's solution to a brick-red precipitate of  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$ ; ketones do not react.

**Why other options are wrong:** dilute  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , bromine water and  $\text{NaCl}$  do not



give this selective brick-red test.

**Final Answer:** Fehling's solution  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q36](#)

Q37.

### Solution

**Concept — Relative acidity:** Carboxylic acid  $>$  phenol  $>$  water  $>$  alcohol, judged by conjugate-base stability.

**Step 1 — Compare:** Acetate is strongly resonance stabilised (most acidic); phenoxide is resonance stabilised but less so; ethoxide has no resonance (least acidic).

**Step 2 — Order:** acetic acid  $>$  phenol  $>$  ethanol.

**Why other options are wrong:** They place phenol or ethanol above acetic acid, contradicting conjugate-base stability.

**Final Answer:** acetic acid  $>$  phenol  $>$  ethanol  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q37](#)

Q38.

### Solution

**Concept — Basicity of aniline:** Basicity depends on the availability of the nitrogen lone pair.

**Step 1 — Resonance:** In aniline the N lone pair is delocalised into the benzene ring, so it is less available to accept a proton.

**Step 2 — Conclusion:** Hence aniline is a weaker base than ammonia or aliphatic amines.

**Why other options are wrong:** Nitrogen does retain a lone pair; aniline is not a strong acid; it can accept a proton, just less readily.

**Final Answer:** Lone pair delocalised into the ring  $\Rightarrow$

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q38](#)



Q39.

**Solution**

**Concept — Enzymes:** Enzymes are biological catalysts.

**Step 1 — Chemical nature:** Almost all enzymes are globular *proteins* (a few catalytic RNAs aside), built from amino acids.

**Why other options are wrong:** Lipids, carbohydrates and nucleic acids are different biomolecule classes; enzymes are proteins.

**Final Answer:** Enzymes are proteins  $\Rightarrow$

[Go Back to Q39](#)

Q40.

**Solution**

**Concept — Soaps vs detergents in hard water:** Soaps (Na salts of fatty acids) form insoluble scum with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ; detergents do not.

**Step 1 — Detergent behaviour:** The calcium and magnesium salts of detergents are *soluble*, so detergents do not precipitate and work even in hard water.

**Why other options are wrong:** Being fatty-acid salts and forming scum describe soaps; biodegradability is not the reason they work in hard water.

**Final Answer:** Their Ca/Mg salts are soluble (no scum)  $\Rightarrow$

[Go Back to Q40](#)



## Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	A	2	B	3	C	4	D	5	B
6	C	7	A	8	D	9	B	10	A
11	C	12	D	13	B	14	A	15	C
16	D	17	A	18	B	19	C	20	D
21	A	22	B	23	D	24	C	25	A
26	B	27	C	28	D	29	B	30	A
31	D	32	C	33	A	34	B	35	C
36	D	37	A	38	B	39	C	40	D

