



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alkanes Combustion

REACTANTS: Alkane and O₂ (oxygen)

CONDITIONS: Excess of Oxygen (for complete combustion)

PRODUCT(S): Carbon Dioxide and Water

REACTION TYPE: Combustion



NOTES:

- When excess oxygen is present complete combustion occurs so carbon dioxide and water are the only products.
- Incomplete combustion of alkanes occurs when oxygen becomes a limiting reagent, leading to the formation of carbon monoxide (CO) and solid carbon particulates (soot).





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

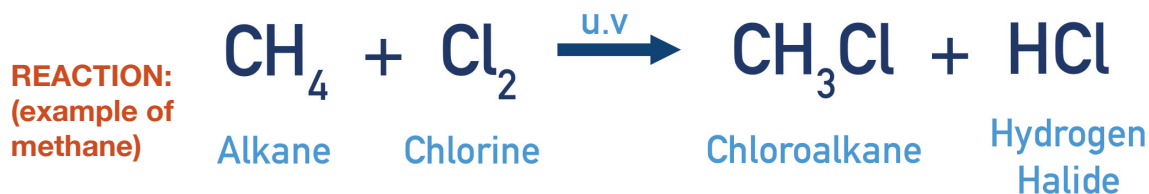
Alkanes Free Radical Substitution

REACTANTS: Alkanes and Halogen

CONDITIONS: U.V (ultraviolet) light

PRODUCT: Halogenoalkane

REACTION TYPE: Free Radical Substitution



NOTES:

- Chain reaction, occurring in three steps - **initiation**, **propagation** and **termination**. See *mechanism*.
- U.V light is required to homolytically split halogen molecule, forming two radical species.
- Further substitution can occur, forming di, tri and tetra halogenoalkanes.





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

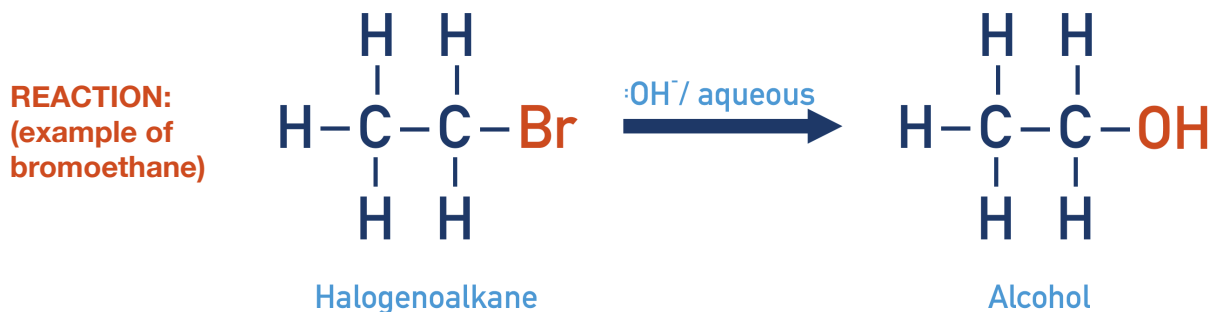
Halogenoalkanes Substitution (OH^-)

REACTANTS: Halogenoalkane and Sodium Hydroxide, NaOH (for OH^- ions)

CONDITIONS: Heat under reflux, Aqueous ('aq' - water present)

PRODUCT(S): Alcohol and Halide Ion (sodium halide salt if sodium hydroxide used)

REACTION TYPE: Nucleophilic Substitution, *Hydrolysis*



NOTES:

- Rate of reaction is determined by strength of carbon-halogen bond (carbon-fluorine bond is strongest giving slowest rate; carbon-iodine bond is weakest, giving fastest rate).
- Rate of hydrolysis can be compared using aqueous silver nitrate (AgNO_3) within the reaction mixture and timing how long it takes to form precipitate (Cl = **white** ppt, Br = **cream** ppt and I = **yellow** ppt).
- Reaction must be carried out in **aqueous conditions, otherwise an elimination can occur.**



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Halogenoalkanes Substitution (CN⁻)

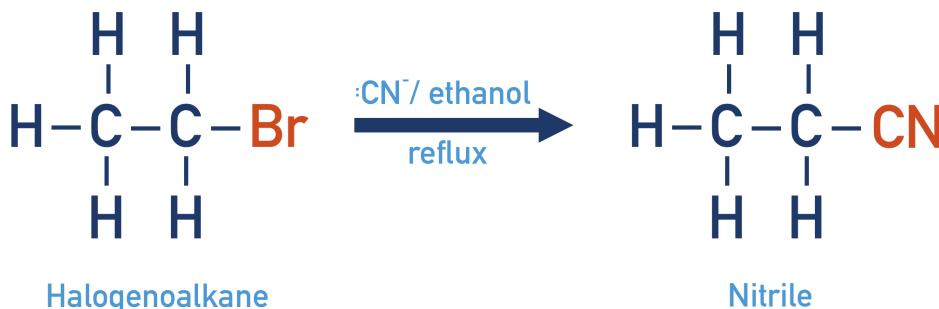
REACTANTS: Halogenoalkane and Sodium or Potassium Cyanide (NaCN or KCN)

CONDITIONS: Heat under reflux, Ethanolic (ethanol as the solvent, **no water present**)

PRODUCT(S): Nitrile and Halide Ion (*forms salt with Na⁺ or K⁺*)

REACTION TYPE: Nucleophilic Substitution

REACTION:
(example of
pentane)



NOTES:

- Rate of reaction is determined by strength of carbon-halogen bond (carbon-fluorine bond is strongest, giving slowest rate; carbon-iodine bond is weakest, giving fastest rate).
- Reaction must be carried out in **ethanolic conditions (in ethanol, no water present)**, otherwise **an alcohol is likely to form** rather than the nitrile.
- Reaction is heated under reflux to ensure no volatile substances are lost.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

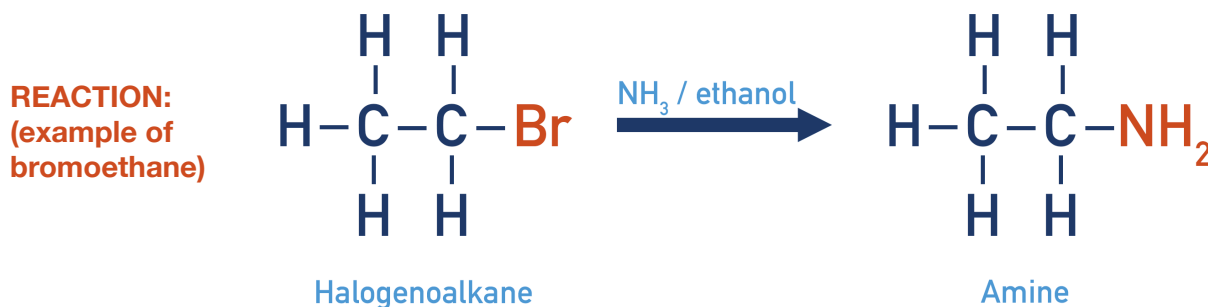
Halogenoalkanes Substitution (NH_3)

REACTANTS: Halogenoalkane and Ammonia (NH_3)

CONDITIONS: Heat*, Ethanolic (ethanol as the solvent, **no water present**)

PRODUCT(S): Amine and Ammonium Halide Salt

REACTION TYPE: Nucleophilic Substitution



NOTES:

- Reaction must be carried out in **ethanolic conditions (in ethanol, no water present)**, otherwise **an alcohol is likely to form** rather than the amine.
- *A sealed container (to stop ammonia escaping) containing reactants is heated.
- The amine formed in the reaction is a stronger base than ammonia and an ammonium-alkyl $[\text{RNH}_3]^+$ salt may be formed. The amine can be obtained by adding sodium hydroxide to the mixture - forcing the alkyl-ammonium ion to 'release' a H^+ ion and become a neutral molecule.
- Rate of reaction is determined by strength of carbon-halogen bond (carbon-fluorine bond is strongest, giving slowest rate; carbon-iodine bond is weakest, giving fastest rate).



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Halogenoalkanes Substitution and Elimination (OH^-)

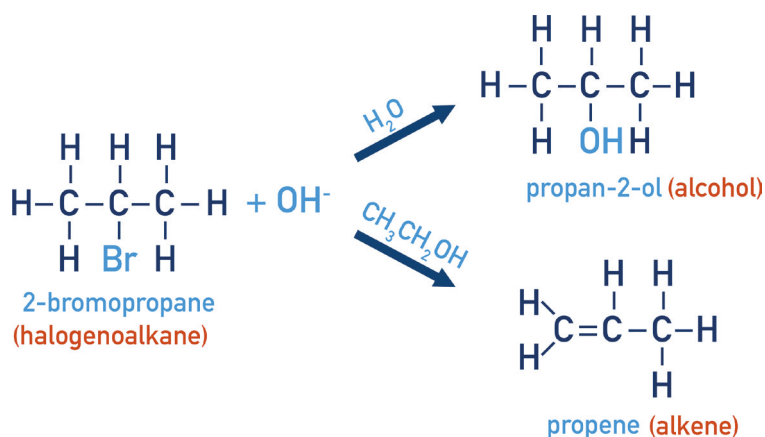
REACTANTS: Halogenoalkane and Potassium Hydroxide (for OH^- ions)

CONDITIONS: Heat under reflux, Ethanolic or Aqueous*

PRODUCT(S): Alcohol **and** Alkene (possible mixture of both)

REACTION TYPE: Nucleophilic Substitution **and** Elimination

REACTION(S):
(example of
2-bromo-
propane)



NOTES:

- Halogenoalkanes can react with hydroxide (OH^-) ions in both substitution and elimination reactions.
- If **substitution occurs an alcohol is formed**, whereas if **elimination occurs an alkene is formed**.
- The solvent used can help ensure more of one product is formed than the other, although final product mixture can still contain both the alcohol and alkene.
- If a hot **aqueous solvent is used, more alcohol forms**.
- If a hot **ethanolic solvent is used, more alkene forms**.
- Primary alcohols are **more likely to undergo substitution** - tertiary alcohols are **more likely to undergo elimination**. Secondary alcohols can undergo both substitution and elimination.
- *Higher temperatures and a more concentrated solution of hydroxide ions favour elimination.*



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alkenes Addition (HBr)

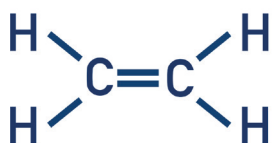
REACTANTS: Alkene and Hydrogen Bromide (HBr)

CONDITIONS: Hydrogen Bromide Gas or (concentrated) Hydrobromic Acid

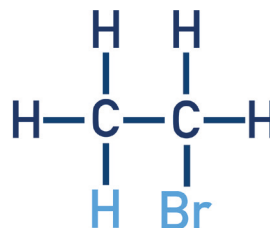
PRODUCT(S): Bromoalkane

REACTION TYPE: Electrophilic Addition

REACTION:
(example of
ethene)



Alkene



Bromoalkane

NOTES:

- For unsymmetrical alkenes, there will be two possible products from the electrophilic addition.
- Stability of the carbocation intermediate in the mechanism will determine which product will be made more readily (**major product**) and which product will be made less readily (**minor product**). See *mechanism*.





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alkenes Addition (Br_2)

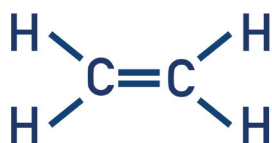
REACTANTS: Alkene and Bromine (Br_2)

CONDITIONS: Bromine Liquid (pure Br_2) or Bromine Water ($\text{Br}_2(\text{aq})$)

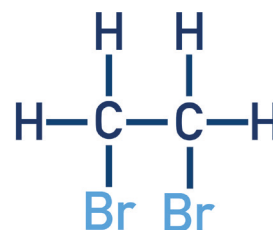
PRODUCT(S): Dibromoalkane

REACTION TYPE: Electrophilic Addition, *Bromination*

REACTION:
(example of
ethene)



Alkene



Dibromoalkane

NOTES:

- Double bond in alkene polarises the bromine molecule to form an electrophile ($\text{Br}^{\delta+}$) that starts the reaction.
- Reaction can be used to test for the presence of an alkene. A sample is mixed with bromine water, if the bromine water turns colourless (from orange - brown) an alkene is present in the sample.





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alkenes Hydration (to alcohol)

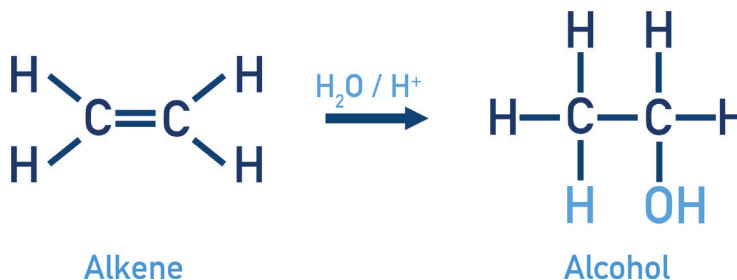
REACTANTS: Alkene and Steam ($\text{H}_2\text{O}_{(\text{g})}$)

CONDITIONS: Heat and Acid Catalyst (Phosphoric Acid, H_3PO_4)

PRODUCT(S): Alcohol

REACTION TYPE: Electrophilic Addition, (*acid catalysed*) Hydration

REACTION:
(example of
ethene)



NOTES:

- Acid catalyst is required to form hydroxonium ion (H_3O^+) ion that is able to act as an electrophile to start the reaction.
- For unsymmetrical alkenes, there will be two possible products from the electrophilic addition.
- Stability of the carbocation intermediate in the mechanism will determine which product will be made more readily (**major product**) and which product will be made less readily (**minor product**). See mechanism.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alkenes Hydrogenation (to alkane)

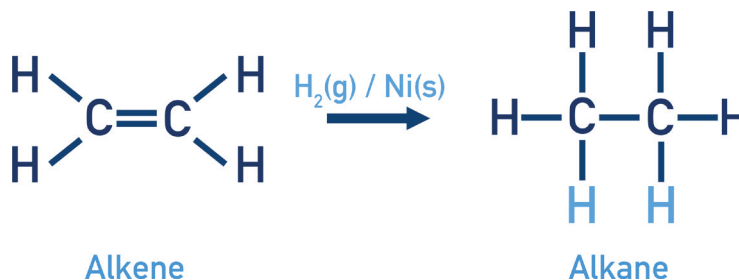
REACTANTS: Alkene and Hydrogen, H_2

CONDITIONS: Approximately $150^\circ C$ and Nickel (solid) Catalyst

PRODUCT(S): Alkane

REACTION TYPE: Addition, *Hydrogenation*

REACTION:
(example of
ethene)



NOTES:

- Hydrogen is 'added' across the double bond - addition reaction and the hydrocarbon becomes saturated (from unsaturated (alkene)).



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alkenes Oxidation (to form diol)

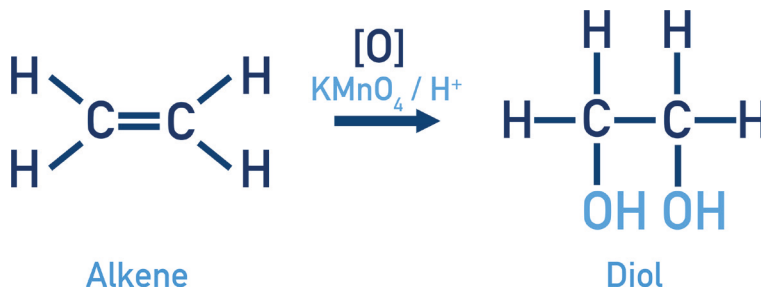
REACTANTS: Alkene and (dilute) Potassium Manganate (VII)

CONDITIONS: Cold Temperature, Acidic Conditions

PRODUCT(S): Diol

REACTION TYPE: Oxidation

REACTION:
(example of
ethene)



NOTES:

- Oxidation reaction must be carried out in cold temperature with dilute potassium manganate to ensure the diol doesn't get further oxidised and split in two (forming two carbonyl containing molecules).
- Colour change of the acidified potassium manganate (VII) - (**purple to colourless**), can be used as a test to show a double bond is present (although the bromine water test is simpler and more specific).



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

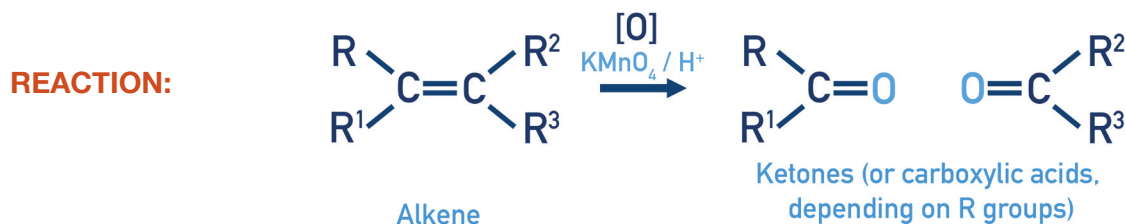
Alkenes Oxidation (breaking C=C double bond)

REACTANTS: Alkene and (concentrated) Potassium Manganate (VII)

CONDITIONS: Hot Temperature, Acidic Conditions

PRODUCT(S): Two Carbonyl Molecules (split C=C double bond)

REACTION TYPE: Oxidation



NOTES:

- If concentrated potassium manganate (VII) and a high temperature is used, the carbon double bond in the alkene is broken completely and two new carbonyl groups form (each on a new molecule).
- Depending on the R groups of the original alkene, carboxylic acids can form (if one of the R groups is H) as an aldehyde formed would be further oxidised to a carboxylic acid.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for Edexcel A-Level Chemistry

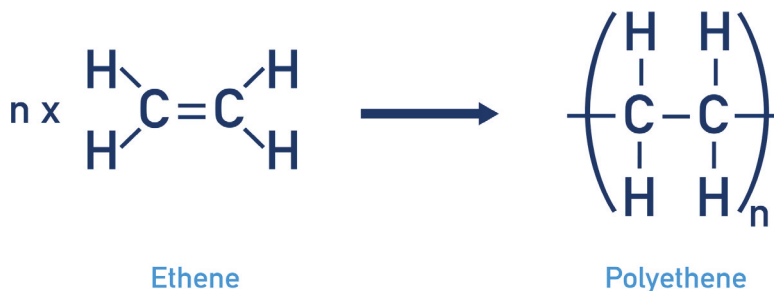
Polymers Addition (from alkenes)

REACTANTS: Alkene

PRODUCT(S): Poly(alkene)

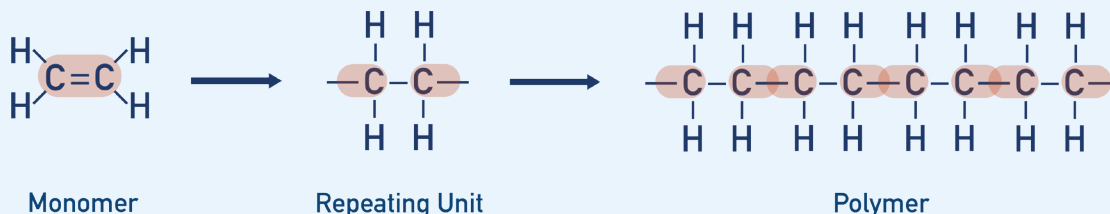
REACTION TYPE: Addition Polymerisation

REACTION:
(example of
ethene)



NOTES:

- The carbon-carbon double bond in the alkene breaks, allowing each carbon atom to form a new bond (with another carbon atom from another molecule).
- The alkenes that form a polymer are called **monomers**.
- The polymer is made up of **repeating units**.





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alcohols Oxidation

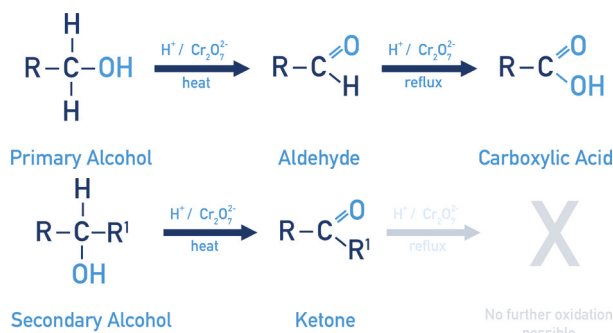
REACTANTS: Alcohol (primary or secondary) and Acidified Dichromate ions ($\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-} / \text{H}^+$)

CONDITIONS: Heat*, Acid Catalyst (sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4))

PRODUCT(S): Aldehyde, Ketone or Carboxylic Acid (see below)

REACTION TYPE: Oxidation

REACTIONS:
(example of
primary and
secondary
alcohol)



NOTES:

- *Primary alcohols form aldehydes and carboxylic acids when heated with an oxidising agent. To isolate aldehyde, distill aldehyde from reaction mixture as soon as it is formed. To obtain carboxylic acid, heat under reflux to ensure full oxidation of aldehydes already formed.
- Secondary alcohols form ketones and are unable to be further oxidised. Tertiary alcohols are unable to be oxidised at all.
- Oxidising agents can be represented as [O].



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alcohols Halogenation (PCl_5)

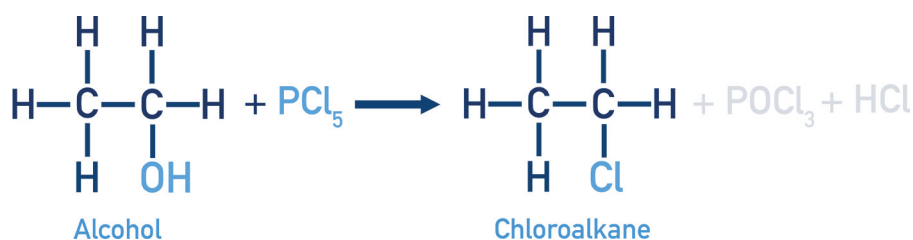
REACTANTS: Alcohol and (solid) Phosphorus (V) Pentachloride (PCl_5)

CONDITIONS: Pure alcohol (no water must be present)

PRODUCT(S): Chloroalkane and HCl (white fumes)

REACTION TYPE: Halogenation

REACTIONS:
(example of
ethanol)



NOTES:

- PCl_5 reacts vigorously with $-\text{OH}$ groups, producing white misty fumes of HCl. Due to this, the sample of alcohol being halogenated must be pure containing no water or other molecules with an $-\text{OH}$ group.
- The reaction can be used to test for an alcohol (positive result is observation of misty white fumes).



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alcohols Halogenation (KBr)

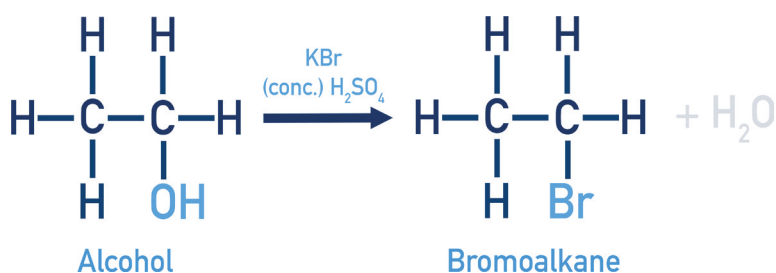
REACTANTS: Alcohol and 50% (concentrated) H_2SO_4 and Potassium Bromide, KBr

CONDITIONS: (concentrated) H_2SO_4 , Warm Temperature (for distillation of product)

PRODUCT(S): Bromoalkane

REACTION TYPE: Halogenation

REACTIONS:
(example of
ethanol)



NOTES:

- KBr and H_2SO_4 react together to form HBr that reacts with the alcohol to form the bromoalkane.
- Bromoalkane is isolated from the reaction mixture by distillation.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

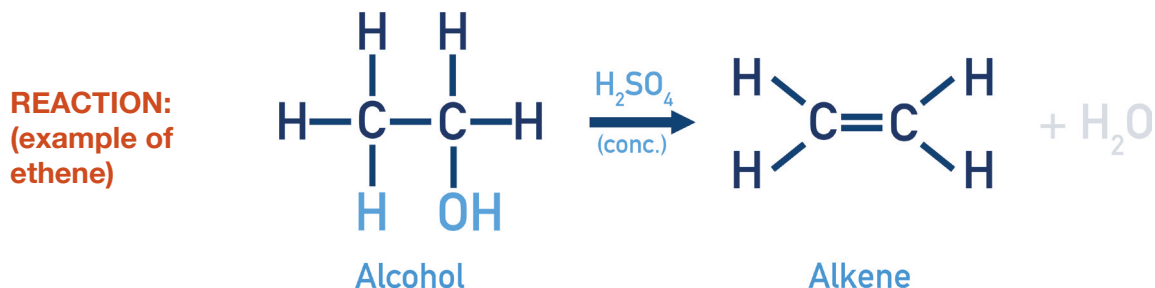
Alcohols Elimination (to alkenes)

REACTANTS: Alcohol

CONDITIONS: Heat, Acid Catalyst (concentrated H_2SO_4 or concentrated H_3PO_4)

PRODUCT(S): Alkene

REACTION TYPE: Elimination, *dehydration*



NOTES:

- Acid catalyst provides H^+ ion to start reaction and is reformed at the end when a H^+ ion is released by reacting molecule.
- Water molecule is removed, **dehydration reaction**.



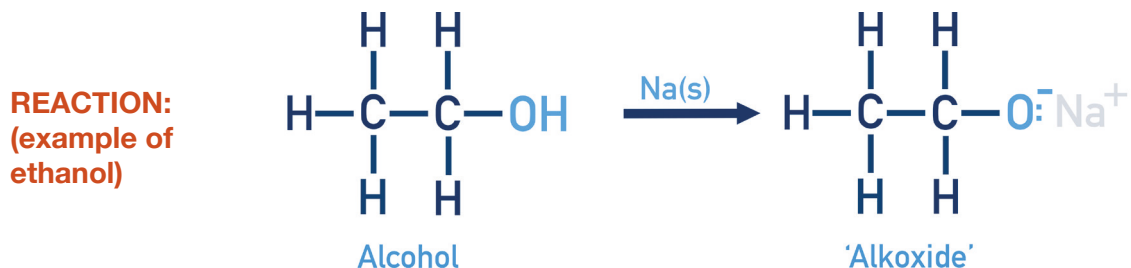
Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Alcohols With Sodium, Na

REACTANTS: Alcohol and Sodium

PRODUCT(S): Alkoxide and Sodium Ion (Na^+)



NOTES:

- Alcohol reacts in a similar way with sodium metal as water. Hydrogen gas is released, the sodium metal becomes a positively charged ion (Na^+) and the ROH group becomes a negatively charged 'alkoxide' ion (RO^-).
- Ethanol reacts with sodium metal to form sodium ethoxide:





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

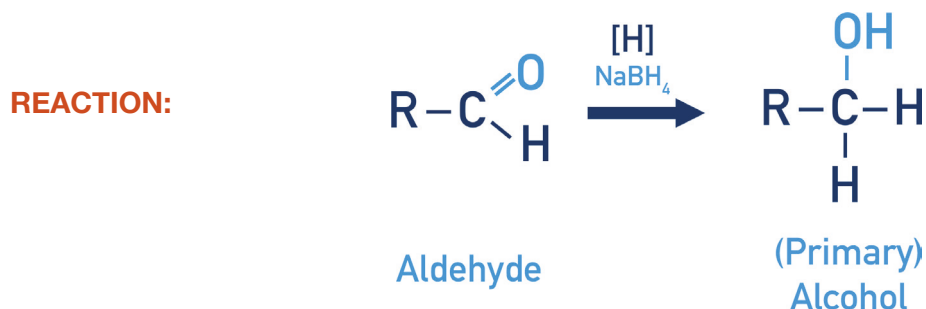
Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Aldehydes Reduction (NaBH_4)

REACTANTS: Aldehyde and NaBH_4 (reducing agent)

PRODUCT(S): Primary Alcohol

REACTION TYPE: Reduction



NOTES:

- Aldehydes form **primary alcohols** when reduced.
- NaBH_4 is a reducing agent able to provide hydride (:H^-) ions that are needed for the reduction of carbonyls.
- The hydrogens added in reduction reactions are often shown as $[\text{H}]$.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

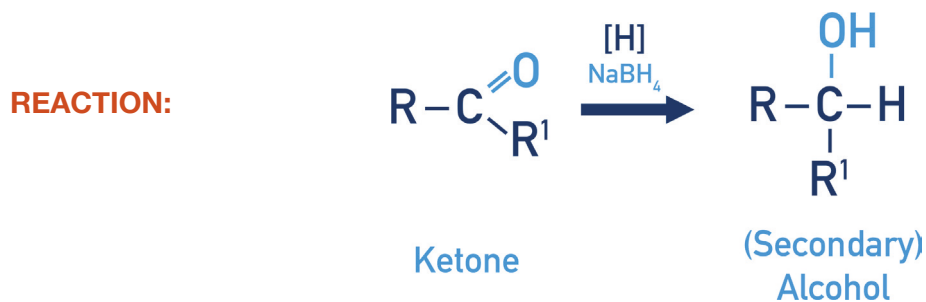
Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Ketones Reduction (NaBH_4)

REACTANTS: Ketone and NaBH_4 (reducing agent)

PRODUCT(S): Secondary Alcohol

REACTION TYPE: Reduction



NOTES:

- Ketones form **secondary alcohols** when reduced.
- NaBH_4 is a reducing agent able to provide hydride (:H^-) ions that are needed for the reduction of carbonyls.
- The hydrogens added in reduction reactions are often shown as $[\text{H}]$.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

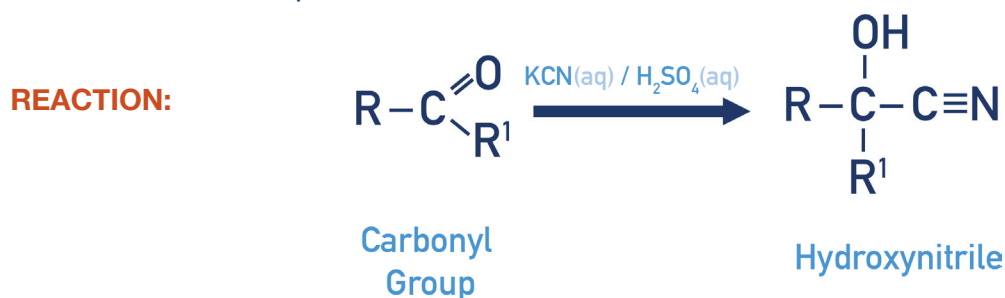
Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Hydroxynitriles Formation (from carbonyls)

REACTANTS: Carbonyl (aldehyde or ketone) and KCN (in acid)

PRODUCT(S): Hydroxynitrile

REACTION TYPE: Nucleophilic Addition



NOTES:

- HCN is sometimes written as the reactant, but HCN is very reactive and dangerous. By using KCN in dilute acid, the same product can be formed as with HCN.
- If a chiral carbon centre is formed in the product, the final product mixture will be **racemic**, containing both enantiomers in a 50:50 ratio. This is because carbonyl groups are planar and there is equal chance of the :CN^- nucleophile attacking the carbonyl group from above or below the plane - producing two possible enantiomers in equal amounts.

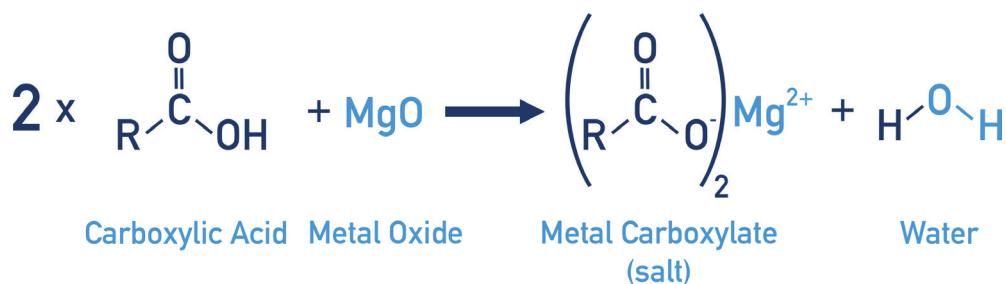
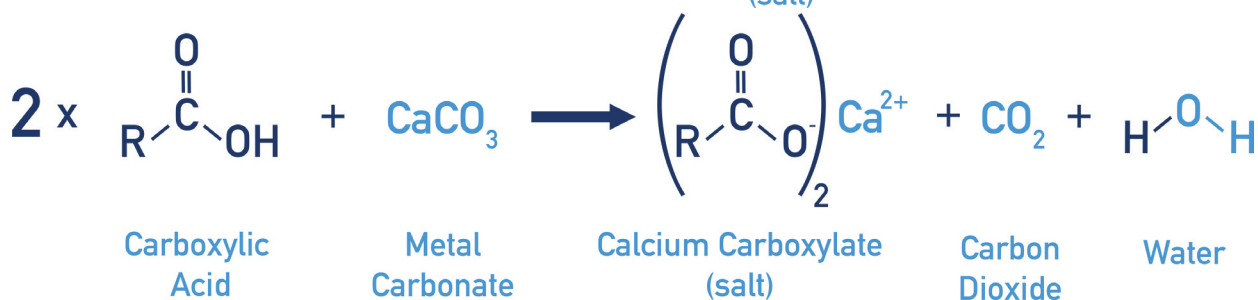
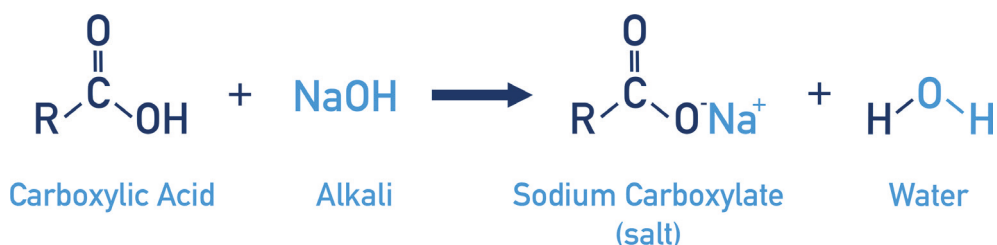
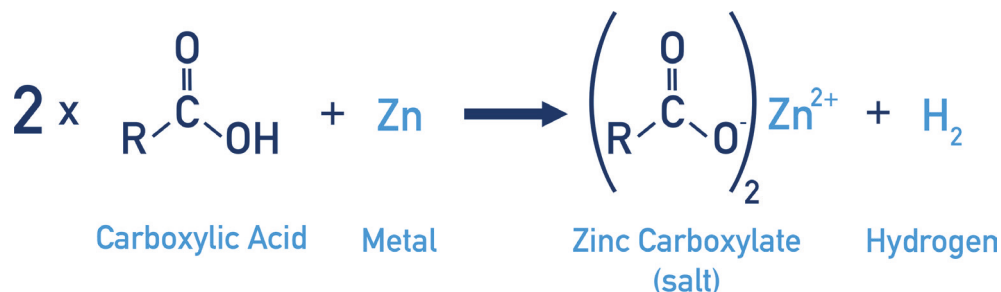


Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Carboxylic Acids Acid-Base Reactions

Carboxylic acids are able to act as weak acids and react with bases as any weak acid does



NOTES:

- Salts formed by carboxylic acids are (usually) highly soluble in water and can be a useful source of conjugate bases for making buffer systems.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Carboxylic Acids Reduction (to alcohols using LiAlH_4)

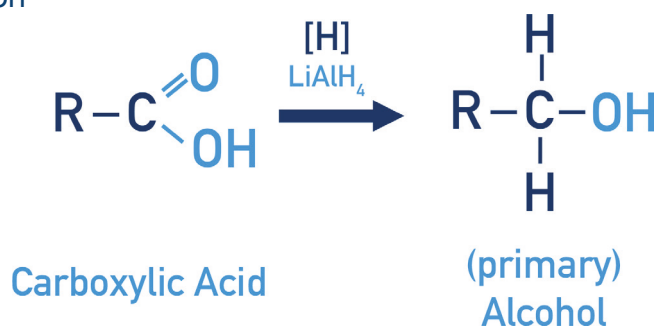
REACTANTS: Carboxylic Acid and LiAlH_4

CONDITIONS: Dry ether (room temperature)

PRODUCT(S): Primary Alcohol

REACTION TYPE: Reduction

REACTION:



NOTES:

- LiAlH_4 is used as the reducing agent as NaBH_4 isn't powerful enough to reduce the carboxylic acid.
- Reducing agent can be represented as $[\text{H}]$ when writing the reaction:



- Reaction must be carried out in dry ether (no water present) as LiAlH_4 reacts vigorously with water.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

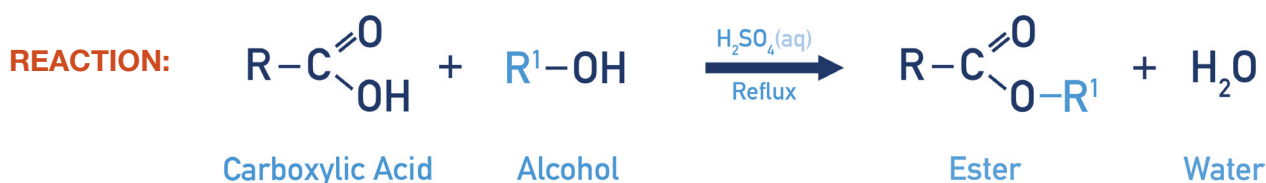
Esters Esterification (carboxylic acid and alcohol)

REACTANTS: Carboxylic Acid and Alcohol

CONDITIONS: Heat under reflux and (concentrated) Sulfuric Acid (H_2SO_4) catalyst

PRODUCT(S): Ester

REACTION TYPE: Condensation, *Esterification*



NOTES:

- Reaction is reversible (see hydrolysis of esters), so a (concentrated) acid catalyst is needed to force the position of equilibrium to the formation of ester.



Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Esters Hydrolysis

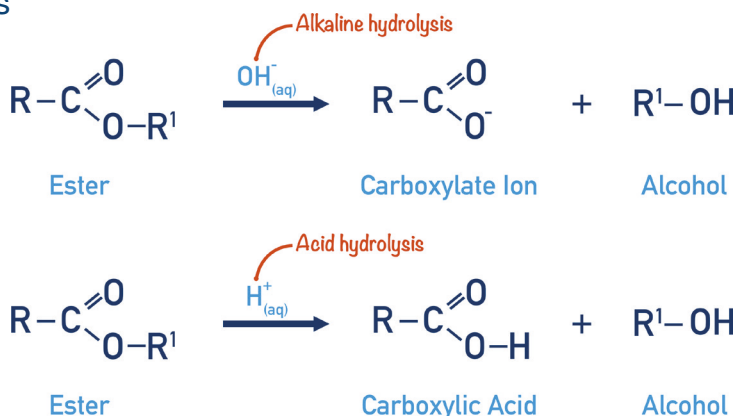
REACTANTS: Ester

CONDITIONS: Warm, Aqueous (with dilute acid or alkali)

PRODUCT(S): Carboxylic Acid (or carboxylate salt) and Alcohol

REACTION TYPE: Hydrolysis

REACTION(S):



NOTES:

- If alkaline (OH⁻) conditions are used, a carboxylate ion is formed and can be isolated by adding a dilute acid.
- Fats and oils are tri-esters and can be broken down into three fatty acid molecules (carboxylic acids) and one alcohol molecule (glycerol) by hydrolysis.
- Biodiesel can be made by the reaction of oil (tri-ester) with methanol in the presence of an acid catalyst, forming methyl esters that can be used as a diesel fuel.





Organic Chemistry Revision Sheets

Reactions for CIE A-Level Chemistry

Nitriles Acid Hydrolysis (to form carboxylic acids)

REACTANTS: Nitrile and (dilute) Hydrochloric Acid (HCl)

CONDITIONS: Heat under reflux

PRODUCT(S): Carboxylic Acid and Ammonium Chloride

REACTION TYPE: Hydrolysis



NOTES:

- Full reaction:



- Nitriles can also be hydrolysed in alkaline conditions (heated under reflux) using sodium hydroxide, forming the sodium carboxylate salt of the carboxylic acid.

