AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.6.2.1

Reversible reactions

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**7**
Available paper years	**2013–2024**

Using this booklet

1. Booklet answer numbers match the question booklet.
2. Use the original question number within marking tables.
3. Examiner comments are included where available.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Where a precise marking extract is unavailable, the full source document is included in an appendix. Any missing mark scheme is explicitly identified.

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2013 | CH3HP | Original Q6 | Legacy

Question 6

question	Answers	extra information	Mark
6(a)	air		1
6(b)	recycle (unreacted) nitrogen and hydrogen	allow re-use allow N_2 and H_2	1 1
6(c)	$N_2 + 3H_2 \rightarrow 2NH_3$	allow correct multiples	1
6(d)	 because a higher temperature would reduce (equilibrium) yield because a lower temperature would reduce rate	allow converse arguments ignore references to compromise allow higher temperature favours backward reaction	 1 1
6(e)(i)	(energy of) reactants greater than (energy of) products	allow converse allow (overall) energy decreases allow energy required to break bonds is less than the energy released making bonds	1
6(e)(ii)	line starting and finishing at same levels but with lower peak		1
Total			8

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

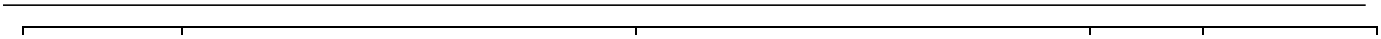
June 2015 | CH3HP | Original Q6 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
6(a)(i)	nothing can enter **and** nothing can leave the reaction	allow sealed reaction vessel	1	**AO1** 3.5.1.c
6(a)(ii)	forward and backward reactions have same rate so there is no (overall) change in quantities of reactants and products	 allow concentrations of reactants and products	1 1	**AO1/ AO2** 3.5.1.c
6(b)(i)	natural gas	allow methane / CH_4 allow fossil fuels / hydrocarbons allow water	1	**AO1** 3.5.1.a
6(b)(ii)	provides an alternative reaction pathway which has a lower activation energy	 ignore references to collisions	1 1	**AO1** 3.3.1.h
6(b)(iii)	the amount (of ammonia) increases the equilibrium moves to the side (of the equation) with fewer (gaseous) molecules / moles	allow yield increases allow it favours the forward reaction	1 1	**AO1/ AO2** 3.5.1.d/g
6(c)(i)	vertical arrow from reactants to maximum		1	**AO2** 3.3.1.e
6(c)(ii)	(energy of) products higher than (energy of) reactants	allow converse	1	**AO2** 3.3.1.d
6(c)(iii)	amount of hydrogen iodide decreases equilibrium moves in the direction of the endothermic reaction	 allow it favours the forward reaction	1 1	**AO1/ AO2** 3.5.1.d/e
Total			**12**	

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | CH3HP | Original Q6 | Legacy



4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / SpecRef
2(a)	endothermic		1	AO1 2.5.1d
2(b)	82 (%)	correct answer with working gains **3** marks if 17 or 34 not shown in working **max 2** marks accept 82.4 accept 82.35 to full calculator display (82.35294...) correctly rounded to at least 2 sf if no answer or incorrect answer, then (M_r =) 17 gains **1** mark **or** 14/17 gains **2** marks **OR** ($2M_r$ =) 34 gains **1** mark **or** 28/34 gains **2** marks **OR** 14/their M_r shown gains **1** mark **or** correct calculation of 14/their M_r gains **2** marks	3	AO2 2.3.3a, 2.3.1f
2(c)(i)	7 / seven		1	AO1 2.6.2d
2(c)(ii)	$H^+ + OH^- \rightarrow H_2O$		1	AO1 2.6.2e
2(c)(iii)	ammonium chloride	allow NH_4Cl ignore an incorrect formula	1	AO1 2.6.2b

Question 2 continues on the next page

Question 2 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / SpecRef
2(d)			6	2AO2 / 4AO3 2.6.2c

Marks awarded for this answer will be determined by the Quality of Written Communication (QWC) as well as the standard of the scientific response. Examiners should also refer to the information on page 5 and apply a 'best-fit' approach to the marking.

0 marks	Level 1 (1–2 marks)	Level 2 (3–4 marks)	Level 3 (5–6 marks)
No relevant content.	Suggestion with a reference to a graph.	Suggestion with reasons referring to more than one graph.	Suggestion with reasons from all three graphs, and linking of ideas which may explain a compromise.

Examples of chemistry points made in response:
A reasonable suggested amount of fertiliser would be in the region of 200 kg (per ha). Accept any suggestion from about 180 kg (per ha) to 500 kg (per ha).

Yield:
- Using fertiliser improves yield.
- Yield improved most up to about 200 kg (per ha) of fertiliser.
- Yield only increased slightly above about 200 kg (per ha).

Profit:
- About 200 kg of fertiliser gives the most profit.
- Above about 200 kg (per ha) of fertiliser profit declines.

Run off:
- Run off is at low levels until about 300 kg (per ha) of fertiliser.
- Above about 300 kg (per ha) of fertiliser, run off increases.

Examples of linking of ideas:
- Overall 200 kg gives high crop yield and most profit.
- In conclusion 200 kg gives high crop yield and low run off.
- 200 kg gives most profit and low run off.

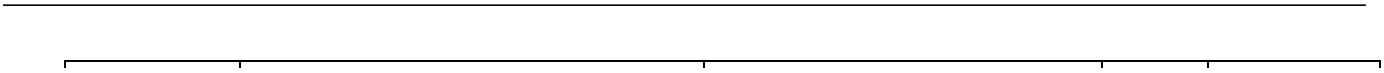
Examples of compromise:
- Profits go down after about 200 kg (per ha) of fertiliser because cost of fertiliser is not covered by increased yield.
- 200 kg gives the highest profit although it is not the highest yield.
- 500 kg gives the best yield but has the most runoff.

Total			13

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

June 2016 | CH2HP | Original Q2 | Legacy



4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

Question 10

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	$\frac{6}{34} \times 100$ = 17.6 (%)	an answer of 17.6470588 (%) correctly rounded to at least 2 significant figures scores **2** marks allow 17.6470588 (%) correctly rounded to at least 2 significant figures	1 1	AO2 4.3.3.2
10.2	higher yield (of hydrogen or carbon monoxide or product) (because) fewer moles / molecules / particles on left hand side **or** (because) more moles / molecules / particles on right hand side	allow converse arguments in terms of higher pressure ignore references to rate allow more hydrogen or more carbon monoxide or more product allow equilibrium moves to the right allow equilibrium moves in the forward direction allow (because) the reverse reaction produces fewer moles / molecules / particles **or** allow (because) the forward reaction produces more moles / molecules / particles do **not** accept fewer / more atoms	1 1	AO2 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.7
10.3	no effect (on yield of hydrogen)	allow position of equilibrium unaffected by pressure ignore references to rate of reaction	1	AO2 4.6.2.7

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

10.4	an answer of 2.25 scores **3** marks 350 (°C) and 285 (atmospheres) = 63 (%) **and** 450 (°C) and 200 (atmospheres) = 28 (%) $\frac{63}{28}$ = 2.25 (times greater)	 allow a value between 62 (%) and 64 (%) inclusive allow a correct expression using incorrectly determined value(s) for percentage yield allow a correct calculation using incorrectly determined value(s) for percentage yield correctly evaluated and rounded to at least 2 significant figures	 1 1 1	AO2 4.10.4.1
10.5	any **one** from: • the energy costs would be high(er) • the equipment would need to be strong(er) • high(er) pressures are (more) dangerous	allow converse arguments in terms of low(er) pressure ignore energy / cost unqualified allow the equipment would be (more) expensive (to build / maintain) allow (more) dangerous because (greater) risk of explosion	1	AO1 4.10.4.1
10.6	higher temperatures produce a lower (percentage) yield (of ammonia)	allow converse allow correct reference to shift in equilibrium ignore references to pressure	1	AO2 4.6.2.6 4.10.4.1
10.7	world population has increased any **one** from: • demand for fertiliser has increased • increased demand for other specified ammonia-based products e.g. nitric acid, drugs, dyes, explosives	 allow more food needed	1 1	AO3 AO1 4.10.4.1 4.10.4.2
Total			**12**	

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

Question 10

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	water	allow H_2O	1	AO1 4.2.2.2
10.2	becomes (more) red		1	AO2 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.5
	(because the position of) equilibrium moves to the right	allow (because) the concentration of $FeSCN^{2+}$ (ions) increases allow (because) the forward reaction is favoured	1	
	(so that) the (increase in the) concentration of thiocyanate (ions) is reduced	allow (so that) the increase in the concentration of thiocyanate (ions) is counteracted	1	
10.3	(the position of) equilibrium moves to the left	allow the concentration of Fe^{3+} (ions) increases allow the reverse reaction is favoured	1	AO2 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.6
	(so that) the (increase in the) temperature is reduced	allow (so that) the increase in the temperature is counteracted	1	
	(therefore) the forward reaction is exothermic	allow (therefore) the forward reaction releases energy (to the surroundings)	1	

Question 10 (continued)

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.4	no change in equilibrium position (because) no gases are present	 allow (because) only aqueous solutions are present	1 1	AO2 4.6.2.7
10.5	Co^{2+}		1	AO2 4.1.3.2 4.6.2.5
Total			**10**	

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/2H | Original Q9

Question 9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.1	(mass of water in 4.68 g = 4.68 - 2.99) = 1.69 (g)		1	AO2 4.6.2.2
	(mass of water in 11.7 g =) $\frac{11.7}{4.68} \times 1.69$	allow correct use of an incorrectly determined mass of water in 4.68 g	1	
	= 4.23 (g)	allow 4.2 / 4.225 (g)	1	
	alternative approach: $\left(\text{mass of anhydrous compound} = \frac{11.7}{4.68} \times 2.99\right)$			
	= 7.475 (g) (1)			
	(mass of water =) 11.7 – 7.475 (1)	allow correct use of an incorrectly determined mass of anhydrous compound		
	= 4.23 (g) (1)	allow 4.2 / 4.225 (g)		

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.2	(energy =) $\frac{15.0}{2.99} \times 1.47$		1	AO2 4.6.2.2
	= 7.37 (kJ)	allow 7.37458194 correctly rounded to at least 2 significant figures	1	

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.3	shifts to the left		1	AO2 4.6.2.1 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.4	the mixture is a lighter shade of brown		1	AO2 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.5	no effect (on equilibrium position) (because) there are equal numbers of (gas) moles / molecules on each side (of the equation)	allow (equilibrium position) stays the same	1 1	AO2 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.6	no effect (on equilibrium position)	allow (equilibrium position) stays the same	1	AO2 4.6.2.3 4.6.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.7	add more hydrochloric acid		1	AO2 4.6.2.4 4.6.2.5

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/2H | Original Q9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.8	(because the) forward and reverse reactions are taking place at (exactly) the same rate	ignore references to closed systems allow for **1** mark (because) the reactions are taking place at (exactly) the same rate	2	AO1 4.6.2.3

Total Question 9	13

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/2H | Original Q7

Question 7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.1		ignore (hydrochloric / nitric / sulfuric) acid		AO1 4.8.3.5
	(test) add barium chloride (solution)	allow add barium nitrate (solution)	1	
	(result) white precipitate		1	
		MP2 is dependent upon MP1 being awarded		

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.2	the yield is smaller at higher temperatures because the reaction is exothermic		1	AO2 4.6.2.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.3		allow converse		AO2 4.6.2.7
	there are more moles / molecules (of gas) on the left	ignore particles	1	
	(so the position of) equilibrium shifts to the right		1	

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/2H | Original Q7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.4	any **two** from: • the yield is already high • more energy required • risk of explosion is increased • higher income from increased yield is outweighed by the extra expenditure • increased cost of safety precautions	allow requires stronger vessels allow requires thicker walls	2	AO3 4.6.2.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.5	vanadium (V)		1	AO3 4.1.3.2

Total Question 7	**8**

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 05 · Examiner comments

November 2020 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

Question 10 (standard and high demand)

10.1 A minority of students identified water as the solvent.

10.2 The mark for describing the colour change was scored more often than the mark for the shift in the position of equilibrium that caused this colour change. The mark for the application of Le Chatelier's Principle was rarely scored by students.

10.3 Once again, the shift in equilibrium position and the identification of the forward reaction as exothermic were seldom justified in terms of Le Chatelier's Principle. The distribution of marks awarded to students was very similar to that for **10.2**.

10.4 Students answered this question poorly. A minority recognised that the position of equilibrium had not changed, but fewer still linked the non-effect of pressure with the absence of gases. A common error was to state that there there are equal numbers of moles on each side of the equation, as though this **were** a gaseous reaction.

10.5 A minority of students were able to identify cobalt as the only transition metal ion in the list.

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 05 · Examiner comments

November 2020 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

Concluding Remarks

Many students gave responses which showed an excellent understanding while others had difficulty even with core chemical concepts.

The majority of students appeared to have sufficient time to complete the paper. A few used up a lot of time and space in practical and extended writing contexts by providing detailed additional information that did not contribute to a fully answered question.

Basic knowledge and understanding of how science works in everyday situations, including in the laboratory, were tested throughout this paper. This means that it was essential that students read and analysed the information provided, then read and understood the question before writing their response.

There is still some evidence that command words are misunderstood or ignored. This limits the marks awarded, especially in extended response questions. In this paper **compare** and **evaluate** were often too loosely interpreted.

Students seemed well prepared for questions based on Rate and Extent of Chemical Change and Organic Chemistry. In this series they seemed less equipped to deal with Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and some aspects of Using Resources.

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results Statistics page of the AQA Website.

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 06 · Examiner comments June 2023 | 8462/2H | Original Q9

Question 9 (standard, standard / high and high demand)

09.1 This question was well done by a large proportion of the students. There was an understanding of how to calculate the mass of water obtained from 4.68 g of hydrated copper(II) sulphate and use this to calculate the mass of water from 11.7 g hydrated copper(II) sulphate. The alternative method on the mark scheme was less popular with the students. Over two-thirds of students scored all three marks.

09.2 This question proved to be more difficult for many of the students. It was noticeable that rather than using the value 2.99 g in the calculation a large proportion of the students used 4.68 grams without understanding that the calculation was about the reverse reaction. Just under half of the students gained both marks.

09.3 Around two-thirds of the students gained this multiple-choice mark. Most who did not score selected 'shifts to the right' instead.

09.4 Around 40% of the students gained this multiple-choice mark. Most who did not score selected 'the mixture is a darker shade of brown' instead.

09.5 Large numbers of the students did not recognise that there were the same number of moles on each side of the equation. Quite a number of students stated that the equilibrium shifts to the side with the least moles and then said that the equilibrium shifts to either the left or the right showing a lack of understanding of the stoichiometry of written chemical equations. Around one-third of the students gained both marks.

09.6 There were a lot of answers relating to the effect of a catalyst on the rate of a chemical reaction without any mention of the effect on equilibrium position. There was a common misconception that increasing the rate of reaction increased the yield of products and therefore stated that the equilibrium shifts to the right. Around one-third of the students gained both marks.

09.7 More than 80% of the students gained this multiple-choice mark. 'Add more water' was occasionally seen but 'leave the reaction mixture for 30 minutes' was rarely seen.

09.8 This question was not well done. Students appear not to understand what is happening at equilibrium and responses did not relate to the rate of reaction. Around one-quarter of students gained this mark.

Answer 07 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/2H | Original Q7

Question 7 (standard, standard / high and high demand)

07.1 Around 40% of students scored two marks for this question. However, many students were not able to name the correct reagent for the test. White precipitate was often given as the result of the test, but this answer was not creditworthy unless the correct reagent had been named. Sodium hydroxide and silver nitrate were the most common incorrect reagents. A significant number of students left the answer space blank.

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4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Answer 07 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/2H | Original Q7

07.2 This multiple-choice question was well answered with two-thirds of students gaining the mark.

07.3 Around 30% of students scored both the marks on this question. Clear descriptions about the numbers of moles / molecules on each side of the equation and the resulting shift in the position of equilibrium at higher pressure were seen. A number of students failed to score the first marking point because they did not give a comparison of the number of moles or molecules of gas on each side of the equation. Answers that focused on changes in the rate of reaction or particle collisions were not creditworthy, nor were those which stated that the equilibrium shifted to the side with lower pressure.

07.4 This question was not well answered and only around 2% of students were awarded both marks. The most common creditworthy responses were based on the idea that a higher pressure is not used because the yield is already high or because more energy would be required to achieve a higher pressure. Many answers could not be given credit because they were not comparative. Higher risk of explosion or higher cost of safety precautions were creditworthy responses that focused on the consequences of using higher pressure compared to using a lower pressure.

07.5 This multiple-choice question was answered correctly by around a quarter of students who used their periodic table to locate and identify vanadium as a transition metal.