AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.6.2.1

Reversible reactions

Past-paper questions

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

Using this booklet

1. Answer the questions in order and show your working.
2. Original question numbers and marks are retained.
3. Print at actual size (100%) for measuring questions.
4. Use the companion answer booklet to check your work.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

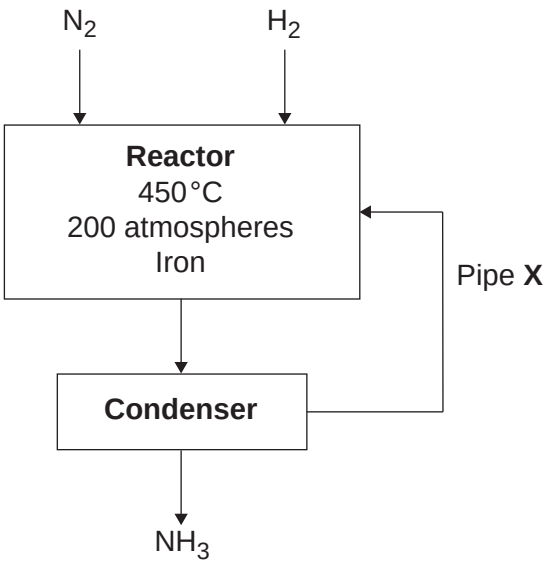
Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 01

June 2013 | CH3HP | Original Q6 | Legacy

6 The flow diagram shows the Haber process. In the Haber process, ammonia (NH_3) is produced from nitrogen (N_2) and hydrogen (H_2).



6 (a) Which raw material is nitrogen obtained from?

.....

(1 mark)

6 (b) What is the purpose of Pipe **X**?

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

6 (c) Balance the chemical equation below for the production of ammonia.

N_2 + ...H_2 $\rightleftharpoons$ .....NH_3

(1 mark)

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 01 · continued

6 (d) A temperature of 450 °C is used in the reactor.
The reaction of nitrogen with hydrogen is reversible.
The forward reaction is exothermic.

Explain why a temperature of 450 °C is the optimum temperature for the Haber process.

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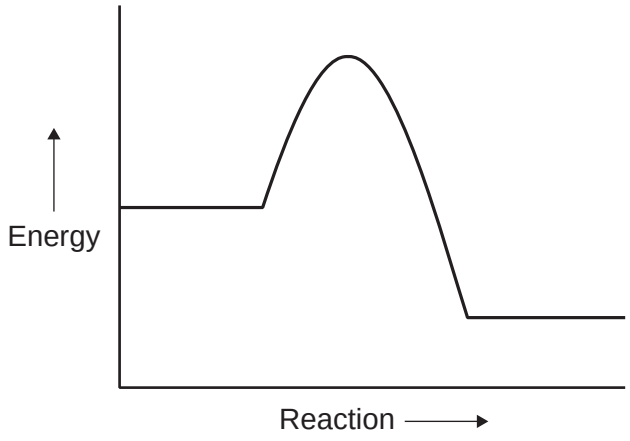
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(2 marks)

6 (e) An energy level diagram for the reaction between nitrogen and hydrogen is shown below.



6 (e) (i) How does the energy level diagram show this reaction is exothermic?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

6 (e) (ii) In the Haber process iron is used as a catalyst.

Draw a line on the energy level diagram to show the effect of adding a catalyst.

(1 mark)

8

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 02

June 2015 | CH3HP | Original Q6 | Legacy

6 This question is about reversible reactions and chemical equilibrium.

6 (a) Reversible reactions can reach equilibrium in a closed system.

6 (a) (i) What is meant by a closed system?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

6 (a) (ii) Explain why, when a reversible reaction reaches equilibrium, the reaction appears to have stopped.

[2 marks]

.....

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.....

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 02 · continued

6 (b) In the Haber process, the reaction of nitrogen with hydrogen to produce ammonia is reversible.

$$N_2(g) + 3\,H_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NH_3(g)$$

6 (b) (i) Name a natural resource from which hydrogen is produced.

[1 mark]

.....

6 (b) (ii) The Haber process uses a catalyst to speed up the reaction.

Explain how a catalyst speeds up a reaction.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

6 (b) (iii) What happens to the amount of ammonia produced at equilibrium if the pressure is increased?

Give a reason for your answer.

[2 marks]

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Question 6 continues on the next page

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 02 · continued

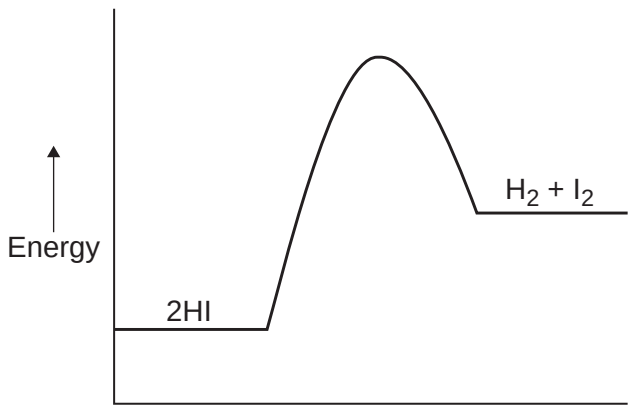
6 (c) The decomposition of hydrogen iodide into hydrogen and iodine is reversible.

$$2HI(g) \rightleftharpoons H_2(g) + I_2(g)$$

The forward reaction is endothermic.

The energy level diagram in **Figure 3** is for the forward reaction.

Figure 3



6 (c) (i) Draw an arrow to show the activation energy on the diagram in **Figure 3**.

[1 mark]

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 02 · continued

6 (c) (ii) How does the diagram in **Figure 3** show that the reaction is endothermic?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

6 (c) (iii) Suggest what effect, if any, increasing the temperature will have on the amount of hydrogen iodide at equilibrium.

Give a reason for your answer.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

12

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 03

June 2016 | CH2HP | Original Q2 | Legacy

2 This question is about ammonia and fertilisers.

2 (a) Ammonia is produced by a reversible reaction.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$N_2 + 3H_2 \rightleftharpoons 2NH_3$$

Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

The forward reaction is exothermic, so the reverse reaction is _____ .

2 (b) Calculate the percentage by mass of nitrogen in ammonia (NH_3).
Relative atomic masses (A_r): H = 1; N = 14
You **must** show how you work out your answer.

[3 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Percentage by mass of nitrogen = _____ %

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 03 · continued

2 (c) A neutral solution can be produced when ammonia reacts with an acid.

2 (c) (i) Give the pH of a neutral solution.

[1 mark]

pH _____

2 (c) (ii) Which of these ionic equations shows a neutralisation reaction?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$H^+ + OH^- \longrightarrow H_2O$ ☐

$NH_4^+ + OH^- \longrightarrow NH_4OH$ ☐

$H^+ + Cl^- \longrightarrow HCl$ ☐

$H^+ + H_2O \longrightarrow H_3O^+$ ☐

2 (c) (iii) Name the salt produced when ammonia reacts with hydrochloric acid.

[1 mark]

_____

Question 2 continues on the next page

Question 03 · continued

2 (d) **In this question you will be assessed on using good English, organising information clearly and using specialist terms where appropriate.**

Farmers use ammonium nitrate as a fertiliser for crops.

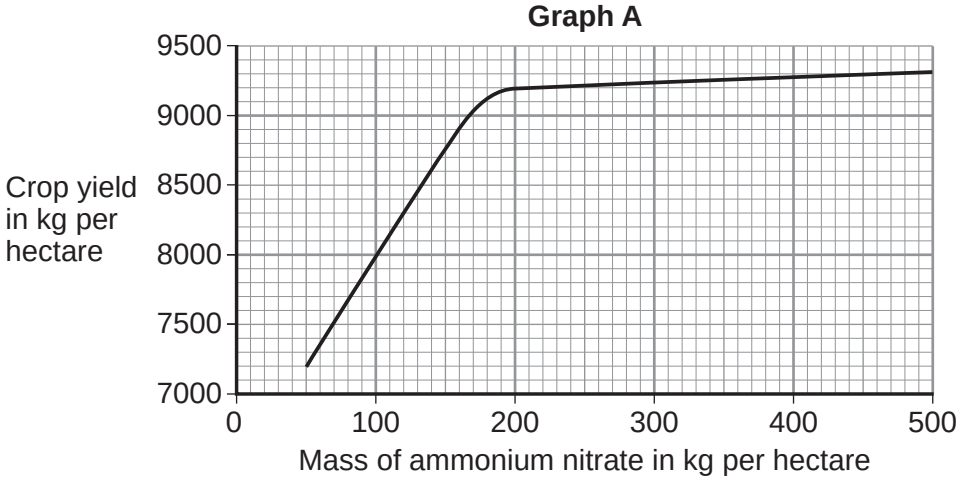
Rainwater dissolves ammonium nitrate in the soil.

Some of the dissolved ammonium nitrate runs off into rivers and lakes.

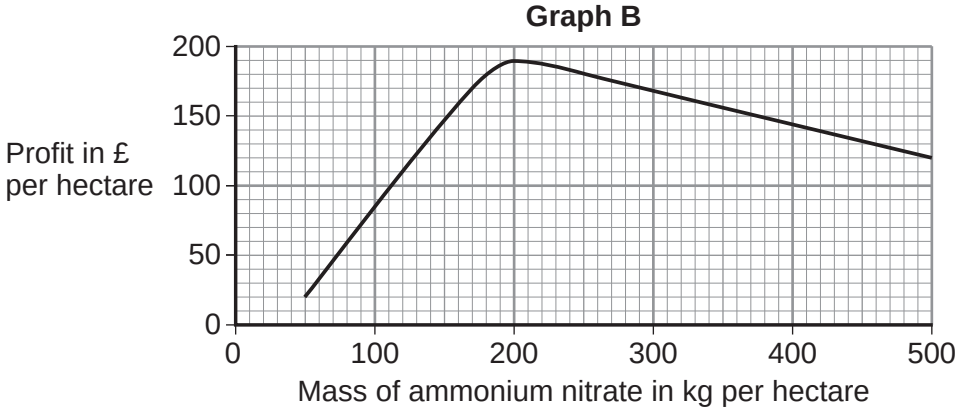
Figure 2 shows three graphs **A**, **B** and **C**. The graphs show information about the use of ammonium nitrate as a fertiliser. A hectare is a measurement of an area of land.

Figure 2

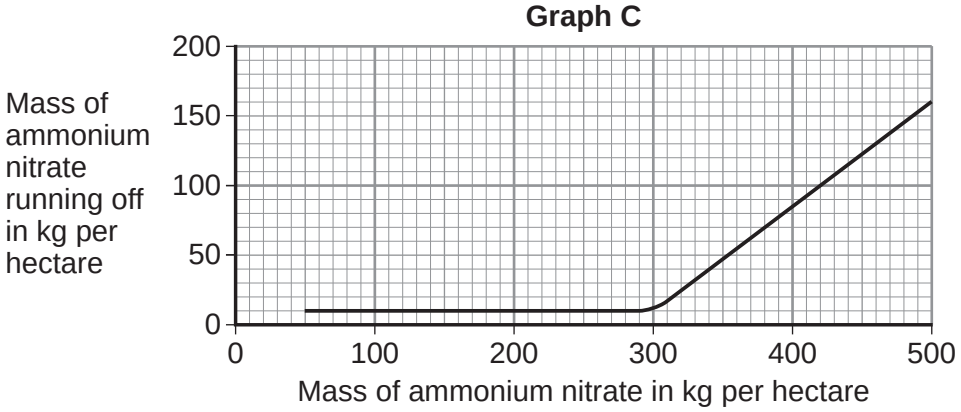
Graph A



Graph B



Graph C



4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 03 · continued

Suggest how much ammonium nitrate farmers should use per hectare.
Give reasons for your answer.
Use information from graphs **A**, **B** and **C**.

[6 marks]

Extra space

13

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 04

June 2019 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

1 0 This question is about reversible reactions and equilibrium.

Hydrogen is used to produce ammonia in the Haber process.

The hydrogen is made in two stages.

Stage 1 is the reaction of methane and steam to produce carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$CH_4(g) + H_2O(g) \rightleftharpoons CO(g) + 3H_2(g)$$

1 0 . 1 Calculate the atom economy for the formation of hydrogen in **stage 1**.

Relative atomic masses (A_r): H = 1 C = 12 O = 16

[2 marks]

Atom economy = _____ %

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 04 · continued

1 0 . 2 Explain why a low pressure is used in **stage 1**.

Give your answer in terms of equilibrium.

[2 marks]

1 0 . 3 **Stage 2** uses the carbon monoxide produced in **stage 1**.

The carbon monoxide is reacted with more steam to produce carbon dioxide and more hydrogen.

The equation for the reaction in **stage 2** is:

$$CO(g) + H_2O(g) \rightleftharpoons CO_2(g) + H_2(g)$$

What is the effect of increasing the pressure on the equilibrium yield of hydrogen in **stage 2**?

[1 mark]

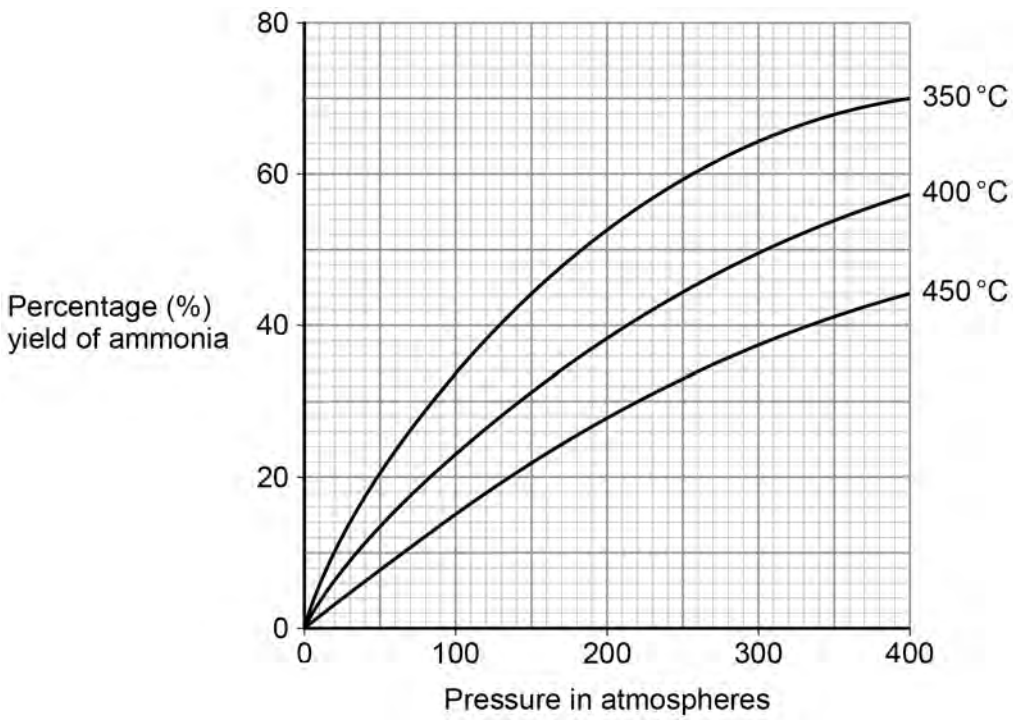
Question 10 continues on the next page

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 04 · continued

Figure 10 shows the percentage yield of ammonia produced at different temperatures and pressures in the Haber process.

Figure 10



A temperature of 450 °C and a pressure of 200 atmospheres are used in the Haber process.

1 0 . 4 A student suggested that a temperature of 350 °C and a pressure of 285 atmospheres could be used instead of those used in the Haber process.

Determine how many times greater the percentage yield of ammonia obtained would be.

Use **Figure 10**.

[3 marks]

Percentage yield = _____ times greater

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 04 · continued

1 0 . 5 A pressure of 285 atmospheres is **not** used in the Haber process instead of 200 atmospheres.

Give **one** reason why.

[1 mark]

1 0 . 6 How does **Figure 10** show that the forward reaction in the Haber process is exothermic?

[1 mark]

1 0 . 7 World production of ammonia is now about 30 times greater than it was in 1950.

Suggest why the demand for ammonia has increased.

[2 marks]

12

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 05

November 2020 | 8462/2H | Original Q10

1 0 This question is about a reversible reaction.

The reaction between solutions of iron(III) ions (Fe^{3+}) and thiocyanate ions (SCN^-) is reversible.

The ionic equation for the reaction is:

	$Fe^{3+}(aq)$	+	$SCN^-(aq)$	⇌	$FeSCN^{2+}(aq)$
Colour of solution:	yellow		colourless		red

The colour of the equilibrium mixture is orange at room temperature.

1 0 . 1 Give the name of the solvent used to dissolve the ions in this reaction.

[1 mark]

1 0 . 2 A few drops of a colourless solution containing a high concentration of thiocyanate ions (SCN^-) are added to the orange equilibrium mixture.

Explain the colour change observed.

[3 marks]

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 05 · continued

1 0 . 3 A water bath is set up at a temperature above room temperature.

When a test tube containing the orange equilibrium mixture is placed in the water bath, the mixture becomes more yellow.

Explain what this shows about the energy change for the forward reaction.

[3 marks]

1 0 . 4 Explain why a change in pressure does **not** affect the colour of the equilibrium mixture.

[2 marks]

1 0 . 5 Other metal ions form coloured equilibrium mixtures with thiocyanate ions.

Which metal ion could form a coloured equilibrium mixture with thiocyanate ions?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Al^{3+} ☐

Co^{2+} ☐

Mg^{2+} ☐

Na^{+} ☐

10

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 06

June 2023 | 8462/2H | Original Q9

0 9 This question is about reversible reactions.

When 4.68 g of hydrated copper sulfate changes into anhydrous copper sulfate:

- 2.99 g of anhydrous copper sulfate is produced
- 1.47 kJ of energy is taken in from the surroundings.

The equation for the reversible reaction is:

hydrated copper sulfate ⇌ anhydrous copper sulfate + water

0 9 . 1 Calculate the maximum mass of water that can be produced from 11.7 g of hydrated copper sulfate.

[3 marks]

Mass = _____ g

0 9 . 2 15.0 g of anhydrous copper sulfate completely changes into hydrated copper sulfate when water is added.

Calculate the amount of energy transferred to the surroundings.

[2 marks]

Energy = _____ kJ

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 06 · continued

The gases nitrogen dioxide and dinitrogen tetroxide reach dynamic equilibrium in a sealed container.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$2\ NO_2(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2O_4(g)$$

nitrogen dioxide (brown) — dinitrogen tetroxide (colourless)

The forward reaction is exothermic.

0 9 . 3 What happens to the position of the equilibrium in this reaction if the temperature is increased?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Shifts to the left ☐
- Stays the same ☐
- Shifts to the right ☐

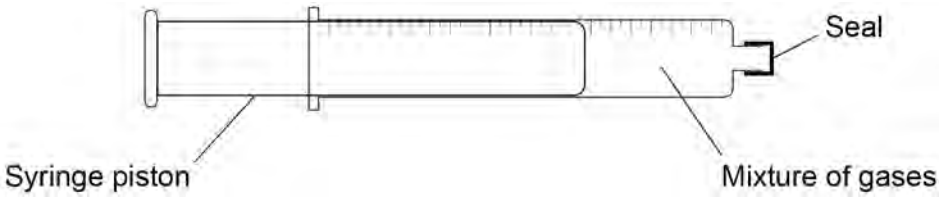
4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 06 · continued

0 9 . 4 A teacher seals a brown-coloured mixture of nitrogen dioxide and dinitrogen tetroxide in a gas syringe.

Figure 8 shows the sealed gas syringe.

Figure 8



The teacher pushes the syringe piston in.

This increases the pressure in the gas syringe.

What is the colour of the mixture when a new equilibrium position is reached?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The mixture is a darker shade of brown. ☐

The mixture is the same shade of brown. ☐

The mixture is a lighter shade of brown. ☐

Question 9 continues on the next page

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 06 · continued

Hydrogen iodide gas decomposes into hydrogen gas and iodine gas at high temperatures.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$2\,HI(g) \rightleftharpoons H_2(g) + I_2(g)$$

0 9 . 5 Explain the effect of increasing the pressure on the equilibrium position of this reaction.

[2 marks]

0 9 . 6 Suggest the effect of adding a catalyst on the equilibrium position of this reaction.

[1 mark]

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 06 · continued

Copper forms coloured compounds.

Hydrochloric acid is added to an aqueous solution of copper compound **A**.

The word equation for the reaction is:

copper compound **A** (blue) + hydrochloric acid ⇌ copper compound **B** (yellow) + water

0 9 . 7 The reaction mixture is green when both copper compounds are present in a solution at equilibrium.

How can the equilibrium position be shifted to make the reaction mixture more yellow?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Add more hydrochloric acid ☐
- Add more water ☐
- Leave the reaction mixture for 30 minutes ☐

0 9 . 8 The concentrations of the substances in this reaction do **not** change at dynamic equilibrium.

Explain why.

[2 marks]

13

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 07

0 7 This question is about sulfuric acid.

0 7 . 1 Sulfuric acid contains sulfate ions.

Describe the test for the presence of sulfate ions in sulfuric acid.

Give the result of the test.

[2 marks]

Test _____

_____

Result _____

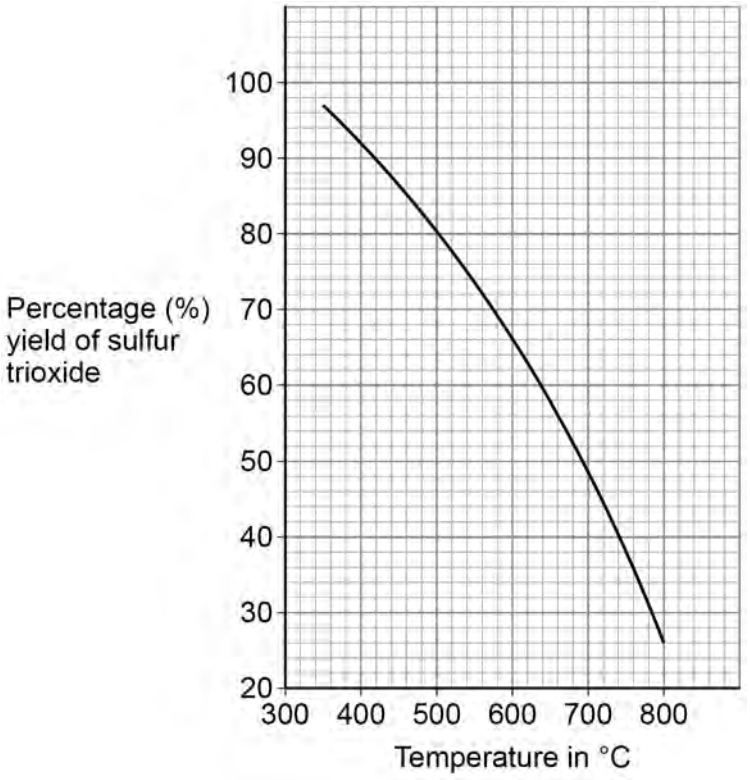
_____

One stage in the industrial production of sulfuric acid is the reaction of sulfur dioxide with oxygen to produce sulfur trioxide.

This reversible reaction reaches dynamic equilibrium.

Figure 7 shows the percentage yield of sulfur trioxide in this reaction at different temperatures.

Figure 7



4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 07 · continued

0 7 . 2 Which statement about the forward reaction is correct?

Use **Figure 7**.

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The yield is greater at higher temperatures because the reaction is exothermic. ☐
- The yield is greater at higher temperatures because the reaction is endothermic. ☐
- The yield is smaller at higher temperatures because the reaction is exothermic. ☐
- The yield is smaller at higher temperatures because the reaction is endothermic. ☐

The equation for the reaction is:

$$2\ SO_2(g) + O_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\ SO_3(g)$$

0 7 . 3 Explain why the percentage yield of sulfur trioxide in this reaction is greater if the pressure is higher.

[2 marks]

0 7 . 4 In industry, the reaction is done at 450 °C and atmospheric pressure.

Under these conditions the yield of sulfur trioxide is 86%.

Suggest **two** reasons why a higher pressure is **not** used.

[2 marks]

1

2

4.6.2.1 Reversible reactions

Question 07 · continued

0 7 . 5 This reaction uses a catalyst to increase the rate of the reaction.

The catalyst is a metal oxide.

Which is the most likely metal in the metal oxide catalyst?

Use the periodic table.

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Aluminium (Al) ☐

Barium (Ba) ☐

Potassium (K) ☐

Vanadium (V) ☐

8