AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.4.2.3

Soluble salts

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**11**
Available paper years	**2018–2025**

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.

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 01

June 2018 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q7

0 7 A student plans a method to prepare pure crystals of copper sulfate.

The student's method is:

1. Add one spatula of calcium carbonate to dilute hydrochloric acid in a beaker.
2. When the fizzing stops, heat the solution with a Bunsen burner until all the liquid is gone.

The method contains several errors and does not produce copper sulfate crystals.

Explain the improvements the student should make to the method so that pure crystals of copper sulfate are produced.

[6 marks]

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about salts and electrolysis.

A student wants to make copper chloride crystals.

The student adds excess copper oxide to some hot acid.

The student stirs the mixture.

0 2 . 1 Which acid should the student use?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrochloric acid ☐

Nitric acid ☐

Sulfuric acid ☐

0 2 . 2 Suggest how the student would know that excess copper oxide has been added.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

Question 2 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 3 There are four more stages, **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, to make copper chloride crystals.

The stages **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** are not in the correct order.

Stage **A**	Partially evaporate by heating with a water bath
Stage **B**	Filter the mixture into an evaporating basin
Stage **C**	Leave to crystallise
Stage **D**	Remove and dry the crystals

Put stages **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** in the correct order.

[2 marks]

First stage _____

Second stage _____

Third stage _____

Fourth stage _____

0 2 . 4 Molten copper chloride can be electrolysed.

State the product at each electrode when molten copper chloride is electrolysed.

[2 marks]

Negative electrode _____

Positive electrode _____

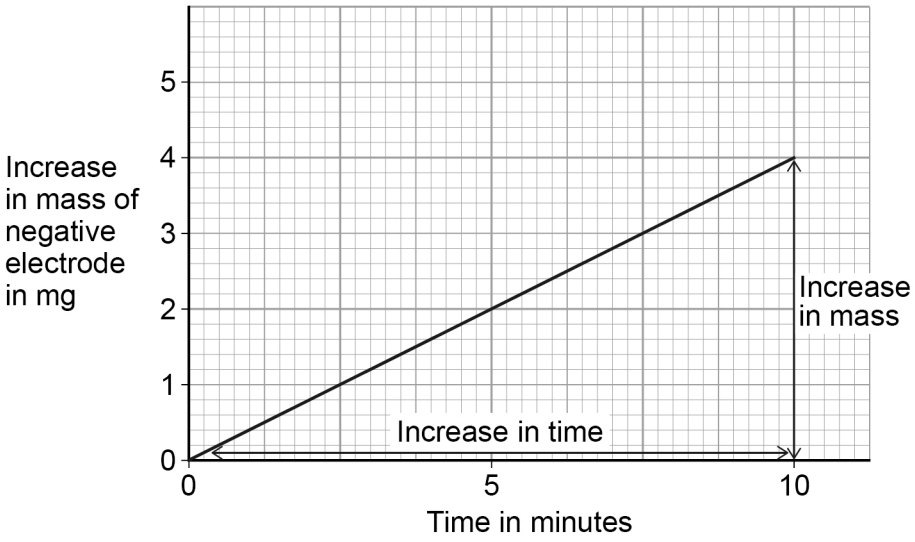
Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 5 A solution of copper chloride is electrolysed.

Figure 3 shows a graph of the increase in mass of the negative electrode.

This increase is shown over a time of 10 minutes.

Figure 3



Calculate the gradient of the line in **Figure 3**.

Use the equation:

$$\text{Gradient} = \frac{\text{increase in mass in mg}}{\text{increase in time in minutes}}$$

[3 marks]

Increase in mass _____

_____

Increase in time _____

_____

Gradient _____

_____

_____

_____

Gradient = _____ mg per minute

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 6 Aluminium is produced by electrolysis of a molten mixture.

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answers from the box.

[2 marks]

carbon	**chloride**	**cryolite**	**oxide**	**sulfate**	**water**

The molten mixture contains _____ and

aluminium _____ .

11

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 03

June 2019 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q7

0 7 This question is about salts.

Ammonium nitrate solution is produced when ammonia gas reacts with nitric acid.

0 7 . 1 Give the state symbol for ammonium nitrate solution.

[1 mark]

_____

0 7 . 2 What is the formula of nitric acid?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

HCl ☐

HNO_3 ☐

H_2SO_4 ☐

NH_4OH ☐

0 7 . 3 Ammonia gas dissolves in water to produce ammonia solution.

Ammonia solution contains hydroxide ions, OH^-

A student adds universal indicator to solutions of nitric acid and ammonia.

What colour is observed in each solution?

[2 marks]

Colour in nitric acid _____

Colour in ammonia solution _____

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 03 · continued

0 7 . 4 The student gradually added nitric acid to ammonia solution.

Which row, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**, shows the change in pH as the nitric acid is added until in excess?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

	pH of ammonia solution at start	pH after addition of excess nitric acid	
A	10	7	☐
B	2	10	☐
C	7	1	☐
D	10	2	☐

0 7 . 5 Calculate the percentage by mass of oxygen in ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3).

Relative atomic masses (A_r): H = 1 N = 14 O = 16

Relative formula mass (M_r): NH_4NO_3 = 80

[3 marks]

Percentage by mass of oxygen = _____ %

Question 7 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 03 · continued

0 7 . 6 Describe a method to investigate how the temperature changes when different masses of ammonium nitrate are dissolved in water.

You do **not** need to write about safety precautions.

[6 marks]

14

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 04

November 2020 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about acids and bases.

0 1 . 1 What is the pH of sulfuric acid?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

1 ☐ 7 ☐ 14 ☐

0 1 . 2 An acid reacts with zinc to produce zinc chloride and hydrogen.

Which acid reacts with zinc to produce zinc chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrochloric acid ☐

Nitric acid ☐

Sulfuric acid ☐

0 1 . 3 What type of substance is zinc chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Alkali ☐ Base ☐ Salt ☐

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 04 · continued

0 1 . 4 An alkali is a base in solution.

Which compound is an alkali?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Sodium hydroxide ☐

Sodium nitrate ☐

Sodium sulfate ☐

0 1 . 5 The formula of the copper ion is Cu^{2+}

The formula of the oxide ion is O^{2-}

What is the formula of copper oxide?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Cu_2O_2 ☐ CuO_2 ☐ CuO ☐

Question 1 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 04 · continued

A student reacts an acid with copper oxide.

0 1 . 6 The reaction between the acid and copper oxide is very slow at room temperature.

How could the student speed up the reaction?

[1 mark]

0 1 . 7 Complete the sentence to show how the student makes sure that **all** the acid reacts.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

in excess	**in solution**	**molten**	**soluble**

The student adds copper oxide to the acid until the

copper oxide is _____.

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

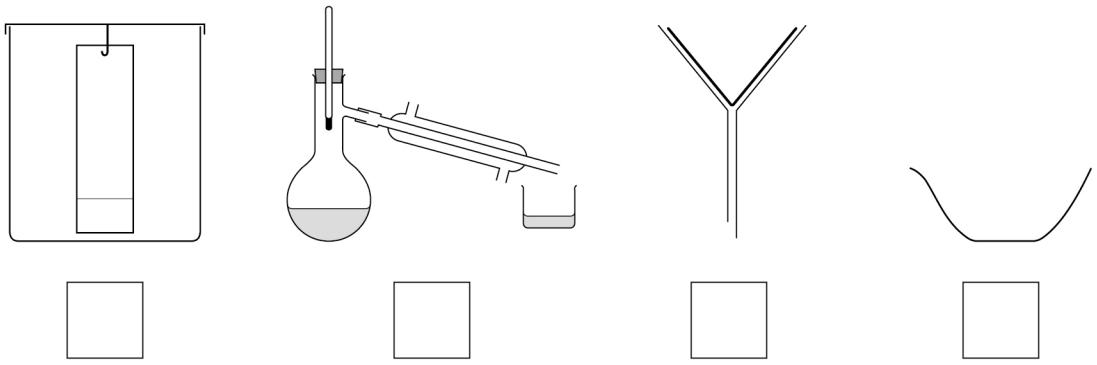
Question 04 · continued

0 1 . 8 The student filters the unreacted copper oxide from the solution.

Which apparatus does the student use?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.



☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

0 1 . 9 What process is used to produce crystals of a salt from a salt solution?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

9

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 05

November 2021 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q7

0 7 Acids react to produce salts.

Universal indicator is added to water and then nitric acid is added to the mixture.

0 7 . 1 Give the colour change when nitric acid is added to the mixture of universal indicator and water.

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Blue to red ☐
- Green to purple ☐
- Green to red ☐
- Red to purple ☐

0 7 . 2 What happens to the pH of water when nitric acid is added?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Decreases ☐
- Stays the same ☐
- Increases ☐

0 7 . 3 What is the state symbol for nitric acid?

[1 mark]

_____

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 05 · continued

Zinc carbonate reacts with nitric acid.

The word equation for the reaction is:

zinc carbonate (white solid) + nitric acid → zinc nitrate (colourless solution) + water + carbon dioxide

0 7 . 4 Give **two** observations that would be made when zinc carbonate is added to nitric acid until the zinc carbonate is in excess.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

0 7 . 5 The formula of the zinc ion is Zn^{2+}

The formula of the nitrate ion is NO_3^-

What is the formula for zinc nitrate?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- $ZnNO_3$ ☐
- $Zn(NO_3)_2$ ☐
- Zn_2NO_3 ☐
- $Zn_2(NO_3)_2$ ☐

Question 7 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 05 · continued

0 7 . 6 Acids react with insoluble metal oxides to produce salts.

Plan a method to produce a pure, dry sample of the soluble salt copper chloride from an acid and a metal oxide.

[6 marks]

12

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 06

November 2021 | 8464/C/2F | Original Q1

0 1 Fresh water contains low levels of dissolved salts.

Water reacts with anhydrous copper sulfate in a reversible reaction.

The word equation for the reaction is:

water + anhydrous copper sulfate ⇌ hydrated copper sulfate

0 1 . 1 How does the equation show that the reaction is reversible?

[1 mark]

0 1 . 2 Complete the sentences.

Choose answers from the box.

[2 marks]

blue	**green**	**orange**	**white**	**yellow**

The colour of anhydrous copper sulfate is _____ .

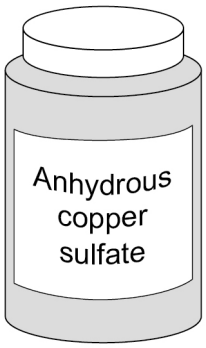
The colour of hydrated copper sulfate is _____ .

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 06 · continued

0 1 . 3 **Figure 1** shows anhydrous copper sulfate in a sealed container.

Figure 1



Suggest **one** reason why anhydrous copper sulfate is kept in a sealed container.

[1 mark]

Question 1 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 06 · continued

Sodium chloride dissolves in water to form sodium chloride solution.

0 1 . 4 Draw **one** line from each substance to the description of the substance.

[2 marks]

Substance	Description of substance
Sodium chloride solution	Compound
Water	Element
	Hydrocarbon
	Mixture

0 1 . 5 Name the process used to obtain solid sodium chloride from sodium chloride solution.

[1 mark]

_____

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 06 · continued

0 1 . 6 Two processes used to obtain potable water from fresh water are:

- filtering
- sterilising.

Give **one** reason why each process is used.

[2 marks]

Filtering _____

_____

Sterilising _____

_____

0 1 . 7 Which type of water is the easiest to obtain potable water from?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Ground water ☐

Salt water ☐

Waste water ☐

0 1 . 8 Which of the following is the first stage of waste water treatment?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Aerobic biological treatment of effluent ☐

Anaerobic digestion of sewage sludge ☐

Screening and removal of grit ☐

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5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 07

June 2022 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about salts.

Green copper carbonate and sulfuric acid can be used to produce blue copper sulfate crystals.

0 5 . 1 **Excess** copper carbonate is added to sulfuric acid.

Give **three** observations you would make.

[3 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

3 _____

_____

0 5 . 2 How can the excess copper carbonate be removed?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

0 5 . 3 The pH of the solution changes during the reaction.

What is the pH of the solution at the end of the reaction?

[1 mark]

pH = _____

0 5 . 4 Copper carbonate and sulfuric acid react to produce copper sulfate.

What type of reaction is this?

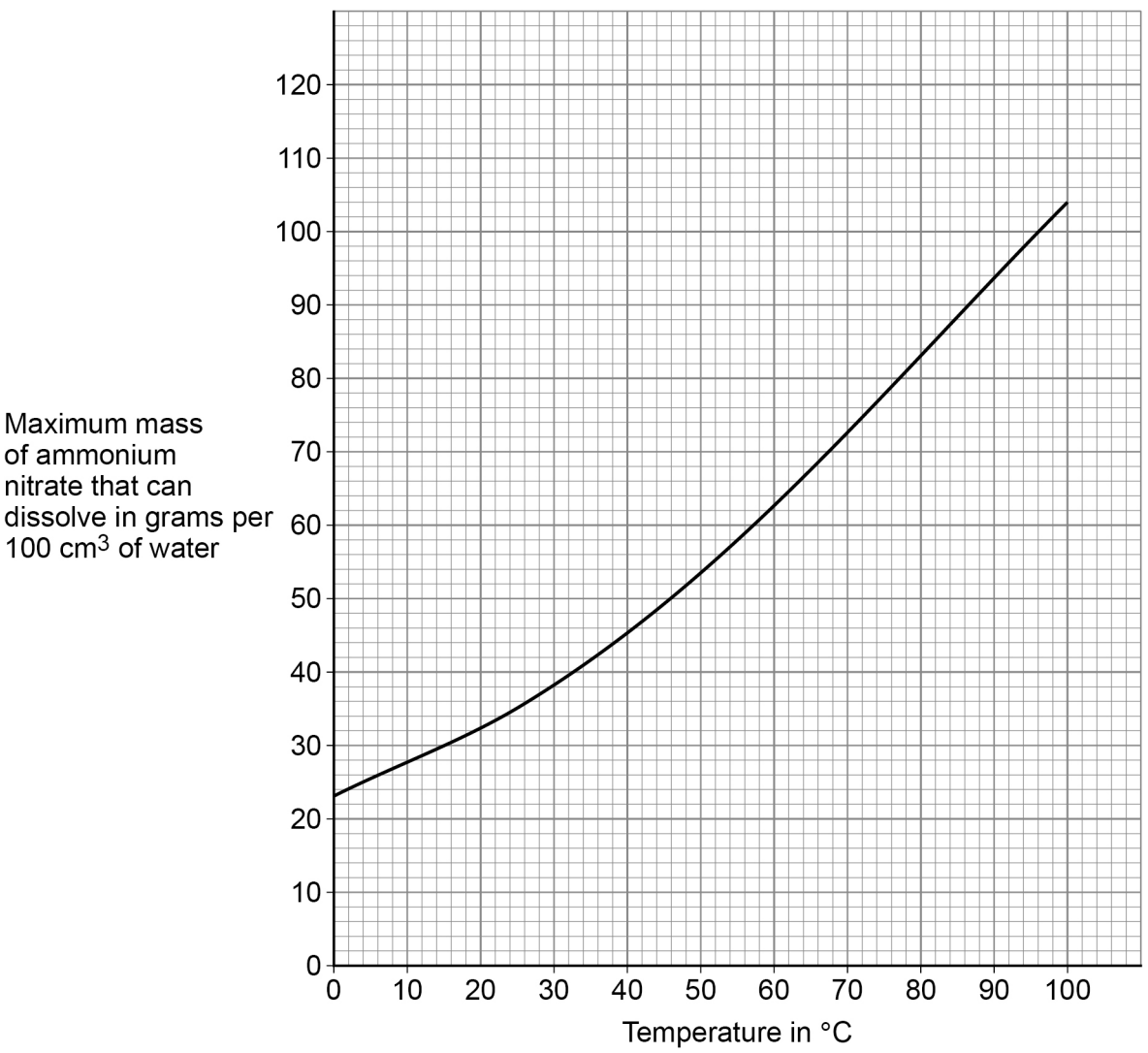
[1 mark]

_____

0 5 . 5 Ammonium nitrate is a salt.

Figure 13 shows the maximum mass of ammonium nitrate that can dissolve in 100 cm^3 of water at different temperatures.

Figure 13



5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 07 · continued

A student adds ammonium nitrate to water at 80 °C until no more dissolves.

The student cools 100 cm^3 of this solution of ammonium nitrate from 80 °C to 20 °C to produce crystals of ammonium nitrate.

Determine the mass of ammonium nitrate that crystallises on cooling 100 cm^3 of this solution from 80 °C to 20 °C

[3 marks]

Mass = _____ g

9

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 08

June 2022 | 8464/C/2F | Original Q7

0 7 . 1 Water that is safe to drink is called potable water.

Compare how easily potable water can be obtained from:

- waste water (sewage)
- ground water (fresh water).

[6 marks]

Question 7 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 08 · continued

A scientist produced potable water from 150 cm^3 of salty water.

0 7 . 2 Which process can be used to produce potable water from salty water?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Distillation ☐
- Electrolysis ☐
- Filtration ☐
- Sterilisation ☐

0 7 . 3 The salty water contains sodium chloride.

The scientist collected 2.40 g of sodium chloride from 150 cm^3 of salty water.

Calculate the concentration of sodium chloride in grams per dm^3

[3 marks]

Concentration of sodium chloride = _____ g/dm^3

10

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 09

June 2024 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

0 5 Magnesium chloride is a soluble salt.

0 5 . 1 Magnesium reacts with hydrochloric acid to produce magnesium chloride and a gas.

Which gas is produced?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrogen ☐

Nitrogen ☐

Oxygen ☐

Question 5 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 09 · continued

Magnesium chloride ($MgCl_2$) can be electrolysed when molten.

0 5 . 2 Which represents molten magnesium chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$MgCl_2(g)$ ☐

$MgCl_2(l)$ ☐

$MgCl_2(s)$ ☐

0 5 . 3 Magnesium chloride contains Mg^{2+} ions and Cl^- ions.

Name the product at each electrode when molten magnesium chloride is electrolysed.

[2 marks]

Negative electrode _____

Positive electrode _____

Question 09 · continued

A student investigated the reactivity of three metals: copper, magnesium and iron.

The student mixed each metal with each metal chloride solution.

Table 6 shows the results.

Table 6

	Copper chloride solution	**Magnesium chloride solution**	**Iron chloride solution**
Copper	No reaction	No reaction	No reaction
Magnesium	Reaction	No reaction	Reaction
Iron	Reaction	No reaction	No reaction

0 5 . 4 What is the order of reactivity for copper, magnesium and iron?

Give **two** reasons for your answer.

Use **Table 6**.

[3 marks]

Most reactive _____

_____

Least reactive _____

Reason 1 _____

_____

Reason 2 _____

_____

Question 5 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 09 · continued

0 5 . 5 When heated 0.72 g of magnesium reacts with iron oxide to produce 2.32 g of products.

Calculate the mass of iron oxide that reacts with 0.72 g of magnesium.

[1 mark]

Mass of iron oxide = _____ g

0 5 . 6 The student used 30 cm^3 of magnesium chloride solution.

1 dm^3 of magnesium chloride solution contains 180 g of magnesium chloride.

1 dm^3 = 1000 cm^3

Calculate the mass of magnesium chloride in 30 cm^3 of magnesium chloride solution.

[3 marks]

Mass of magnesium chloride = _____ g

11

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

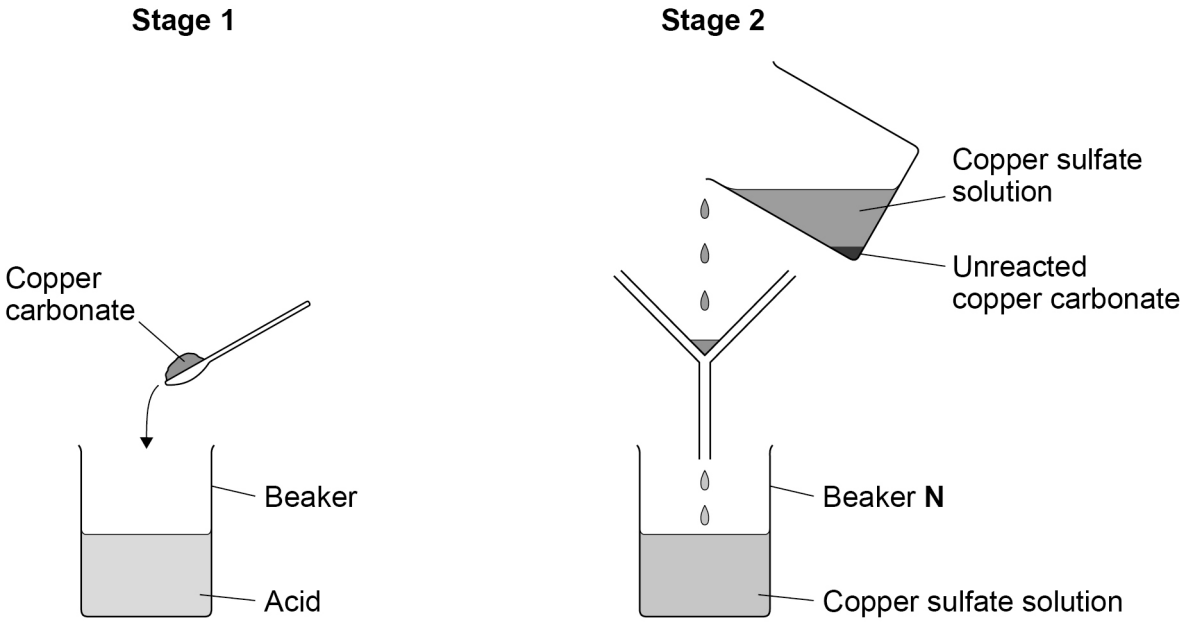
Question 10

June 2024 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q7

0 7 A student prepared copper sulfate by reacting an acid with excess copper carbonate.

Figure 13 shows the first two stages in the preparation of copper sulfate.

Figure 13



0 7 . 1 What is the formula of the acid used to prepare copper sulfate?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

HCl ☐

HNO_3 ☐

H_2SO_4 ☐

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 10 · continued

0 7 . 2 Why is excess copper carbonate used in **stage 1**?

[1 mark]

0 7 . 3 Beaker **N** contained copper sulfate solution.

Describe how the student could produce copper sulfate crystals from the copper sulfate solution in beaker **N**.

[2 marks]

Question 7 continues on the next page

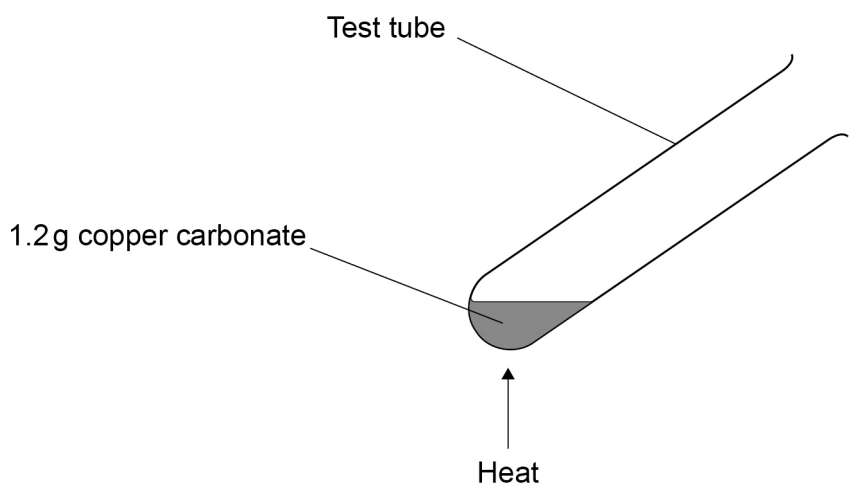
Question 10 · continued

A student investigated the thermal decomposition of copper carbonate.

Copper carbonate decomposes to form two products.

Figure 14 shows the apparatus.

Figure 14



This is the method used.

1. Add 1.2 g of copper carbonate to a test tube.
2. Heat the test tube and contents until the mass does not change.
3. Record the mass of the contents of the test tube after heating.
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 with different masses of copper carbonate.

Table 7 shows the results.

Table 7

Mass of copper carbonate in test tube before heating in grams	Mass of the contents of test tube after heating in grams
1.2	0.8
2.4	1.7
3.6	2.2
4.8	3.1
6.0	3.9

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

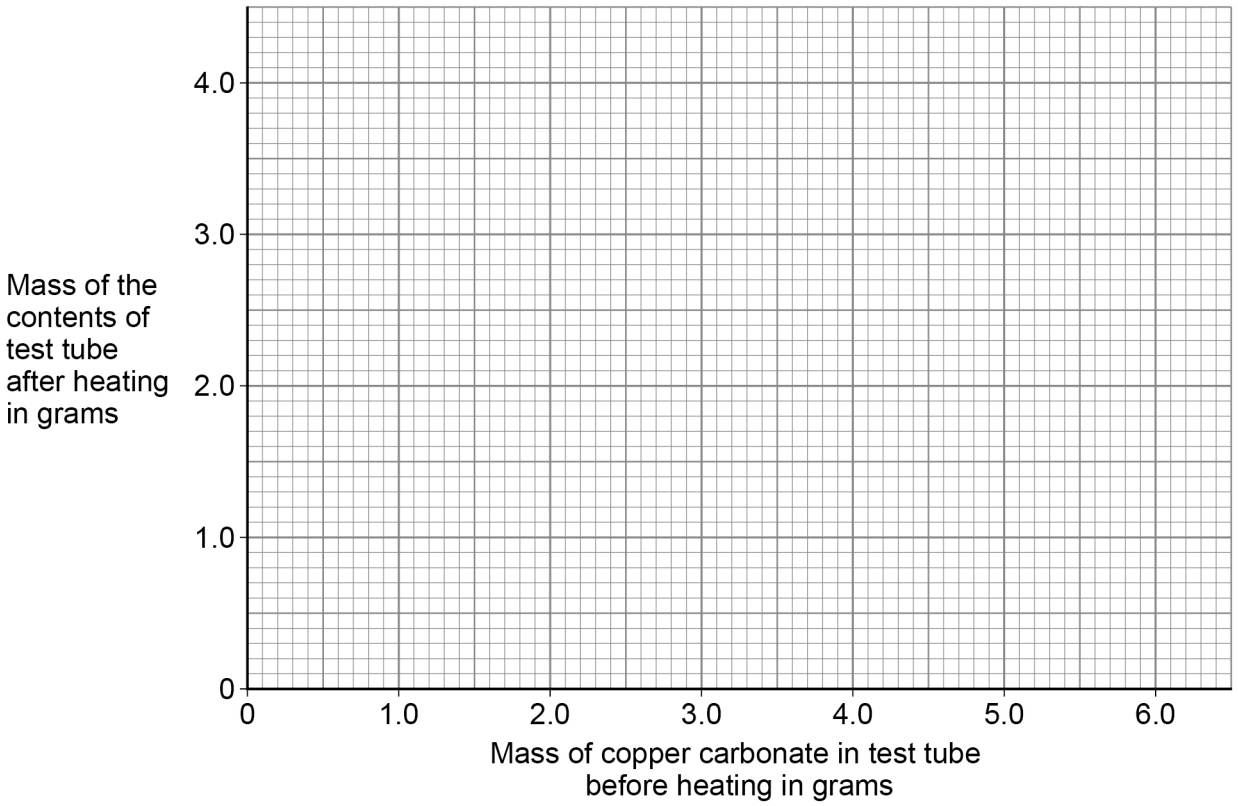
Question 10 · continued

0 7 . 4 Plot the data from **Table 7** on **Figure 15**.

Draw a line of best fit.

[3 marks]

Figure 15



0 7 . 5 Why does the mass of the contents of the test tube decrease in mass when copper carbonate is thermally decomposed?

[1 mark]

8

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 11

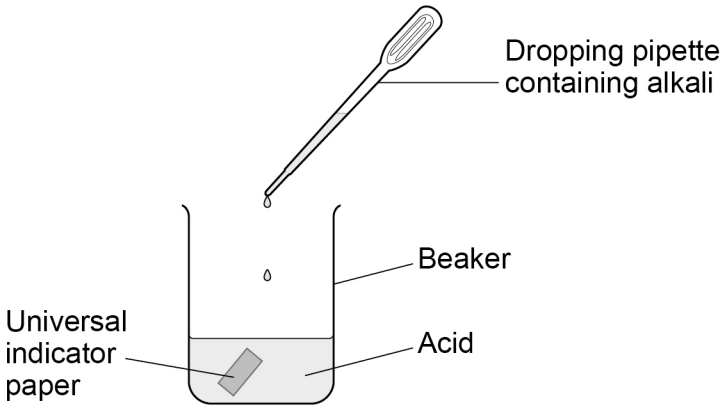
June 2025 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about acids.

A student investigated the volume of an alkali needed to react completely with 25 cm^3 of an acid.

Figure 10 shows the apparatus.

Figure 10



This is the method used.

1. Add 25 cm^3 of the acid to a beaker.
2. Add a piece of universal indicator paper to the acid.
3. Add the alkali drop by drop to the acid until the universal indicator paper changes colour to green.
4. Record the number of drops of alkali added.

0 5 . 1 The method does **not** give an accurate volume of alkali needed to react completely with the acid.

Suggest **two** improvements to the method.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 11 · continued

0 5 . 2 What is the pH of the solution when the universal indicator paper turns green?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

1 ☐ 5 ☐ 7 ☐ 9 ☐

0 5 . 3 What name is given to the reaction between an acid and an alkali?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Combustion ☐

Displacement ☐

Neutralisation ☐

0 5 . 4 Which ion do all acids contain?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Cl^- ☐ H^+ ☐ Na^+ ☐

0 5 . 5 Name the acid that reacts with sodium hydroxide to produce sodium nitrate.

[1 mark]

_____

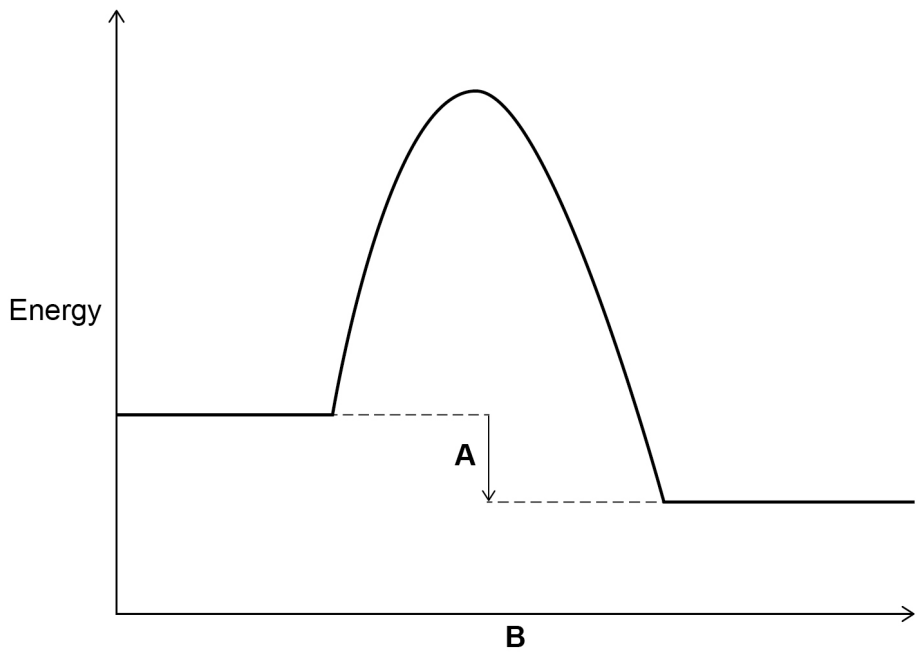
Question 5 continues on the next page

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 11 · continued

0 5 . 6 **Figure 11** shows a reaction profile for the reaction between an acid and an alkali.

Figure 11



What do labels **A** and **B** represent on **Figure 11**?

Choose the answers from the box.

[2 marks]

activation energy	**overall energy change**	**products**
progress of reaction	**reactants**	

A _____

B _____

5.4.2.3 Soluble salts

Question 11 · continued

Acids also react with insoluble solid substances to produce salt solutions.

0 5 . 7 When making a salt solution, excess solid is added to the acid.

Draw the apparatus used to separate the excess solid from the salt solution by filtration.

The apparatus should collect:

- the excess solid
- the salt solution.

[2 marks]

0 5 . 8 Solid **X** reacts with hydrochloric acid to produce zinc chloride and hydrogen gas.

Name solid **X**.

[1 mark]

11