AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.6.1.4

Catalysts

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**8**
Available paper years	**2019–2025**

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.

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4

04.1	growing plants (on low-grade ore) plants are burnt (to produce ash) (ash dissolved in acid to produce) solution of a copper compound electrolysis (of solution of a copper compound) **or** displacement (by adding scrap iron to a solution of a copper compound)	allow named plant allow named copper compound allow addition of scrap iron (to a solution of a copper compound)	1 1 1 1	AO1 5.10.1.4

04.2	 M_r $CuSO_4$ = 159.5 $\frac{0.319}{159.5}$ = 0.002 (mol)	an answer of 0.002 **or** 2×10^{-3} (mol) scores **3** marks allow correct use of incorrectly calculated value for M_r allow 2×10^{-3} (mol)	 1 1 1	AO2 5.3.2.1 5.3.2.5

04.3	both reaction profiles start at the same energy level and end at the same energy level.		1	AO3 5.6.1.4

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

04.4	the amount of carbon dioxide used to produce the ethanol is the same as the amount of carbon dioxide given off when the ethanol is burned	 **alternative approach** there is sufficient carbon dioxide (in the atmosphere) (1) because carbon dioxide is constantly produced from burning fossil fuels (1) if no other mark awarded allow for **1** mark burning ethanol produces carbon dioxide	1 1	AO3 5.9.2.2 5.9.3.1

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4

04.5	meets needs of current generation without compromising needs of future generations	 allow so there are enough resources for future generations ignore references to harming / damaging planet / environment	1 1	AO1 5.10.1.1

Total			**12**

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

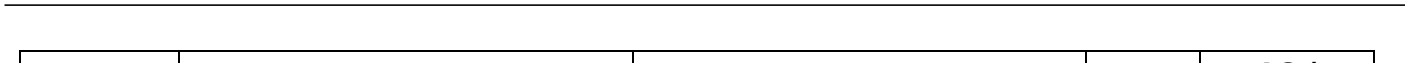
November 2021 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	at high temperatures (in the engine) nitrogen reacts with oxygen (to produce nitrogen dioxide)		1 1 1	AO1 5.9.3.1
05.2	(**X**=) (33×7) – [(37×3)+35+34+29] = 22 (micrograms per m^3)	allow 33x7 = (37x3)+35+34+29+**X**	1 1	AO2 5.9.3.1
05.3	countryside data has smallest values (so) 2 is a higher proportion / percentage of the value	 allow (so) countryside is ± 2 out of a value between 6 to 8	1 1	AO3 5.9.3.1
05.4	$2\,NO_2 \rightarrow N_2 + 2\,O_2$	allow multiples or halves allow 1 mark for N_2 **and** O_2	2	AO2 5.3.1.1 5.10.1.1
05.5	a resource which will run out	allow a non-sustainable resource	1	AO1 5.10.1.1
05.6	(because carbon dioxide is emitted in) extracting / processing raw materials (and) manufacturing (and) disposal at the end of its useful life		1 1 1	AO2 5.9.2.4 5.10.2.1
Total			**13**	

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5



5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	use limewater **or** use calcium hydroxide solution (which) does not turn milky / cloudy	 allow (which) stays colourless	1 1	AO2 5.8.2.3
06.2	provides an alternative pathway (which has) a lower activation energy		1 1	AO1 5.6.1.4
06.3	(when) the apparatus prevents the escape of reactants and products (and the) forward and reverse reactions occur at same rate	allow (in a) closed system	1 1	AO1 5.6.2.3
06.4	equilibrium position stays the same increases the rate of the forward and the reverse reaction by the same amount	allow no effect	1 1	AO3 5.6.1.4 5.6.2.3
06.5	the yield of ammonia increases		1	AO2 5.6.2.4 5.6.2.7

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

06.6	yield of ammonia decreases (because) system shifts in endothermic direction	 allow (because) system shifts to counteract the change allow (because) system shifts to transfer in energy (from the surroundings)	1 1	AO2 5.6.2.4 5.6.2.6
Total			**11**	

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	enzyme		1	AO1 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	provides a different reaction pathway (which) has a lower activation energy		1 1	AO1 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	the effects of changing conditions on the position of an equilibrium (in a closed system)	allow the effects of changing conditions on the yield of an equilibrium reaction (in a closed system)	1	AO1 5.6.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	(when) the forward and reverse reactions have the same rate in apparatus which prevents the escape of reactants and products	 allow in a closed system	1 1	AO1 5.6.2.3

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	yield increases (because) there are more moles (of gas) on the left hand side	 allow (because) there are fewer moles (of gas) on the right hand side	1 1	AO2 5.6.2.1 5.6.2.2 5.6.2.3 5.6.2.4 5.6.2.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.6	yield decreases (because) the system shifts in the endothermic direction		1 1	AO2 5.6.2.1 5.6.2.2 5.6.2.3 5.6.2.4 5.6.2.6

Total Question 6		10

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	(test) glowing splint	MP2 is dependent upon MP1 being awarded do **not** accept burning / lit splint	1	AO2 AO1
	(result) relights	allow glows more brightly	1	5.8.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	smaller volume of gas produced (per unit time) (so) error in reading is a larger percentage of the total volume		1 1	AO3 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	any **one** from: • measuring vessel (for hydrogen peroxide or gas) wrongly calibrated • balance wrongly calibrated • timer slow / fast		1	AO3 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	all points plotted correctly line of best fit	allow a tolerance of ± ½ a small square allow at least 4 points plotted correctly for **1** mark	2 1	AO2 AO3 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	manganese dioxide (because manganese dioxide) has the steepest gradient	allow ecf from question **06.4** allow (because manganese dioxide) produces the most gas per unit time	1 1	AO3 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.6	same number of particles per unit volume (so) same frequency of collisions (with catalyst)	allow same concentration (of hydrogen peroxide solution)	1 1	AO3 5.6.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.7	tangent drawn at 20 s value for *x* step **and** *y* step from tangent (rate =) $\frac{\text{value for } y \text{ step}}{\text{value for } x \text{ step}}$ correctly calculated to 3 significant figures	 allow evidence of use of two points on tangent either on the graph or in the text allow correct use of incorrectly determined value(s) for *x* step and/or *y* step from a drawn tangent allow a correctly calculated answer to 3 significant figures from an incorrect calculation which uses values determined from the graph	1 1 1 1 1	AO2 5.6.1.1

Total Question 6	17

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

Question 2

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	**Level 3:** The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. The key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	5–6	AO3
	Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are identified, but the method is not fully logically sequenced.	3–4	AO3
	Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not made clear.	1–2	AO2
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content • measure volume of (hydrochloric) acid • using a measuring cylinder • measure mass of calcium carbonate • using a balance • **add (hydrochloric) acid to calcium carbonate in conical flask** • **put stopper and delivery tube into conical flask** • **start a timer** • **record volume of gas collected at set time intervals or time how long it takes for a fixed volume of gas to be collected** • **repeat using different sized pieces of calcium carbonate** • use same mass of calcium carbonate • use same volume of (hydrochloric) acid • use same concentration of (hydrochloric) acid • use same temperature of (hydrochloric) acid • repeat each experiment		5.6.1.2

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.2	(increasing the temperature) increases the rate of reaction		1	AO1 5.6.1.2 5.6.1.3
	(because) particles have more energy	allow (because) particles move faster	1	
	(so) the frequency of collisions increases	allow (so) a greater proportion of collisions have enough energy to react	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.3	(a substance that) increases the rate of reaction	allow (a catalyst) increases / changes the rate of reaction	1	AO1 5.6.1.4
	and is not used up during the reaction	ignore does not take part in the reaction	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.4	enzymes		1	AO1 5.6.1.4

Total Question 2	12

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	= 198 kJ/mol		1	AO2 5.6.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.2	equilibrium position shifts to the right		1	AO2 5.6.2.5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.3	equilibrium position shifts to the left		1	AO2 5.6.2.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.4	equilibrium position shifts to the left		1	AO2 5.6.2.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.5	(effect) (equilibrium position) does not change (reason) increases the rate of the forward reaction and reverse reaction equally		1 1	AO3 5.6.1.4 5.6.2.3

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.6	210 (s)	allow a value in the range 205 to 210 (s)	1	AO3 5.6.2.3
	lines become level / horizontal		1	
	(because) the rates of the forward reaction and reverse reaction are equal **or** (because) the number of moles (of all three gases) remain constant		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.7	tangent drawn at 60 s		1	AO2 5.6.1.1
	correct values for *y* step **and** *x* step from tangent	allow correct use of an incorrectly drawn tangent allow a tolerance of ± ½ a small square for each coordinate	1	
	(rate =) $\frac{\text{value for } y \text{ step}}{\text{value for } x \text{ step}}$	allow correct use of incorrectly determined value(s) from the tangent for *y* step and/or *x* step	1	
	correct calculation of rate (mol/s)		1	

Total Question 5	13

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	a mixture that has been designed as a useful product		1	AO1 5.8.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.2	91 kJ/mol		1	AO2 5.6.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.3	Le Chatelier		1	AO1 5.6.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.4	the proportion of methanol decreases		1	AO2 5.6.2.4 5.6.2.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.5	the proportion of methanol stays the same		1	AO3 5.6.1.4 5.6.2.4

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.6	(increasing the pressure) increases the proportion of methanol		1	AO2 5.6.2.4 5.6.2.7
	(because) there are more molecules / moles of reactant (than product)		1	
	(so) the equilibrium (position) shifts to the side with fewer molecules / moles		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.7	(the catalyst) increases the rate of the reaction		1	AO1 5.6.1.4
	(by) providing an alternative pathway (for the reaction)		1	
	(with) a lower activation energy		1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.8	reduces the costs		1	AO2 5.6.1.4 5.9.2.2
	(because) less energy is used		1	5.9.2.4
	OR			
	less fuels burned (1)			
	(so) less contribution to global warming (1)	allow (so) less carbon dioxide produced		

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.9	$CO_2 + 3\,H_2 \rightarrow CH_3OH + H_2O$	allow multiples allow **1** mark for $CO_2 + H_2 \rightarrow CH_3OH + H_2O$ with no / incorrect balancing numbers	2	AO2 5.3.1.1

Total Question 4	**15**

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 01 · Examiner comments June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4

Question 4 (standard/high demand)

04.1 The majority of students who obtained marks on this question did so from the first 2 marking points, although then many continued to describe the next process incorrectly as 'electrolysing the copper metal from the ash'. Converting the copper compounds found in the ash into a suitable copper solution or electrolyte, was rarely seen in the student responses. A significant minority of students who gained no marks on this question did not seem familiar with the process of phytomining, and gave answers based around normal mining, or heating the rock until the copper melted.

04.2 Around 73% of students gained some credit on this question, predominantly for correctly calculating the M_r of copper sulfate (159.5), although 111.5 (addition of all the A_r given in the question) was given regularly. The most common mistake was to multiply the figures (0.319 x 159.5) rather than divide ($\frac{0.319}{159.5}$). 15% of students scored all three marks, many giving their answers in standard form (2×10^{-3}), which, although not asked for, was accepted.

04.3 About 84% of students gained this mark with no pattern seen in the incorrect responses.

04.4 Only a few students achieved both marks by correctly linking the idea that the amount of CO_2 used to produce ethanol would be the same as would be released when the ethanol was burned. The vast majority of correct answers for both marks were based on the large amount of CO_2 in the air, and its regular replacement by burning fossil fuels. About 23% of students achieved 1 mark for highlighting that there was sufficient carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or that it is produced from the combustion of ethanol.

04.5 Around 17% of students gained credit on this question by recalling the definition of sustainability from the specification or were able to give an equivalent statement. Most students answered in terms of environmental issues or renewable routes, including 'long lasting' and 'won't run out'.

Answer 02 · Examiner comments November 2021 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5

Question 5 (standard, standard / high and high demand)

The idea that nitrogen and oxygen from the air react together in the engine was not well known. Many students incorrectly stated that nitrogen dioxide was present in the fuel. Heat from the engine was insufficient to gain marking point 1 as there must be an indication of high temperature.

Non-renewable was a common response for a "finite resource" which did not gain credit as marks were awarded for the definition.

Students appeared to have a good understanding of the idea of a carbon footprint. Some excellent answers were seen where carbon emissions were linked to each stage in the life cycle of the car. Some students simply focused on the manufacture of both the car and its raw materials and failed to address the disposal.

Answer 03 · Examiner comments

Question 6 (standard / high and high demand)

Students have a good understanding of what catalysts are and what they do, but they failed to explain how they work and instead gave a list of features of catalysts. Some students recognised that the activation energy was lowered but that this was achieved by following an alternative pathway was rarely seen.

Likewise, students were able to successfully apply Le Chatelier's Principle to an equilibrium but were unable to explain those changes.

A common misconception is that the quantities of reactants and products are equal rather than the rates of the forward and the backward reactions. That catalysts speed up both of these rates equally was rarely seen. Students tended to describe the action of a catalyst but then failed to address the question of their effect upon the equilibrium position, for which they gained no credit.

Concluding Remarks

The demand of this paper was similar to that of papers set for this specification in previous series.

Students scored well on questions involving the use of data and knowledge of atmospheric pollution. They are advised to look at the number of marks allocated. If the question is asking to describe a trend in a graph, comments are not only required for the general trend but also the rate of change.

A range of methods were used to answer the mathematical questions. Students are always advised to show working - credit can be gained for correct working in the event that the final answer given is not correct. They should also take careful note of any additional instructions. In question 04.6, the final mark was often not gained as the answer was not given to 3 significant figures.

Practical work is at the heart of the specification. The importance of the use of variables in experiments is paramount. In question 02.1, when identifying control variables, students should refer back to the method provided where in this instance the volume of hydrochloric acid was given. Many answers referred to the "amount" of acid or metal which is insufficient to gain credit, likewise, adding a "piece" of magnesium which does not indicate that either the length or mass has been controlled. Reading through the method will also reveal what is being changed in subsequent repeats as the independent variable.

In questions, such as 02.3, where comparisons are to be made from given data, students should be encouraged to answer accordingly using a comparative and not rewrite the information that is provided without elaboration - this does not gain any credit as the student has not added any value to their answer. Some excellent answers were seen where the students expanded upon the data, for example, to explain why the molecules had different melting and boiling points or to explain how the length of the hydrocarbon chain was linked to a trend in physical properties, such as flammability.

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 03 · Examiner comments

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 04 · Examiner comments

Question 6

Students struggled to identitify which parts of this question were about rates and which were about equilibria.

06.1 Students found this recall question fairly straightforward with around 85% recognising that a biological catalyst was an enzyme.

06.2 About half of students could describe that catalysts lower the activation energy, however, fewer than 20% could link that to an alternative reaction pathway. There were lots of references to energy and frequency of collisions, but the responses lacked context.

06.3 Only 5% of students were able to make the link between conditions changing and the way that the equilibrium moves accordingly.

06.4 About a third of students gained at least one mark for this item. The closed system and equal rates in the forward and reverse directions were both seen, however, fewer than 10% of students mentioned both conditions.

06.5 Just under a third of students identified the increase in yield, which scored one mark. An explanation in terms of number of moles on each side of the equation was seen on very few occasions.

06.6 Many students answered this question in terms of rates of reaction, and gave an increase in yield because ammonia is made quicker, which did not score.
An explanation in terms of movement in the endothermic direction was seen on very few occasions.

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Use of statistics

Statistics used in this report may be taken from incomplete processing data. However, this data still gives a true account on how students have performed for each question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 05 · Examiner comments

Question 6

06.1 Fewer than half of the students were able to identify oxygen from the equation then recall the test for oxygen gas and its result. Frequently, a description of a glowing splint was inadequate, such as a blown out splint or just a splint.

06.2 Practical errors are not well known by students and fewer than one in ten gained any marks on this question, usually for the idea that a smaller volume of hydrogen peroxide would lead to a smaller volume of gas. Students did not then make the link to a greater percentage reading error.

06.3 Understanding what a systematic error is was not well known by students with fewer than one in twenty five gaining this mark. There is significant confusion with a zero error, which could be systematic, but there was little realisation that the error has to be the same for every reading taken.

06.4 Three quarters of students were able to correctly plot the points on the graph. However, with the anomaly (which was not flagged in the question) and the curve, only about a quarter actually scored all three marks. It did appear that many thought the line had to be straight because the two already on the graph were. However, there was no realisation that these would also slow as the maximum volume of oxygen had been produced.

06.5 Nearly half of students correctly identified manganese oxide (not magnesium oxide) as the catalyst that gave the fastest rate of reaction with the reason. Since the question asked for the fastest rate, the superlative was required in the answer, which many students missed, so a quarter gained one mark, most frequently for this.

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 05 · Examiner comments

06.6 Most students did not answer the question, preferring to talk about what the reaction was dependent on. Some talked about concentration, temperature, or surface area affecting rate without linking it to this specific question so failed to gain any credit.

06.7 Nearly a quarter of students gained full marks on this question. It appeared that if a student knew to draw a tangent, they could often work it through to an answer. The most common way of not gaining marks when a tangent was drawn was for misreading the scales, or not giving an answer to three significant figures. If a tangent was not drawn, then the mark was limited to a maximum of one for a correct calculation of an expression given to three significant figures.

5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

Answer 06 · Examiner comments

Question 2 (standard demand)

02.1 This question was well attempted overall with very few blank responses. Many students were able to list some of the key points necessary for a valid result.

To reach Level 2, three key steps, or two with control variables, were required. To achieve Level 3 marks, all key steps and control variables were needed.

The two most common steps identified were adding the hydrochloric acid to the calcium carbonate in the conical flask and attaching the stopper and delivery tube. Many students could not then access Level 3 as they often referred to 'counting the bubbles of gas' or to 'reading the volume when the reaction had finished', both of which would not allow a valid result to be obtained. Another common response was to 'repeat the experiment changing the mass of calcium carbonate' instead of using different-sized pieces with the same mass. This once again limited the response to Level 2, even if control variables were identified.

A significant number of students did identify one or more control variables, but only listed one or two key steps, again limiting their responses to Level 2. Only a minority of students were able to obtain 6 marks.

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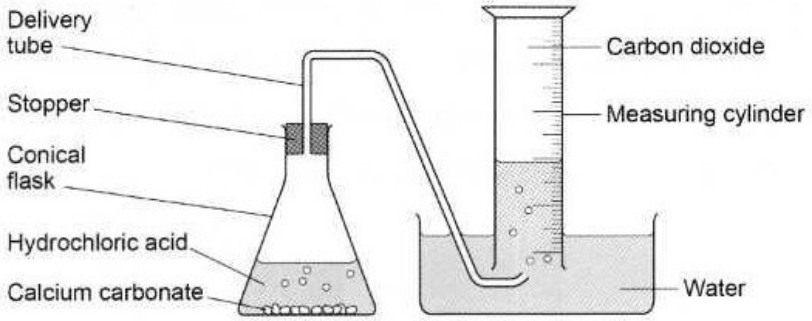
5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 06 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q2

0 7 . 1 A student investigated the effect of changing the particle size of calcium carbonate on the rate of reaction with hydrochloric acid.

Figure 6 shows the apparatus.

Figure 6



Describe a method the student could use to produce valid results.

[6 marks]

1.) Measure the mass of the calcium carbonate

2.) Add 50 cm^3 of hydrochloric acid into the conical flask and put the ~~delivery~~ stopper over to trap the gasses in.

3.) connect the delivery tube to the water so that the gasses can enter it.

4.) Measure the ~~amount of tar potato bit~~ amount of carbon dioxide.

5.) ~~Also measure the amount of~~ Repeat the ~~experi~~ Record the results of carbon dioxide and how much calcium carbonate was used.

6.) Repeat steps 1-5 ~~but~~ with different masses of calcium

Turn over ▶

This student (from a Foundation tier paper) has achieved the first two key steps; however, they have not described what they are going to measure or change in the repeats to achieve the other key steps. The student has specified 50 cm^3 of hydrochloric acid and done repeats (of something) so that they have given a control variable. This would therefore just place this script into Level 2 and 3 marks are awarded.

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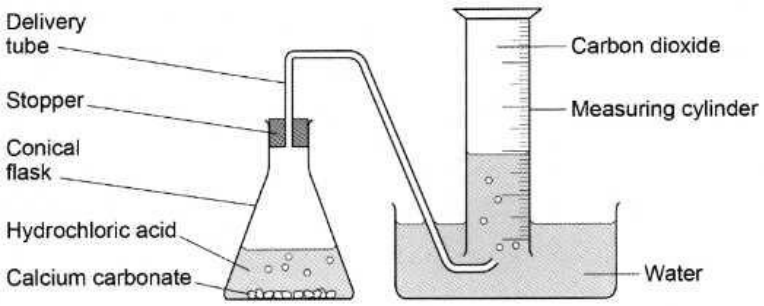
5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 06 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q2

0 2 . 1 A student investigated the effect of changing the particle size of calcium carbonate on the rate of reaction with hydrochloric acid.

Figure 3 shows the apparatus.

Figure 3



Describe a method the student could use to produce valid results. **[6 marks]**

- Use a balance to ~~find out the M~~ make sure your using the correct mass of calcium carbonate
- then place the calcium carbonate into the hydrochloric acid and place the stopper with the delivery tube on very quickly.
- record the amount of carbon dioxide in the measuring cylinder every 30 seconds ~~repeat this~~ until the calcium carbonate stops bubbling.
- repeat this method but with bigger particle size of calcium carbonate but they have to be the same mass as the smaller particles.

In this response from a Higher tier paper the student has suggested that the 'correct mass' of calcium carbonate should be used in the first bullet point. This is insufficient for a control variable, but in the final bullet point the 'same mass' has been identified, so there is one control variable here. The first two key steps are identified in the second bullet point. Key steps 3 and 4 are given in the third bullet point. 'Amount' would not be acceptable in a points-based mark scheme, but this response should be marked holistically as it is an extended response. There is no explicit mention of starting a stopwatch; however, it is implied in the statement 'every 30 seconds.' The final bullet point gives the repeats with a different particle size and one control variable.

Therefore, there are all five key steps, and one control variable so this is a Level 3 response and is awarded 5 marks. An additional control variable is needed for 6 marks.

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Answer 06 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q2

02.2 The vast majority of students on this tier scored some marks for this question, with marking points 1 and 2 being more commonly awarded.

A significant number of students still confuse 'number of collisions' with 'frequency of collisions' and there were many responses that simply stated 'there would be more collisions between particles' which was not creditworthy for marking point 3.

0 2 . 2 The student investigated the effect of increasing the temperature on the rate of a reaction.

Explain the effect of increasing the temperature on the rate of a reaction.

Refer to particles and collisions in your answer.

[3 marks]

Increasing the temprature will increase the rate of reaction because an increased temprature will give the particles more energy meaning they will be moving faster meaning more colisions occuring.

0 2 . 2 The student investigated the effect of increasing the temperature on the rate of a reaction.

Explain the effect of increasing the temperature on the rate of a reaction.

Refer to particles and collisions in your answer.

[3 marks]

When the temperature increases the particles have more energy and move around. Because of this the particles collide more frequently with each other, resulting in the rate of reaction increasing

The first student clearly gains marking points 1 and 2 in the first two lines. However, they only write about more collisions rather than more frequent collisions, so the response is insufficient for marking point 3.

The second answer is not structured as in the mark scheme; however, it covers each of the marking points clearly and gains all 3 marks.

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5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 06 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q2

02.3 A large majority of students gained marking point 1; however, fewer than a third gained the second mark. Many students spent time explaining how a catalyst worked rather than answering the question that was asked. It is important that students understand command words so that they do not waste time in examinations with unnecessary working.

02.4 The majority of students answered this question correctly. The most common incorrect response was simply 'biological catalyst'.

Answer 07 · Examiner comments

Question 5 (standard/high & high demand)

05.1 Three-quarters of students correctly responded that the energy change in the backwards reaction was equal to the energy change in the forward reaction.

05.2 Half of students identified the correct equilibrium shift.

05.3 The multiple-choice questions at the beginning of question 5 become progressively harder, testing the students' understanding of Le Châtelier's principle. Fewer than half of all students correctly answered this question on the effect of pressure on the equilibrium.

05.4 Making the link from the stem that energy is released to the reaction being exothermic, and consequently the effect that a temperature change would have made on the position of this equilibrium, made this the most difficult of these multiple-choice questions. Fewer than 40% of students selected the correct answer.

05.5 Fewer than a third of students correctly gave the effect of a catalyst on equilibrium position for 1 mark. This was a high demand question and the small number of students who gained the second mark reflected this.

Many students had the same misconception that a catalyst only speeds up the forwards reaction. There were two common answers following this misconception: either that this meant the equilibrium would shift right as the forwards reaction had been sped up or that the equilibrium would therefore shift to the left to oppose this.

05.6 Most students were able to gain 1 mark, for the correct time. Common incorrect responses were 200 and 82.5 (seconds). If students put 82.5 then they had the misconception that the equilibrium was reached when the lines crossed and so were prevented from getting any further marks. Students often referred to equilibrium being where the moles were equal at 82.5 seconds.

The mark scheme identified where equilibrium was reached, how the graph showed this and what the graph meant in terms of moles of the three gases.

For the second marking point, a clear description of the line flattening out, not just straightening, was required as 'straightening' could be vertical.

The third marking point is for the number of *moles* not changing. Some students stated that the reaction had stopped, meaning that they could not be awarded the third marking point. Equally, if a student stated that the number of moles was equal, the mark could not be given.

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5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 07 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5

0 5 . 6 Determine the time taken for the reaction to reach equilibrium.

Explain your answer.

Use **Figure 5**.

[3 marks]

Time 210 s

Explanation All the lines go straight to show that the ~~mole~~ number of moles is not changing, ~~and the reaction is ready~~ meaning the reaction has reached equilibrium.

0 5 . 6 Determine the time taken for the reaction to reach equilibrium.

Explain your answer.

Use **Figure 5**.

[3 marks]

Time 210 s

Explanation This is where the line flattens out on the graph. The reaction has taken place and reached equilibrium because the number of moles of each gas is not changing, so therefore the reaction is no longer occuring.

In the first response the student gains the mark for the time, but the 'lines go straight' is insufficient for marking point 2. Marking point 3 is given for the number of moles not changing.

The second response gains marking point 1 for a correct time. Marking point 2 is also given for the '… line flattens out …'. The student would have been given the third marking point for '… the number of moles of each gas is not changing …'; however, this mark cannot be awarded as the student goes on to state that the '… reaction is no longer occurring'.

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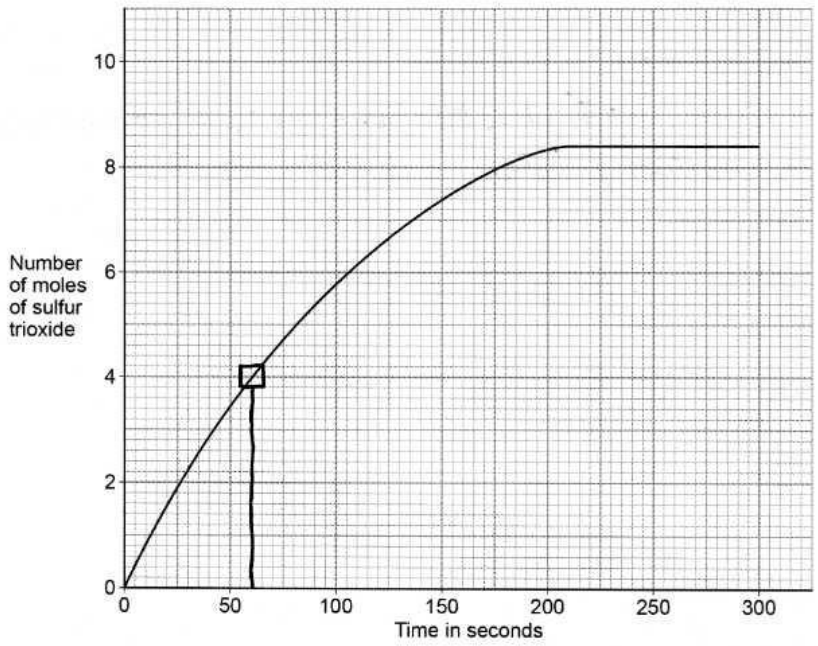
5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 07 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5

05.7 It is evident that students are becoming more familiar with drawing gradients to calculate rates, with a third of students gaining full marks on this high-demand calculation. It should be noted that students who do not draw a tangent cannot gain any marks since the fundamental chemical idea is not known and understood.

0 5 . 7 **Figure 6** shows the results for sulfur trioxide.

Figure 6



Determine the rate of reaction at 60 seconds.

[4 marks]

2÷50 = 0.04 mol/s

Rate = 0.04 mol/s

The student needs to first draw a tangent at 60 s in order to be able to calculate the rate. Here, no tangent has been drawn, so no marks are awarded.

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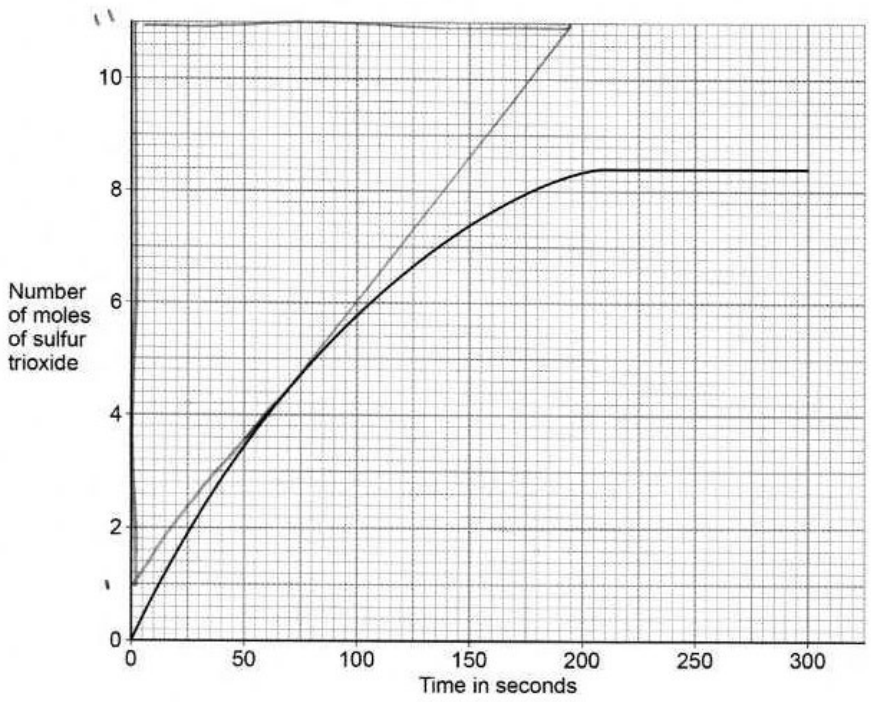
5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 07 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5

The most common errors were misreading the *x*-step and/or the *y*-step. Progress could still be made in the calculation if it was clear that the values had come from a tangent and had been used correctly. Substitution into the equation upside down meant that neither marking point 3 nor marking point 4 could be given.

0 5 . 7 **Figure 6** shows the results for sulfur trioxide.

Figure 6



Determine the rate of reaction at 60 seconds.

[4 marks]

11 − 1 = 10 $\frac{10}{195}$ = 0.051282

195 − 0 = 195

Rate = 0.051282 mol/s

This student has made a good attempt at drawing the tangent at 60 s, so marking point 1 can be awarded. They have drawn a triangle on the graph and substituted correct values for the *y*-step and the *x*-step into the expression (10 ÷ 195), which they have then correctly evaluated. The recurring dots can be ignored as there was no significant figures mark for this question. All 4 marks are awarded.

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5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 08 · Examiner comments

Question 4 (Standard, Standard/High and High demand)

04.1 Although well attempted, only a third of students were able to accurately describe a formulation. Several students knew that it was a mixture but did not expand on this any further to give the reason for the mixture. Several knew that you needed to add a number of substances together for a purpose but did not know that this would then be a mixture.

04.2 Well over half of students were able to select the correct response of 91 kJ/mol.

04.3 Half of all students could identify Le Chatelier as the scientist, although there were a variety of spellings offered.

04.4 Half of all students were able to select the correct response of 'the proportion of methanol decreases'. The most common incorrect answer was the opposite, being the proportion of methanol increases.

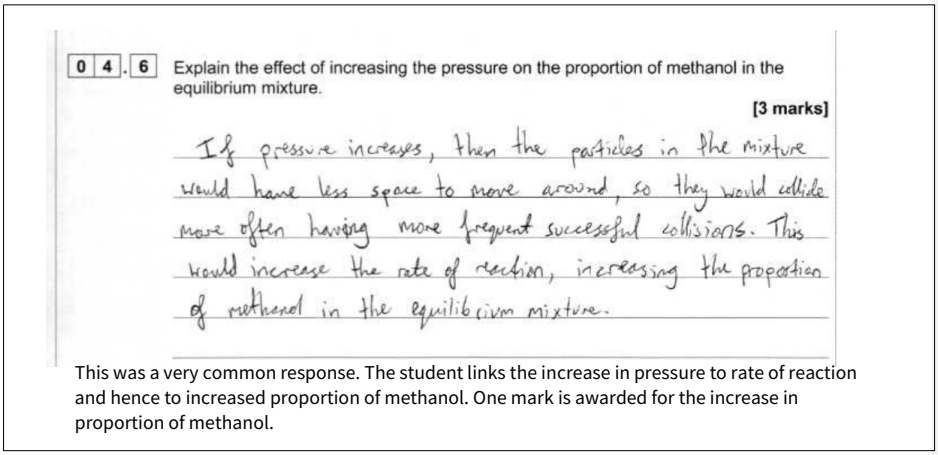
04.5 Again, half of all students were able to select the correct response of the proportion of methanol stays the same. A significant number however selected the proportion of methanol increases.

04.6 Students found equilibrium difficult. A large number of students related the increase in pressure to an increase in energy and number of collisions and hence an increase in the rate of reaction, but did not make any link to the effect on equilibrium.
A common misconception appeared to be that the proportion of methanol in the mixture was equivalent to the yield of methanol. Only a quarter of students gained 1 mark, with very few scoring 2 or 3.

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5.6.1.4 Catalysts

Answer 08 · Examiner comments June 2025 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4



0 4 . 6 Explain the effect of increasing the pressure on the proportion of methanol in the equilibrium mixture.

[3 marks]

If pressure increases, then the particles in the mixture would have less space to move around, so they would collide more often having more frequent successful collisions. This would increase the rate of reaction, increasing the proportion of methanol in the equilibrium mixture.

This was a very common response. The student links the increase in pressure to rate of reaction and hence to increased proportion of methanol. One mark is awarded for the increase in proportion of methanol.

04.7 Most students were able to state that a catalyst will increase the rate of a reaction. Less were able to explain that this is due to a lowered activation energy, and even fewer could link this to an alternative reaction pathway.
There was a common misconception that catalysts increase the rate of a reaction due to there being more frequent collisions, as this is a common explanation for how changing other factors affects the rate of reaction. Some students also incorrectly stated that catalysts cause the particles to gain energy.

04.8 Only half of all students answered this question well. Most of these identified that less energy used would be cheaper, but very few linked the idea of less fuels burning and the reduced contribution to global warming.
Some students gave ideas around the speed of the reaction decreasing at a lower temperature so the reaction could be controlled/monitored/more accurate results, lower temperatures being safer to work with, or lower temperatures resulting in less evaporation of methanol.

04.9 Just under a third of students gained both marks.
A large number of students did not know the formula for hydrogen and 6H was commonly used instead of $3H_2$
A small number of students could not gain marks due to errors in the size of the letter used eg Co_2 rather than CO_2 and $H2o$ rather than H_2O.
Students are expected to use subscript, superscript and size of letters appropriately.