

Past-paper walk-through

Stability constants, K_{stab} ■ 28.5

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 9701/42 N25 Q6 ■ 7 marks
- 9701/44 N25 Q1 ■ 19 marks

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 6

9701/42 N25 ■ Q6 ■ 7 marks

6 (a) Nickel forms complexes.

- (i) Give the formula and charge of the tetrahedral complex formed by Ni atoms with carbon monoxide molecules. Carbon monoxide is a monodentate ligand. This is complex **E**.

Question 6

- (ii) Give the formula and charge of the octahedral complex formed by Ni^{2+} ions with ethanedioate ions. This is complex **F**.

Question 6

- (iii) Identify which complex, **E** or **F**, exists as a mixture of two stereoisomers and the type of stereoisomerism involved.

Question 6

Question 6

[1]

- (b) Cadmium forms complexes with methylamine, CH_3NH_2 , and 1,2-diaminoethane, *en*. The values of the stability constants, K_{stab} , of these complex ions are given in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1

complex	K_{stab}
$[\text{Cd}(\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2)_4]^{2+}$	3.5×10^6
$[\text{Cd}(\text{en})_2]^{2+}$	4.0×10^{10}

- (i) Explain, by reference to its structure, why CH_3NH_2 acts as a monodentate ligand.

Question 6

- (ii) Some $\text{Cd}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ is added to a solution containing equal concentrations of CH_3NH_2 and *en*.

Predict which of the two complexes in Table 6.1 forms at the higher concentration.

Explain your answer.

Question 6

[1]

(iii) Complete the expression for the K_{stab} of $[\text{Cd}(\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2)_4]^{2+}$.

$$K_{\text{stab}} =$$

[1]

[Total: 7] -

Solution 6

(a)(i)

Mark scheme

- $\text{Ni}(\text{CO})_4$
- 1

Solution 6

(a)(ii) Mark scheme

- ■
- ethanedioate given as C_2O_4
- ■
- formula shows one Ni and three ligands
- ■
- charge = $4-$
- any two [1], all three [2]
- $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3^{4-}$ scores [2]

Solution 6

- 2
- 9701/42
- October/November 2025

Solution 6

(a)(iii)

Mark scheme

- F AND optical
- 1

Solution 6

(b)(i)

Mark scheme

- N atom can donate one lone pair of electrons
- 1

(b)(ii)

Mark scheme

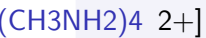
Cd(en)_2^{2+} AND has a larger K_{stab} / is more stable

- 1

Solution 6

(b)(iii)

Mark scheme



■ 1

Question 1

9701/44 N25 ■ Q1 ■ 19 marks

-
- 1 (a)** Define a transition element.

Question 1

- (b)** The 3d orbitals in an isolated gaseous Cu^{2+} ion are degenerate.
- (i)** Define the term degenerate.

Question 1

(ii) Complete the electronic configuration of Cu^{2+} .

Question 1

- (c) (i) State the colours of the aqueous solutions for the **two** copper(II) complex ions shown.

Question 1

Question 1

[1]

- (ii) Explain why aqueous complex ions of transition elements are usually coloured.

Question 1

- (d) (i) When an excess of $\text{NH}_3(\text{aq})$ is added to a solution of $[\text{CuCl}_4]^{2-}(\text{aq})$, $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}(\text{aq})$ is formed.

State the type of reaction.

Complete the equation for this reaction. State symbols are **not** required.

Question 1

equation

-

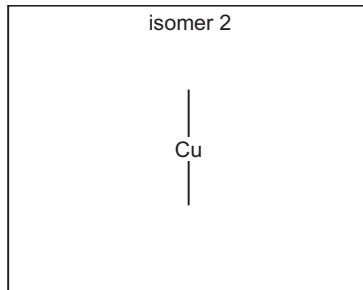
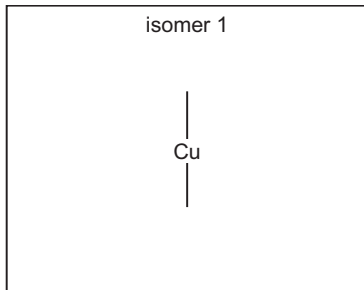
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Question 1

[2] _

- (ii) The $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$ complex ion shows stereoisomerism.

Complete the three-dimensional diagrams in Fig. 1.1 to show the **two** different stereoisomers of $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$.



Question 1

Fig. 1.1

Question 1

Fig. 1.1

[2]

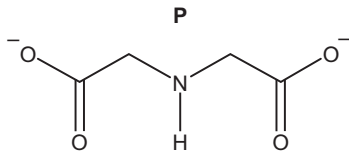
- (iii) Deduce which stereoisomer in (d)(ii) is polar.

Explain your answer.

Question 1

[1]

(e) The dianion **P** can act as a tridentate ligand.



(i) Suggest how **P** can form **three** dative covalent bonds.

Question 1

- (ii) 2 moles of dianion **P**, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_5\text{NO}_4^{2-}$, react with 1 mole of aqueous cobalt(III) ions, $[\text{Co}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$ to form 1 mole of complex ion **Q**.

Deduce the formula and charge of **Q**.

Question 1

- (f) Table 1.1 shows values for the stability constants, K_{stab} , of some silver(I) complexes.

Table 1.1

complex	value of K_{stab}
$[\text{Ag}(\text{CN})_2]^{-}(\text{aq})$	1.1×10^{18}
$[\text{Ag}(\text{NH}_3)_2]^{+}(\text{aq})$	1.2×10^7
$[\text{Ag}(\text{S}_2\text{O}_3)_2]^{3-}(\text{aq})$	2.9×10^{13}

- (i) Define the stability constant of a complex.

Question 1

- (ii) Use the information in Table 1.1 to identify the most stable silver(I) complex.

Explain your answer.

Question 1

Question 1

Question 1

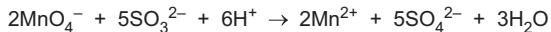
[1]

(g) Sodium sulfite, Na_2SO_3 , is used as a food preservative.

A 3.75 g sample of impure Na_2SO_3 is dissolved in distilled water and made up to 250 cm^3 in a volumetric flask.

10.0 cm^3 of this solution requires 18.70 cm^3 of acidified $0.0150\text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ MnO_4^- (aq) to reach the end-point.

The equation for the reaction is shown.



Calculate the percentage by mass of Na_2SO_3 in the sample.

Question 1

Question 1

[Total: 19]

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- forms (one or more) stable ions / compounds / oxidation states
- with incomplete / partially filled (3)d orbital(s) / d shell / d sub-shell
- 1

Solution 1

(b)(i)

Mark scheme

- (orbitals) are at the same energy
- 1

(b)(ii)

Mark scheme

- $(1s^2) 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^9$
- 1

Solution 1

(c)(i)

Mark scheme

 $\text{[Cu(H}_2\text{O)}_6]^{2+}(\text{aq})$ deep / dark / royal blue

- AND

 $\text{[CuCl}_4\text{]}^{2-}(\text{aq})$

- yellow

- 1

Solution 1

(c)(ii) Mark scheme

- M1:
- d orbital(s) of different energy / d-d splitting occurs / d sub-shell splits
- M2:
- electron(s) promoted / excited
- M3:
- light / wavelength / frequency / photon absorbed AND complementary colour seen
- 3

Solution 1

(d)(i)

Mark scheme

- M1: ligand exchange / replacement / substitution / displacement
- M2: $[\text{CuCl}_4]^{2-} + 4\text{NH}_3 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow [\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+} + 4\text{Cl}^-$
- 2

Solution 1

(d)(ii)

Mark scheme

- M1: one correct 3D structure of $[\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NH}_3)_4]^{2+}$
- M2: correct 3D stereoisomer structure of isomer 1/2

(d)(iii)

Mark scheme

- cis isomer AND dipoles do not cancel
- 1

Solution 1

(e)(i)

Mark scheme

- (two) oxygen and (one) nitrogen (can donate) three lone pair(s) of electrons (to the metal ion)
- 1
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Solution 1

(e)(ii)

Mark scheme

 $\text{C}_4\text{H}_5\text{NO}_4)_2 -$

■ 1

Solution 1

(f)(i)

Mark scheme

- equilibrium constant for the formation of the complex (ion)
- in a solvent / water / solution OR from its constituent ions or molecules
- 1

Solution 1

(f)(ii)

Mark scheme

$\text{Ag}(\text{CN})_2^-$ (aq) AND largest (value of) K_{stab}

■ 1

Solution 1

(g) Mark scheme

- M1 M2: any two [1], all four [2]

- ■

- moles $\text{MnO}_4^- = 0.015 \times 18.70 / 1000 = 2.805 \times 10^{-4}$

- ■

- moles $\text{SO}_3^{2-} = 2.805 \times 10^{-4} \times 5/2 = 7.0125 \times 10^{-4}$ (in 10 cm³)

- ■

- moles $\text{SO}_3^{2-} = 1.753 \times 10^{-2}$ (in 250 cm³)

- ■

Solution 1

- $\text{mass Na}_2\text{SO}_3 = 1.753 \times 10^{-2} \times 126.1 = 2.21 \text{ g}$
- M3: $\% \text{ purity} = 100 \times 2.21 / 3.75 = 58.9 - 59.0 \% \text{ min 2sf}$
- 3