

20. Polymerisation

Starter Quiz ·

A-Level Chemistry

Name: _____ Score: _____

- In addition polymerisation, the monomers must have:
 - ☐ a C=C double bond
 - ☐ an –OH group
 - ☐ a –COOH group
 - ☐ a triple bond only
- To draw the repeat unit from a monomer, you:
 - ☐ change the C=C to a single C–C and draw bonds out at each end
 - ☐ add an extra carbon
 - ☐ remove a hydrogen
 - ☐ add a water molecule
- To find the monomer from a polymer's repeat unit, you:
 - ☐ put the C=C double bond back
 - ☐ add an –OH group
 - ☐ remove a carbon
 - ☐ join two repeat units
- Why are poly(alkene)s hard to dispose of?
 - ☐ they are non-biodegradable, and burning some (like PVC) releases toxic gases
 - ☐ they dissolve in water
 - ☐ they react with air quickly
 - ☐ they evaporate
- Addition polymers are made from monomers containing a C=C _____ bond.

- The repeat unit –CH₂–CH(CH₃)– comes from the monomer _____.

- Making poly(ethene) by addition polymerisation also produces water.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
- The repeat unit –CH₂–CH(CH₃)– contains how many carbon atoms?
 - ☐ Two
 - ☐ Three
 - ☐ Four

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Answers ·

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- a C=C double bond**
The C=C double bond opens up to let the monomers link into a long chain, with no other product.
- change the C=C to a single C–C and draw bonds out at each end**
Open the double bond (C=C → C–C) and put a bond out at each end to show the chain continues.
- put the C=C double bond back**
Reversing the process, restore the C=C double bond in one repeat unit to get the monomer.
- they are non-biodegradable, and burning some (like PVC) releases toxic gases**
Microbes cannot break them down (non-biodegradable); burning PVC releases toxic hydrogen chloride.
- double**
The double bond opens to join the units.
- propene**
Restore the C=C between the two backbone carbons: CH₂=CHCH₃, which is propene.
- False**
The monomer atoms all enter the polymer. Addition polymerisation has no small-molecule by-product.
- Three**
Two carbons form the backbone and one is in the methyl side group: three in total.