



The 28th International Science Olympiad for Young  
Mathematicians, Physicists and Chemists  
November 3, 2015  
Chemistry - Form 12 (Solutions)



**1. CAMPING GAS (10 points)**

Molecular weight of butane and propane:

$$M_w(\text{butane}) = 4 \times 12.00 + 10 \times 1.008 = 58.08 \text{ g/mol} \quad (1)$$

$$M_w(\text{propane}) = 3 \times 12.00 + 8 \times 1.008 = 44.06 \text{ g/mol} \quad (1)$$

Energy needed to heat the water for tea:

$$Q(\text{tea}) = c_p m \Delta T = 3 \times 0.2 \times 4.18 \times (100 - 5) = 238.26 \text{ kJ} \quad (1.5)$$

Energy needed to heat the water in the ration packs:

$$Q(\text{food}) = c_p m \Delta T = 3 \times 0.3 \times 4.18 \times (100 - 20) = 300.96 \text{ kJ} \quad (1.5)$$

Total energy needed:

$$Q(\text{total}) = Q(\text{tea}) + Q(\text{food}) = 539.22 \text{ kJ} \quad (1)$$

Assuming 50% heat transfer efficiency, the heat emitted by the burner must be

$$Q(\text{gas}) = \frac{Q(\text{total})}{\text{efficiency}} = 1078.44 \text{ kJ} \quad (1)$$

Let's assume we have  $m$  grams of gas in total. The total heat emitted by the gas in the burning process must be  $Q(\text{gas})$ :

$$-Q(\text{gas}) = \frac{0.25m}{M_w(\text{propane})} \Delta_c H(\text{propane}) + \frac{0.75m}{M_w(\text{butane})} \Delta_c H(\text{butane}) \quad (2)$$

$$1078.44 = 12.494m + 37.157m \rightarrow m = 21.72 \text{ g} \approx \mathbf{21.7 \text{ g}} \quad (1)$$

**2. ACIDS (11 points)**

Dissolving hydrofluoric acid:



The amount of protons is equal to the amount of fluoride anions:

$$[\text{H}^+] = [\text{F}^-] = x \quad (1)$$



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Some of the acid has dissociated, some if it has not. In total, the amount of acid has to be 1 M:

$$[F^-] + [HF] = 1 \rightarrow [HF] = 1 - x \quad (1)$$

Hence we can rewrite the equation for the dissociation constant:

$$K_a(HF) = \frac{[H^+][F^-]}{[HF]} = \frac{x^2}{1-x} \quad (1.5)$$

Rearranging the equation, we can find  $x$  (since  $x$  has to be positive, there is only one solution):

$$x^2 + 0.00072x - 0.00072 = 0 \rightarrow x = 0.026475 \quad (0.5)$$

And from which the pH of the HF solution is

$$\text{pH}(1M HF) = -\log[H^+] = -\log x = 1.577 \approx 1.6 \quad (0.5)$$

Similarly, for acetic acid:



$$[H^+] = [CH_3COO^-] = y \quad (1)$$

$$[CH_3COO^-] + [CH_3COOH] = 1 \rightarrow [CH_3COOH] = 1 - y \quad (1)$$

So the dissociation equation becomes

$$K_a(CH_3COOH) = \frac{[H^+][CH_3COO^-]}{[CH_3COOH]} = \frac{y^2}{1-y} \quad (1.5)$$

From which

$$y^2 + 0.0000176x - 0.0000176 = 0 \rightarrow y = 0.0041864 \quad (0.5)$$

And hence the pH of the solution is

$$\text{pH}(1M CH_3COOH) = -\log[H^+] = -\log y = 2.378 \approx 2.4 \quad (0.5)$$

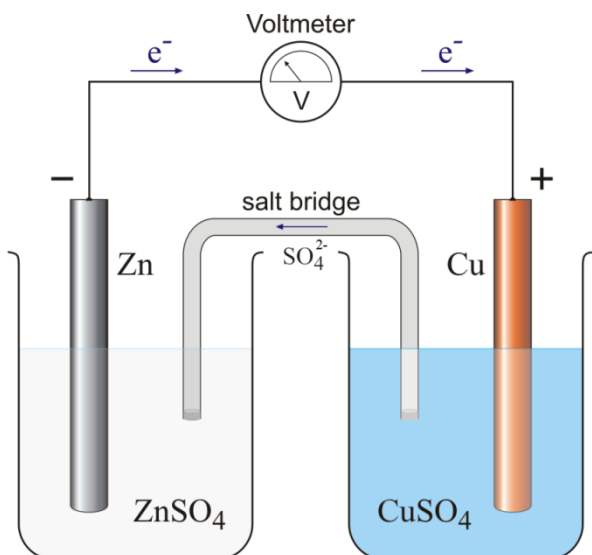
**HF is a stronger acid than  $CH_3COOH$** , because it gives a lower pH value when dissolved in water. (1)



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3. BATTERY (8 points)



(3)

The **oxidation** reaction takes place on the **anode**:



The **reduction** reaction takes place on the **cathode**:



Thus the total reaction is



Using the formula for the change in Gibbs free energy, we can find the electrochemical potential of one cell by knowing that  $z = 2$  electrons take place in the reaction:

$$E = -\frac{\Delta G}{zF} = \frac{212\,040}{2 \times 96\,485} = 1.0988 \text{ V} \quad (1)$$

Since the voltage needed is 12 V, the total number of cells must be

$$N = \frac{12}{E} = 10.92 \approx \mathbf{11 \text{ cells}} \quad (1)$$

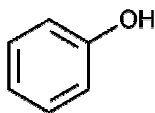


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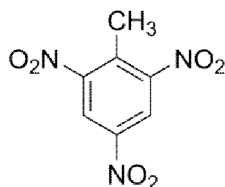


4. BITS AND PIECES FROM ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (11 points)

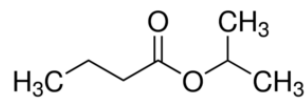
a)



phenol



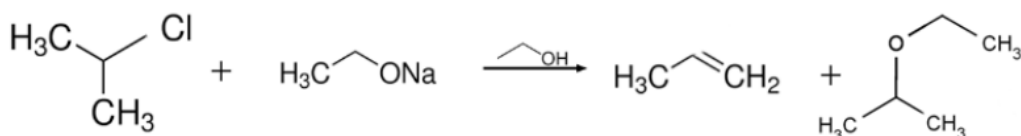
trinitrotoluene (TNT)



isopropylbutanoate or  
1-methylethyl butanoate

(3)

b) In this reaction there are E2 and S<sub>N</sub>2 mechanisms competing with each other. E2 mechanism is dominating at higher temperatures; hence **A** is an elimination product propene. S<sub>N</sub>2 mechanism is more dominant at lower temperatures, so **B** is the result of substitution (2-ethoxypropane).



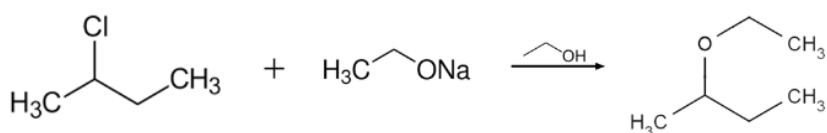
(0.5)

(0.5)

**A**, propene (2)

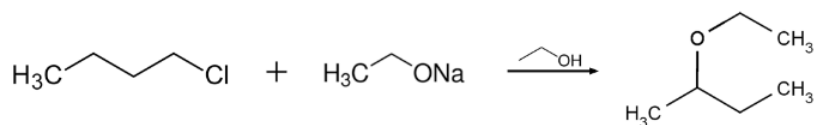
**B**, 2-ethoxypropane (2)

For the first of the other reactions we have a substitution:



(1)

The second reaction also has a substitution, but there is a hydride shift as 2-ethoxybutane is more stable than butyl ethyl ether (which would be the product without the hydride shift):



(1)

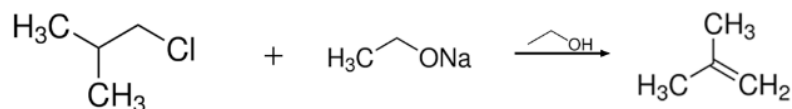
0.5 points for butyl ethyl ether.



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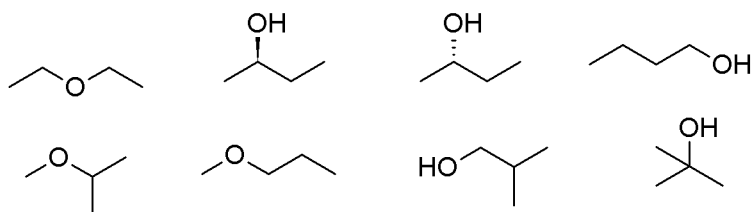
Access to the middle carbon is sterically hindered in the third reaction, so instead of substitution, we have elimination:



(1)

5. UNKNOWN LIQUIDS (8 points)

a) (4 points: 0.5 points for each isomer)



b) (3 points: 0.5 points for each formula)

