

# Common Atmospheric Pollutants + Sources

## Question Paper 1

Level	GCSE (9-1)
Subject	Combined Science: Trilogy - Chemistry
Exam Board	AQA
Topic	5.9 Chemistry of the Atmosphere
Sub-Topic	Common Atmospheric Pollutants + Sources
Difficulty Level	Gold Level
Booklet	Question Paper 1

Time Allowed: 43 minutes

Score: /43

Percentage: /100

Grade Boundaries:

**Q1.** This question is about copper.

- (a) Copper can be extracted by smelting copper-rich ores in a furnace.

The equation for one of the reactions in the smelting process is:



Explain why there would be an environmental problem if sulfur dioxide gas escaped into the atmosphere.

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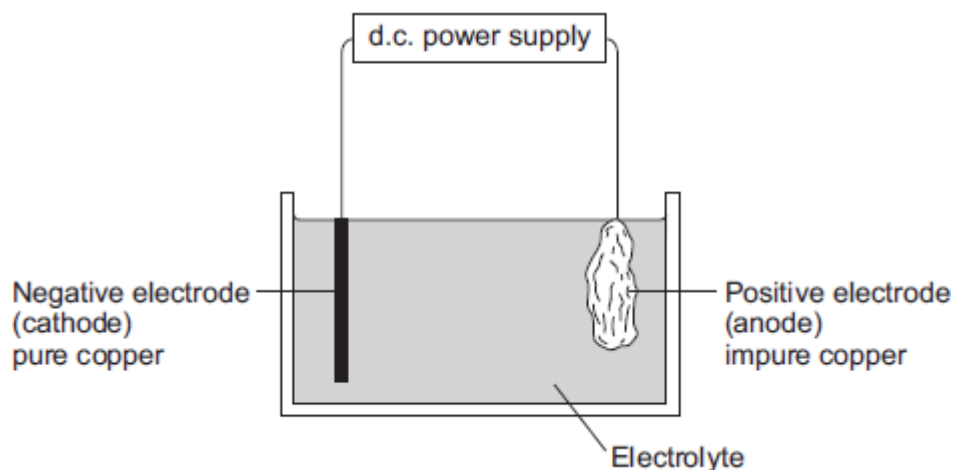
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(2)

- (b) The impure copper produced by smelting is purified by electrolysis, as shown below.



Copper atoms are oxidised at the positive electrode to  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions, as shown in the half equation.



- (i) How does the half equation show that copper atoms are oxidised?

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(1)

- (ii) The  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions are attracted to the negative electrode, where they are reduced to produce copper atoms.

Write a balanced half equation for the reaction at the negative electrode.

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(1)

- (iii) Suggest a suitable electrolyte for the electrolysis.

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(1)

- (c) Copper metal is used in electrical appliances.

Describe the bonding in a metal, and explain why metals conduct electricity.

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(4)

- (d) Soil near copper mines is often contaminated with low percentages of copper compounds.

Phytomining is a new way to extract copper compounds from soil.

Describe how copper compounds are extracted by phytomining.

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(3)

- (e) A compound in a copper ore has the following percentage composition by mass:

55.6% copper, 16.4% iron, 28.0% sulfur.

Calculate the empirical formula of the compound.

Relative atomic masses ( $A_r$ ): S = 32; Fe = 56; Cu = 63.5

You must show all of your working.

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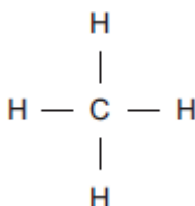
Empirical formula = .....

(4)

(Total 16 marks)

**Q2.** Methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) is used as a fuel.

- (a) The displayed structure of methane is:



Draw a ring around a part of the displayed structure that represents a covalent bond.

(1)

(b) Why is methane a compound?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Methane contains atoms of two elements, combined chemically.

☐

Methane is not in the periodic table.

☐

Methane is a mixture of two different elements.

☐

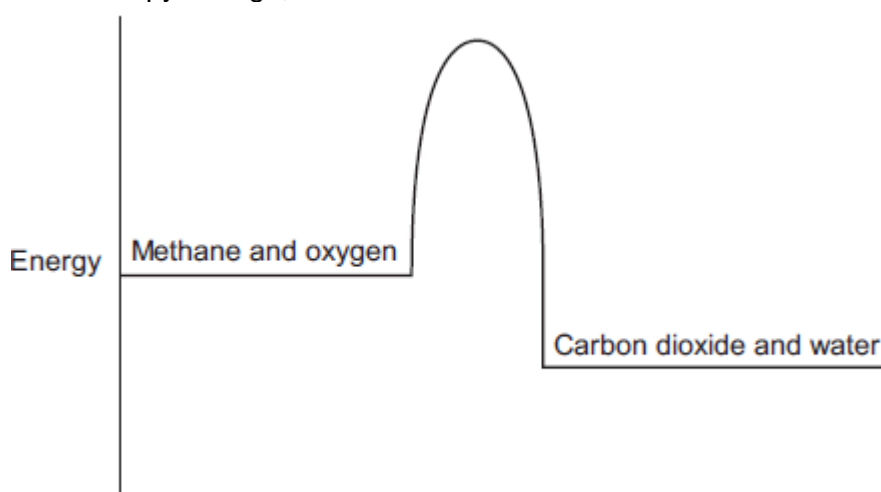
(1)

(c) Methane burns in oxygen.

(i) The diagram below shows the energy level diagram for the complete combustion of methane.

Draw and label arrows on the diagram to show:

- the activation energy
- the enthalpy change,  $\Delta H$ .



(2)

(ii) Complete and balance the symbol equation for the complete combustion of

methane.



(2)

- (iii) Explain why the **incomplete** combustion of methane is dangerous.

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- (iv) Explain why, in terms of the energy involved in bond breaking and bond making, the combustion of methane is exothermic.

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(3)

- (d) Methane reacts with chlorine in the presence of sunlight.

The equation for this reaction is:



Some bond dissociation energies are given in the table.

Bond	Bond dissociation energy in kJ per mole
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C-H	413
C-Cl	327
Cl-Cl	243
H-Cl	432

- (i) Show that the enthalpy change,  $\Delta H$ , for this reaction is  $-103$  kJ per mole.

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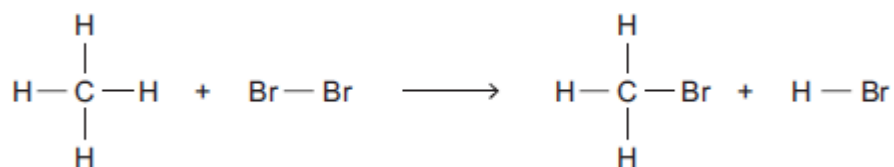
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(3)

- (ii) Methane also reacts with bromine in the presence of sunlight.



This reaction is less exothermic than the reaction between methane and chlorine.

The enthalpy change,  $\Delta H$ , is  $-45$  kJ per mole.

What is a possible reason for this?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$  has a lower boiling point than  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$

☐

The C-Br bond is weaker than the C-Cl bond.

☐

The H-Cl bond is weaker than the H-Br bond.

☐

Chlorine is more reactive than bromine.

☐

(1)  
(Total 15 marks)

**Q3.** Sulfur is a non-metal.

Sulfur burns in the air to produce sulfur dioxide,  $\text{SO}_2$

(a) Why is it important that sulfur dioxide is **not** released into the atmosphere?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain.

☐

Sulfur dioxide causes global dimming.

☐

Sulfur dioxide causes global warming.

☐

(1)

(b) Sulfur dioxide dissolves in water.

What colour is universal indicator in a solution of sulfur dioxide?  
Give a reason for your answer.

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(2)

(c) Sulfur dioxide is a gas at room temperature.

The bonding in sulfur dioxide is covalent.

Explain, in terms of its structure and bonding, why sulfur dioxide has a low boiling



point.

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(3)

- (d) *In this question you will be assessed on using good English, organising information clearly and using specialist terms where appropriate.*

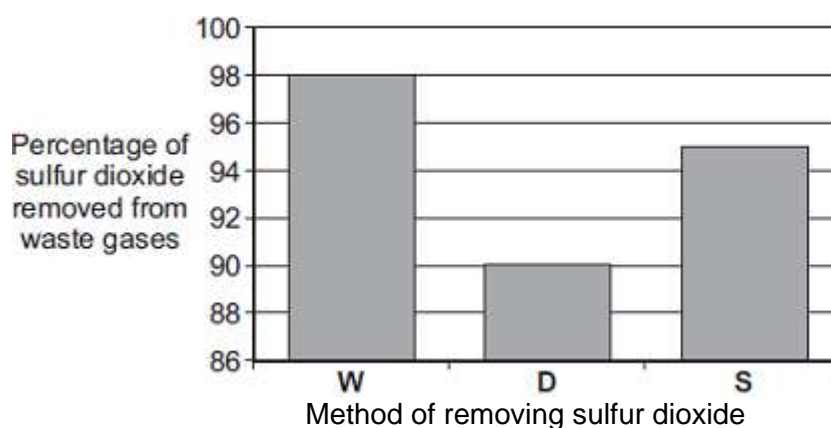
Sulfur dioxide is produced when fossil fuels are burned.

It is important that sulfur dioxide is not released into the atmosphere.

Three of the methods used to remove sulfur dioxide from gases produced when fossil fuels are burned are:

- wet gas desulfurisation (**W**)
- dry gas desulfurisation (**D**)
- seawater gas desulfurisation (**S**).

Information about the three methods is given in the bar chart and in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.



**Table 1**

Method	Material used	How material is obtained
<b>W</b>	Calcium carbonate, $\text{CaCO}_3$	Quarrying
<b>D</b>	Calcium oxide, $\text{CaO}$	Thermal decomposition of calcium carbonate: $\text{CaCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2$
<b>S</b>	Seawater	From the sea

**Table 2**

Method	What is done with waste material
<b>W</b>	Solid waste is sold for use in buildings. Carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.
<b>D</b>	Solid waste is sent to landfill.
<b>S</b>	Liquid waste is returned to the sea.

Evaluate the three methods of removing sulfur dioxide from waste gases.

Compare the three methods and give a justified conclusion.

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(6)  
(Total 12 marks)