



A-Level Chemistry

Ionic Product of Water (K_w)

Mark Scheme

Time available: 55 minutes

Marks available: 49 marks

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Mark schemes

1.

(a) completely dissociates/ionises (to form H⁺ ions) 1

(b) **M1** moles HCl = 1.035×10^{-3} and moles Ba(OH)₂ = 3.75×10^{-3}
If M1 incorrect, lose M1 and M6 1

M2 moles OH⁻ = 2 x ($3.75 \times 10^{-3} = 7.50 \times 10^{-3}$)
If M2 not x2, lose M2 and M6 1

M3 XS n OH⁻ = $7.50 \times 10^{-3} - 1.035 \times 10^{-3} = 6.465 \times 10^{-3}$ mol in 35.35 cm³
If no subtraction for M3, lose M3 and M6 1

M4 [OH] = $6.465 \times 10^{-3} / 35.35 \times 10^{-3} = 0.182885$ mol dm⁻³
= $M3/35.35 \times 10^{-3}$
If M4 not /35.35 × 10⁻³, lose M4 and M6
However, if divided by 35.35 only lose M4 and allow M6 (ecf = 10.09) 1

M5 [H⁺] = $K_w/[OH^-] = 1.47 \times 10^{-14} / 0.182885 = 8.0378 \times 10^{-14}$ mol dm⁻³
= $1.47 \times 10^{-14} / M4$
If incorrect rearrangement or wrong equation, lose M5 and M6
If $K_w = 1.00 \times 10^{-14}$ used only lose M5 and allow M6 (ecf = 13.26) 1

M6 pH = 13.09 to 13.10
Must be 2dp 1

Alternative MS to get M2:

Starting amounts are 1.035×10^{-3} mol HCl and 3.75×10^{-3} mol Ba(OH)₂ M1

So the HCl will react with 5.175×10^{-4} mol of the Ba(OH)₂ leaving an excess of 3.2325×10^{-3} mol of Ba(OH)₂ (as alternative M2)

So n OH⁻ = $2 \times 3.2325 \times 10^{-3} = 6.465 \times 10^{-3}$ mol M3

Credit other methods eg limiting reagent method since HCl limiting reagent

(c) [H⁺] = [OH⁻] 1

(d) SO₂ 1

(e) $K_a = \frac{[\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-][\text{H}^+]}{[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]}$ 1

(f) **M1** moles HCl added = 0.01 mol and moles CH_3COOH = 0.035 mol 1

M2 moles CH_3COO^- = 0.025 – 0.01 (= 0.015)
M2 mol CH_3COO^- = 0.025 - M1(HCl) 1

M3 moles CH_3COOH = 0.035 + 0.01 (= 0.045)
M3 mol CH_3COOH = M1(CH_3COOH) + M1(HCl) 1

M4 $[\text{H}^+] = 1.76 \times 10^{-5} \times \frac{\text{M3 (l V)}}{\text{M2 (l V)}} (= 5.28 \times 10^{-5})$
M4 is conditional on an attempt at an addition/subtraction in M2 OR M3 1

M5 pH = 4.28
M5 must be 2dp
If used 0.07 mol for CH_3COOH can score M2, M3 and M4 (pH = 4.03) 1

[15]

2.

(a) **M1:** $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$
M1: accept equal number/amounts of H^+ and OH^- 1

M2: $[\text{H}^+] (= 10^{-\text{pH}}) = 2.138 \times 10^{-7}$
M2: allow 2.14×10^{-7} 1

M3: $K_w = [\text{H}^+]^2$ or $(2.138 \times 10^{-7})^2$
M3: allow (M2)² 1

M4: $K_w = 4.57 \times 10^{-14}$
M4: allow 4.58×10^{-14}
M4 is dependent on (an answer)² in M3 1

(b) View with Figure X (ie graph) as they may show working there.

Ignore calculations of mols of salt or acid

M1: Determines volume at half equivalence ($= \frac{19.5}{2} \text{ cm}^3$) = 9.75 (cm³)

M1: Allow reading on graph to be from 19.4 to 19.7
giving **M1** = 9.7 to 9.85

1

M2: pH = 4.80 to 4.95

M2: Reads off pH at half equivalence

1

M3: $K_a (= 10^{-\text{pH}}) = 10^{-4.9} = 1.26 \times 10^{-5}$

M3: Allow 1.12×10^{-5} to 1.58×10^{-5}

M3: Allow 2sf or more

1

Alternative method

M1: pH of pure acid = 3

M2: $K_a = (10^{-3})^2 / 0.080$

M3: = 1.25×10^{-5}

Alternative M1 if calculation incorrect:

Allow pH = pK_a or [H⁺] = K_a at half equivalence

(c) cresolphthalein

1

(d)

$$\mathbf{M1:} \quad K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{X}^-]}{[\text{HX}]} \quad \text{or} \quad [\text{H}^+] = \frac{K_a \times [\text{HX}]}{[\text{X}^-]}$$

$$\mathbf{M1:} \quad \text{allow } [\text{H}^+] = \frac{K_a \times [\text{acid}]}{[\text{salt}]}$$

1

M2: amount of HX = 0.0500 mol

1

M3: amount of HX after addⁿ of KOH = 0.05 - $\underline{3 \times 10^{-4}}$ = 0.0497 mol

$$\mathbf{M3:} = \mathbf{M2} - 3 \times 10^{-4}$$

1

M4: amount of KX after addⁿ of KOH = 0.0136 + $\underline{3 \times 10^{-4}}$ = 0.0139 mol

1

$$\mathbf{M5:} \quad [\text{H}^+] = \left(\frac{1.41 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.0497}{0.0139} \right) = \underline{5.04(15) \times 10^{-5}}$$

1

M6: pH = $-\log_{10} 5.04(15) \times 10^{-5} = 4.30$

Answer to 2 decimal places

1

*If no attempt at **M3** and **M4** max 2 marks*

*If **M3** or **M4** attempted using 3×10^{-4} max 4 (**M1**, **M2**, **M3** or **M4** and **M6**)*

(e)

$$\text{ratio } \frac{[\text{HX}]}{[\text{X}^-]}$$

Allow inverse expression

1

[15]

3.

(a) Ans = C

1

(b) $[\text{H}^+] = \sqrt{K_w} = \sqrt{2.93 \times 10^{-15}} \quad (= 5.41 \times 10^{-8})$

1

pH = $(-\log (5.41 \times 10^{-8})) = \underline{7.27}$

Must be 2dp

7.27 scores 2 marks

1

(c) $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$

allow description in words

equal moles / quantities / numbers / ratio of H^+ and OH^-

1

- (d) $[\text{OH}^-] = 0.0131 \times 2 = 0.0262$
pH = 12.95 scores 3 marks
pH = 12.42 scores 2 marks ($K_w = 1 \times 10^{-14}$)
pH = 12.65 scores 1 mark (not multiplied by 2)
pH = 12.35 scores 1 mark (divided by 2)
pH = 12.12 scores 0 marks (no $\times 2$ and wrong K_w)

1

$$[\text{H}^+] = (K_w / [\text{OH}^-]) = 2.93 \times 10^{-15} / 0.0262 (= 1.118 \times 10^{-13})$$

1

$$\text{pH} = (-\log (1.118 \times 10^{-13})) = 12.9514 = 12.95$$

Or

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 0.0131 \times 2 = 0.0262$$

$$\text{pOH} = (-\log 0.0262) = 1.5817$$

$$\text{pH} = (-\log K_w - \text{pOH} = -\log 2.93 \times 10^{-15} - 1.58 = 14.53 - 1.58) = 12.95$$

allow to 2dp or more

1

- (e) smaller / lower pH / less alkaline / more acidic

If not smaller CE = 0/2

Allow pH number between 8 and 12

1

(magnesium hydroxide) is less soluble / sparingly soluble/ solubility of hydroxide increases down group II

M2 dependent on M1 but if blank mark on

Ignore concentration and dissociation

Ignore incorrect formula

Do not allow $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ is insoluble

1

[9]

4.

- (a) $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ is very high (compared with $[\text{H}^+]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$)

OR

Very few H^+ and OH^- ions

OR

Only / very slightly dissociates

OR

Equilibrium lies far to the left

Not partially dissociates

M1

1

[H₂O] is (effectively) constant
OR is incorporated into the constant K

Allow changes by only a very small amount

M2

(b) (Dissociation OR breaking bonds) is endothermic

∴ Equilibrium moves to RHS (at higher T) to absorb heat or to lower T or oppose increase in T

Allow to oppose change only if increase T mentioned

(c) [H⁺] = $\sqrt{K_w}$ (or = $\sqrt{5.48 \times 10^{-14}}$)

Correct pH answer scores 3

If wrong method no marks

Using alternative K_w (1.00×10^{-14}) gives pH = 7.00 which scores 1

$$= 2.34 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\text{pH} = 6.63$$

Final answer must have 2dp

(d) [H⁺] = $K_w / [\text{OH}^-]$ or (= $5.48 \times 10^{-14} / 0.12$)

Correct pH answer scores 3

If wrong method no marks

If use alternative K_w (1.00×10^{-14}) again, do not penalise repeat error so pH = 13.08 scores 3

$$= 4.566 \times 10^{-13}$$

$$\text{pH} = 12.34$$

*If use alternative K_w (1.00×10^{-14}) **not** as a repeat error, pH = 13.08 scores 1*

If AE in K_w value made in part (c) is repeated here, do not penalise again.

Final answer must have 2dp, but if dp penalised in (c) allow more than 2dp here but not fewer.

[10]