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TOPIC 1.3: QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

THE ABOUT

CHAPTER ANALYSIS



TIME

- Heavy memorising
- 3 **key** concepts



EXAM

- Always tested
- Typical format is a flowchart question which involves backtracking to identify ions



WEIGHTAGE

- Medium overall weightage
- Constitute to **3.5%** of marks for past 5 year papers

KEY CONCEPT

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

TEST FOR CATIONS

TEST FOR ANIONS

TEST FOR GASES



KEY CONCEPT

TEST FOR CATIONS

BLUE

GREEN

REDDISH
BROWN

PPT formed is
amphoteric oxide
and is able to react
with alkaline to
produce soluble salt.

Cation	Reaction with NaOH (aq) (strong alkaline)	Reaction with NH ₃ (aq) (weak alkaline)
Copper(II) Cu²⁺	Forming blue precipitate of Cu(OH) ₂ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NaOH	Forming blue precipitate of Cu(OH) ₂ Precipitate dissolves in excess NH ₃ to give dark blue complex ion
Iron(II) Fe²⁺	Forming green precipitate of Fe(OH) ₂ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NaOH	Forming green precipitate of Fe(OH) ₂ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NH ₃
Iron(III) Fe³⁺	Forming reddish-brown precipitate of Fe(OH) ₃ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NaOH	Forming reddish-brown precipitate of Fe(OH) ₃ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NH ₃
Calcium Ca²⁺	Forming white precipitate of Ca(OH) ₂ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NaOH	No observable reaction
Lead(II) Pb²⁺	Forming white precipitate of Pb(OH) ₂ Precipitate dissolves in excess NaOH to give colourless solution	Forming white precipitate of Pb(OH) ₂ Precipitate is insoluble in excess NH ₃
Zinc Zn²⁺	Forming white precipitate of Zn(OH) ₂ Precipitate dissolves in excess NaOH to give colourless solution	Forming white precipitate of Zn(OH) ₂ Precipitate dissolves in excess NH ₃ to give colourless solution
Ammonium NH₄⁺	No precipitate formed Warming the solution produces pungent ammonia gas which turns moist red litmus blue	No observable reaction

KEY CONCEPT

TEST FOR ANIONS

Anions	Test	Observation
Carbonate CO₃²⁻	Add dilute H₂SO₄ and bubble gas produced through limewater. (Any other suitable dilute acid can be used.) 2H ⁺ (aq) + CO ₃ ²⁻ (aq) → CO ₂ (g) + H ₂ O (l)	Bubbles of CO₂ gas produced which gives a white precipitate of CaCO₃ in limewater.
Sulfate SO₄²⁻	Add dilute HNO₃ , followed by adding Ba(NO₃)₂ solution. Ba ²⁺ (aq) + SO ₄ ²⁻ (aq) → BaSO ₄ (s)	A white precipitate of BaSO₄ is formed.
Chloride Cl⁻	Add dilute HNO₃ , followed by adding AgNO₃ solution. Ag ⁺ (aq) + Cl ⁻ (aq) → AgCl (s) Alternative test: Add dilute HNO₃ , followed by adding Pb(NO₃)₂ solution. Pb ²⁺ (aq) + 2Cl ⁻ (aq) → PbCl ₂ (s)	A white precipitate of AgCl is formed. For alternative test: A white precipitate of PbCl₂ is formed.
Nitrate NO₃⁻	Add dilute NaOH , followed by adding a little aluminium powder . Warm the mixture. Aluminium reduces NO ₃ ⁻ to NH ₄ ⁺ ions: NH ₄ ⁺ (aq) + OH ⁻ (aq) → NH₃ (aq) + H ₂ O (l)	Pungent NH₃ gas is produced which turns moist red litmus blue .

We are adding reagents with cations that can form an **insoluble salt** with the anion.

The **insoluble salt** is the white ppt we observe.

Dilute HNO₃ is first added to **remove other possible anions present** such as **carbonates** and **hydroxides**.

As presence of these anions might also produce precipitates with silver or lead.

Nitric acid is not needed if there is only one anion.

KEY CONCEPT

TEST FOR GASES

Gas	Smell	Test	Observation
Ammonia, NH₃	colourless, pungent	Test with a moist piece of red litmus paper	Moist red litmus paper turns blue
Carbon dioxide, CO₂	colourless, odourless	Bubble the gas through limewater , Ca(OH) ₂	A white precipitate (CaCO₃) is formed
Chlorine, Cl₂	greenish-yellow, pungent	Test with a moist piece of blue litmus paper	Blue litmus paper first turns red and then bleached
Hydrogen, H₂	colourless, odourless	Place a lighted splint near the gas	Gas extinguishes lighted splint with a “ pop ” sound
Oxygen, O₂	colourless, odourless	Place a glowing splint near the gas	Gas reignites glowing splint
Sulfur dioxide, SO₂	colourless, pungent	Bubble the gas through a solution of acidified potassium dichromate(VI), K₂Cr₂O₇ . Alternative: Bubble the gas through a solution of acidified potassium manganate(VII), KMnO₄ . Recall: SO ₂ is a reducing agent! Redox reaction occurs.	Acidified potassium dichromate (VI) turns from orange to green Acidified potassium manganate (VII) turns from purple to colourless

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