

Free radicals are formed from homolytic bond breaking, where a bond breaks and each atom gets one of the electrons. Alkanes react via a free radical substitution mechanism which has 3 stages, initiation, propagation and termination.

For methane initiation and propagation steps are as follows



- Using your knowledge of the free radicals in the mixture, predict the 3 possible termination steps. (3 marks)
- If chlorine is in excess then substitution of the product chloromethane can occur through a series of propagation steps. Show by a series of reactions how this can lead to the formation of the carcinogen tetrachloromethane (CCl₄).
- 3. Predict a termination step that could lead to the formation of a product with the empirical formula CHCl₂.

(1 mark)



- (b) Branched chain isomers have a lower bpt/straight chain alkanes have a higher bpt
- (c) Straight chain alkanes have a higher surface contact (1 mark) therefore greater VdW forces (1 mark)

5.2.5

1. No C=C bonds

- **3.** C₈H₁₈
- **4.** (a)

CO is poisonous/water vapour is a greenhouse gas

5.2.6

Question 1



Question 2 (Successive substitutions on the alkyl radical)

| CH ₃ CI | + | CI۰ | > | • CH ₂ CI | + HCI |
|---------------------------|---|--------|---|---------------------------------|-------|
| · CH₂CI | + | CI_2 | > | CH ₂ Cl ₂ | + CI∙ |
| CH_2CI_2 | + | CI۰ | > | \cdot CHCI ₂ | + HCI |
| \cdot CHCl ₂ | + | CI_2 | | CHCI ₃ | + CI· |
| CHCI ₃ | + | CI۰ | > | $\cdot \text{CCl}_3$ | + HCI |
| $\cdot \text{CCI}_3$ | + | CI_2 | > | CCI ₄ | + CI∙ |
| Question 3 | | | | | |

2 · CHCl₂ → CHCl₂CHCl₂

5.2.7

1.

(a) O₃



Chapter 5 Answers