

Below is a student's write up of the calorimetry practical he recently completed in class. There are 10 ways in which the teacher thinks he could have improved his experimental technique and analysis. Can you spot them?





### 6.1. Definitions

Standard enthalpy change,  $\Delta H^{\ominus}$ 

*Definition*; The heat energy change at <u>constant pressure</u> under standard conditions (pressure <u>100</u> <u>kPa</u>; temperature <u>298 K</u>). (one mark for both conditions)

(2 marks)

# Standard molar enthalpy change of formation, $\Delta H_{_f}^{\ominus}$

*Definition*; The enthalpy change when one mole of a compound is <u>formed from its constituent</u> <u>elements</u> under <u>standard conditions</u>, with <u>all reactants and products in their standard states</u>.

e.g.  $\Delta H_f^{\bigoplus}(\mathrm{NH}_3)$ ; 1/2 N<sub>2</sub>(g) + 3/2 H<sub>2</sub>(g)  $\rightarrow \mathrm{NH}_3(\mathrm{g})$ 

(3 marks)

### Standard molar enthalpy change of combustion, $\Delta H_c^{\ominus}$

*Definition*; The enthalpy change when one mole of a compound is completely burned in excess oxygen under standard conditions, all reactants and products in their standard states.

e.g.  $\Delta H_c^{\Theta}(C_4H_{10}); C_4H_{10} + 13/2 O_2 \rightarrow 4 CO_2 + 5 H_2O$ 

(one mark for symbols, one for balancing)

(3 marks)

### Mean bond energy

*Definition*; The enthalpy change when <u>1 mole of a particular type of bond is broken or made</u> (all species in the gas phase) <u>averaged</u> over many different molecules

(2 marks)

## 6.2. Calorimetry

Possible improvements / corrections include (any 10 from);

- 1. The beaker needs some form of insulation (or a polystyrene beaker should be used)
- 2. An accurate thermometer is needed (not one that records -10 to 100 °C)
- 3. The thermometer is placed too near the surface of the mixture. It must be in the centre.

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Thermodynamics Answers

- The liquids are not allowed to equilibrate to similar temperatures before use; the H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is removed 4. from the fridge!
- Only two readings were taken before the addition of the H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. It is therefore impossible to draw a 5. line to indicate the average temperature of the NaOH before addition.
- It is more usual to mix the reagents on the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute say and take no measurement at this point 6. then measure the temperature again on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> minutes etc.
- There is no mention of the mixture being stirred. 7.
- 8. Not all temperatures are recorded to 1 decimal point in the student's results table
- 9. A straight line is drawn for the temperature of the solution after addition of the H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> despite the fact that the temperature clearly drops more steeply initially - better extrapolation needed.
- 10. A volume of 100 cm<sup>3</sup> is indicated in the student's calculation for the energy transferred. The volume is in fact 150 cm<sup>3</sup> (100 cm<sup>3</sup> of NaOH and 50 cm<sup>3</sup> of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>).
- 11. The calculation requested is per mole of NaOH reacting. This reaction involves two equivalents of NaOH so the final enthalpy change must be divided by 2.

NOTE The experimental data is made up and in no way represents the real enthalpy of neutralisation of NaOH.

#### 6.3. Hess's law

2.

**1.** (a) 4 C(s) + 5  $H_2(g) \rightarrow C_4 H_{10}(g)$ 

(1 mark equation + balancing; 1 mark state symbols)

(b) 
$$C_4H_{10}(g)$$
 + 6 ½  $O_2(g) \rightarrow$  4  $CO_2(g)$  + 5  $H_2O(g)$ 

(1 mark equation; 1 mark balancing) (**NOTE** Must be combustion of 1 mole of  $C_4H_{10}$ )



(1 mark for the cycle or equiv) (1 mark answer)

(1 mark equation + balancing; 1 mark state symbols)



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(a) 2 C(s) + 3 H<sub>2</sub>(g) +  $\frac{1}{2}O_2(g) \rightarrow CH_3CH_2OH(I)$ 

(1 mark for the cycle or equiv) (1 mark answer)

Thermodynamics Answers