

Qualitative Analysis Notes

1 Reactions of aqueous cations

ion	reaction with	
	NaOH(aq)	NH ₃ (aq)
aluminium, Al ³⁺ (aq)	white ppt. soluble in excess	white ppt. insoluble in excess
ammonium, NH ₄ ⁺ (aq)	no ppt. ammonia produced on heating	–
barium, Ba ²⁺ (aq)	faint white ppt. is nearly always observed unless reagents are pure	no ppt.
calcium, Ca ²⁺ (aq)	white ppt. with high [Ca ²⁺ (aq)]	no ppt.
chromium(III), Cr ³⁺ (aq)	grey-green ppt. soluble in excess	grey-green ppt. insoluble in excess
copper(II), Cu ²⁺ (aq)	pale blue ppt. insoluble in excess	blue ppt. soluble in excess giving dark blue solution
iron(II), Fe ²⁺ (aq)	green ppt. turning brown on contact with air insoluble in excess	green ppt. turning brown on contact with air insoluble in excess
iron(III), Fe ³⁺ (aq)	red-brown ppt. insoluble in excess	red-brown ppt. insoluble in excess
magnesium, Mg ²⁺ (aq)	white ppt. insoluble in excess	white ppt. insoluble in excess
manganese(II), Mn ²⁺ (aq)	off-white ppt. rapidly turning brown on contact with air insoluble in excess	off-white ppt. rapidly turning brown on contact with air insoluble in excess
zinc, Zn ²⁺ (aq)	white ppt. soluble in excess	white ppt. soluble in excess

2 Reactions of anions

<i>ion</i>	<i>reaction</i>
carbonate, CO_3^{2-}	CO_2 liberated by dilute acids
chloride, $\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})$	gives white ppt. with $\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})$ (soluble in $\text{NH}_3(\text{aq})$)
bromide, $\text{Br}^-(\text{aq})$	gives cream ppt. with $\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})$ (partially soluble in $\text{NH}_3(\text{aq})$)
iodide, $\text{I}^-(\text{aq})$	gives yellow ppt. with $\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})$ (insoluble in $\text{NH}_3(\text{aq})$)
nitrate, $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{aq})$	NH_3 liberated on heating with $\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$ and <i>Al</i> foil
nitrite, $\text{NO}_2^-(\text{aq})$	NH_3 liberated on heating with $\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$ and <i>Al</i> foil
sulfate, $\text{SO}_4^{2-}(\text{aq})$	gives white ppt. with $\text{Ba}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ (insoluble in excess dilute strong acids)
sulfite, $\text{SO}_3^{2-}(\text{aq})$	gives white ppt. with $\text{Ba}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ (soluble in excess dilute strong acids)

3 Tests for gases

<i>gas</i>	<i>test and test result</i>
ammonia, NH_3	turns damp red litmus paper blue
carbon dioxide, CO_2	gives a white ppt. with limewater (ppt. dissolves with excess CO_2)
chlorine, Cl_2	bleaches damp litmus paper
hydrogen, H_2	'pops' with a lighted splint
oxygen, O_2	relights a glowing splint