Marks 4

• The tropane alkaloid (–)-hyoscyamine is found in certain plants of the *Solanaceae* family. It is an anticholinergic agent that works by blocking the action of acetylcholine at parasympathetic sites in smooth muscle, secretory glands and the central nervous system.

Hydrolysis of (–)-hyoscyamine results in two fragments, tropine and tropic acid. Draw each of these fragments.

What is the stereochemistry at the tropic acid stereocentre? Write (R) or (S).

Is tropine optically active? Explain your answer.

Tropine is not optically active. It has no chiral centre and is identical to its mirror image.