Topics in the June 2008 Exam Paper for CHEM1611

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2008-J-13:

• Amino Acids, Peptides and Proteins

- Complete the following table, giving either the systematic name or the molecular
formula as required.Marks 2FormulaSystematic nameSO2sulfur dioxideCoCl2·6H2Ocobalt(II) chloride-6-waterAg2CrO4silver chromateKHCO3potassium hydrogencarbonate
- Complete the following table, providing the ground state electron configuration for each of the following species.

Species	Ground state electron configuration
nitrogen atom	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^3$ or [He] $2s^2 2p^3$
chloride ion	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6$ or [Ne] $3s^2 3p^6$
manganese(II) ion	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^0 3d^5$ or [Ar] $4s^0 3d^5$

• Copper is an essential element in human biology, deficiencies leading to blood disorders. Excess copper can occur in cases of poisoning or in Wilson's disease. Draw a graph showing the relationship between overall health and the level of copper in the body and identify the 'healthy' range.



Describe one biological function of copper.

Copper enzymes are involved in electron transport systems due to the ability of copper to change its oxidation state.

In some organisms, copper enzymes are involved in oxygen transport.

ANSWER CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

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Suggest one approach for treating an excess level of copper.

Treatment with a complexing agent such as EDTA leads to the formation of stable water-soluble complex that can be excreted from the body.

Marks The molecular structure of nicotine, the addictive component of tobacco, is shown 8 below. List the types of intermolecular interactions that each of the following sites on nicotine would be involved in when it is dissolved in water. A – H bonding and dipole-dipole interactions **B** – dispersion forces and dipole-induced dipole Provide the requested information for each of the indicated atoms in nicotine. Hybridisation Atom Geometric arrangement of the Geometry around the atom electron pairs around the atom of the atom N-1 trigonal planar sp^2 bent (~120°) N-2 sp^3 tetrahedral trigonal pyramidal sp^3 C-3 tetrahedral tetrahedral sp^2 C-4 trigonal planar trigonal planar

The p K_b of N-1 is 10.88 and the p K_b of N-2 is 5.98. Draw the structure of the predominant form of nicotine that exists in the human body at pH 7.4.

For N-1, the pK_a of the protonated form (the conjugate acid) is (14.00 - 10.88) = 3.12. As the pH is *higher* than the pK_a , the conjugate acid is deprotonated: *very* little protonation occurs.

For N=2, the pK_a of the protonated form is (14.00 - 5.98) = 8.02. As the pH is *lower* than the pK_a , the conjugate acid form dominates: protonation occurs.



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• Lithium salts, especially lithium carbonate, are commonly used in the treatment of bipolar disorder. Write the net ionic equation for the reaction which occurs between lithium carbonate and hydrochloric acid in the stomach.

$$\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3(s) + 2\text{H}^+(aq) \rightarrow 2\text{Li}^+(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) + \text{CO}_2(g)$$

Lithium orotate (as a monohydrate salt, $LiC_5H_3N_2O_4\cdot H_2O$) is a controversial alternative formulation sold in some health food stores. The orotate ion is the conjugate base of orotic acid, whose structure is shown below.



Like the carbonate, lithium orotate is taken orally. Using an equation, comment on any differences between the form in which lithium is bioavailable from these two lithium salts.

When lithium orotate, $LiC_5H_3N_2O_4$, dissolves in water, it forms $Li^+(aq)$ ions and orotate ions:

 $\text{LiC}_{5}\text{H}_{3}\text{N}_{2}\text{O}_{4}(s) \rightarrow \text{Li}^{+}(aq) + \text{C}_{5}\text{H}_{3}\text{N}_{2}\text{O}_{4}^{-}(aq)$

Both lithium carbonate and lithium orotate thus give rise to the same form of lithium, $\text{Li}^+(aq)$, when taken orally.

Like three of the bases found in DNA and RNA, orotic acid is a derivative of pyrimidine. Also like those bases, orotic acid and its salts have tautomers. Draw the structural formula of a tautomer of lithium orotate.





ANSWER CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE





CHEM1611 2008-J-7 June 2008 Marks • Neurontin[®] is a pharmaceutical now widely used for the treatment of nerve pain. The 4 structure of the active ingredient in Neurontin, gabapentin, is shown below. The pK_a value for the carboxyl group is 3.68, whilst the pK_b value for the amine group is 3.30. gabapentin ОH NH_2 Explain whether gabapentin can reasonably be described as an amino acid. Gabapentin has both an amine and a carboxylic acid functional group, so it is an amino acid. It is not an α -amino acid (like those found in proteins) as the amino group is not attached to the carbon next to the COOH group. Orally-delivered pharmaceutical agents that contain amine functional groups are often prepared as hydrochloride salts, rather than as free amines. Suggest a reason why gabapentin is not delivered as a hydrochloride salt, illustrating your answer with a suitable diagram. Salt formulations are mainly used to prevent oxidation of the free amine group. The amine group is converted to a quaternary ammonium salt which is more stable. However, gabapentin already exists in a zwitterionic form at normal pH, with the amine group protonated to form the more stable quaternary ammonium ion. Θ Ò OH Ð NH_2 NH₃ ANSWER CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Gabapentin was originally synthesised as it was anticipated that it would bind to the same receptors as the neurotransmitter GABA (4-aminobutanoic acid). Draw the structure of GABA. Suggest a reason why it might have been anticipated that gabapentin would interact with GABA receptors, and what form such interactions might take.



GABA (4-aminobutanoic acid).

Both GABA and gabapentin have the same basic features - a four carbon chain with a terminal NH_2 and a terminal COOH group. These functional groups are likely to be involved in receptor binding through interactions such as H-bonding.

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ANSWER CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

100.0 mg of quinine corresponds to:

number of moles =
$$\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{molar mass}} = \frac{100.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g}}{324.41 \text{ g mol}^{-1}} = 3.083 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}$$

160.0 mg of the salt product corresponds to:

number of moles =
$$\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{molar mass}} = \frac{160.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g}}{520.57 \text{ g mol}^{-1}} = 3.074 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}$$

160.0 mg of the ester product corresponds to:

number of moles =
$$\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{molar mass}} = \frac{160.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g}}{502.56 \text{ g mol}^{-1}} = 3.184 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}$$

As the dosages are the same, it must be the salt which is being administered.

Suggest two reasons why it might be important to know whether quinine gluconate is a salt or an ester.

- So that the correct dosage can be delivered.
- The ester form may need to be given orally to allow it to hydrolyse (to give the free quinine) in the digestive tract.

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THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS FOR ROUGH WORKING ONLY.

Marks • Insulin is an important hormone involved in the regulation of glucose availability in 4 the body. It consists of two peptide chains, one consisting of 21 amino acids (the "A" chain) and one of 30 amino acids (the "B" chain). Below are two representations of insulin, one showing the amino acid sequence and the other a stylised ribbon diagram. N terminus of chain A Ile Val Gļu Gln-Cys Asn Gln N terminus of chain B Thr-Tyr-Phe-Phe-Gly Define the terms *primary structure*, secondary structure and tertiary structure in relation to proteins. Illustrate your answer with appropriate diagram(s) and by making reference to the representations shown above. The primary structure is the order of sequence of the amino acids in the chain. The amino acids are linked with covalent bonds, specifically by the formation of amide functional groups. (Shown in structure on left.) The secondary structure refers to the way segments of the peptide chain orient themselves into regular patterns such as α -helices and/or β -pleated sheets because of H-bonding. The structure on the right shows some α -helices connected together by sections of amino acid chains with neither of these structures. There are no β -pleated sheets in insulin. The tertiary structure refers to the way the entire protein coils into a 3dimensional structure. This is due to disulfide bridges between cysteine (cys) residues, hydrophilic interactions between the protein and solvent (water) and dispersion forces between separate hydrophobic parts of the protein. The positions of the two disulfide bridges is clearly shown in the structure on the left.

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The basic 3D shape of the protein is shown in the ribbon diagram.

The peptide links in a protein chain are said to be *resonance stabilised*. Use a diagram to explain what is meant by this term, and indicate one important consequence relating to protein structure and one important consequence relating to the chemistry of proteins.

Resonance occurs when two or more Lewis structures can be drawn for the same compound. In such cases, the true structure is none of those drawn, but rather a weighted average of all of them.



The amide functional group has two major resonance contributors as shown. As a consequence of resonance, the peptide bond is rigid, planar and strong.

Consequence for structure: This rigidity and the charge on the oxygen are ideal for the formation of α -helices and β -pleated sheets via H-bonding.

Consequence for chemistry: The involvement of the N lone pair in resonance, means that the N is unavailable for protonation and is non-basic. The peptide bond is therefore relatively inert.

Modern medicine now uses insulin analogues (where one or more of the amino acid residues has been changed) in the treatment of diabetes. In one such analogue, glargine insulin, the changes have increased the isoelectric point of the enzyme from 5.4 to 6.7, thereby reducing its solubility at physiological pH. Explain how changes in the primary amino acid sequence can alter the pI and solubility of the analogue without altering its interaction with blood-glucose.

Changing surface amino acids (for example by changing charged groups to uncharged or polar groups to non-polar) alters the pI and hence the solubility of the protein.

As long as the residues changed are not near the active site and do not change its shape, the mode of action of the enzyme is not affected.