## Assessment Schedule - 2023

## Chemistry: Demonstrate understanding of equilibrium principles in aqueous systems (91392)

## Evidence Statement

| Q | Evidence | Achievement | Merit | Excellence |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { ONE } \\ & \text { (a)(i) } \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{OH})_{2} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{~Pb}^{2+}+2 \mathrm{OH}^{-}$ | - Correct equilibrium equation and $K_{\mathrm{s}}$ expression. |  |  |
| (ii) | $K_{\mathrm{s}}=\left[\mathrm{Pb}^{2+}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]^{2}$ |  |  |  |
| (iii) | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]=10^{-9.55}} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]=\frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{10^{-9.55}}=3.55 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}} \\ & 8 \times 10^{-17}=\left[\mathrm{Pb}^{2+}\right] \times\left(3.55 \times 10^{-5}\right)^{2} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{~Pb}^{2+}\right]=6.35 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}=\text { solubility }} \end{aligned}$ | - Substitutes into $K_{\mathrm{s}}$ expression. <br> OR <br> Correct [ $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$]. | - Correct process for determining solubility with one minor error. | - Correct solubility, including units and 2-4 significant figures. <br> AND |
| (iv) | When the pH is decreased, $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$increases. The $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$removes $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$from the equilibrium and neutralises it according to the following equation: $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}+\mathrm{OH}^{-} \rightarrow 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ <br> Since $\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]$decreases, the equilibrium will speed up the rate of the forward reaction to replace some of the $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$. As a result, more solid $\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$ will dissolve, so solubility increases. | - Recognises that a decrease in pH will increase $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$. | - Explains that a decrease in $\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]$due to reaction with $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$will favour formation of more $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$in solution / favour forward reaction. | Fully explains, using equilibrium principles, the effect of decreasing the pH on the solubility of $\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$ (replacing the removed hydroxide ions idea), including equation. |



| NØ | N1 | $\mathbf{N 2}$ | $\mathbf{A 3}$ | A4 | M5 | M6 | E7 | E8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No response; <br> no relevant evidence. | 1 a | 2 a | 3 a | 4 a | 3 m | 4 m | 2 e <br> But allow minor error $/$ <br> omission in one part. | 2 e |


| Q | Evidence | Achievement | Merit | Excellence |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { TWO } \\ & \text { (a)(i) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}\right]=\frac{50}{85} \times 0.211=0.124 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{HCO}_{3}^{-}\right]=\frac{35}{85} \times 0.861=0.355 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}} \\ & \mathrm{HCO}_{3}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+} \\ & K_{\mathrm{a}}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{HCO}^{3-}\right]} \\ & 10^{-10.3}=\frac{0.124 \times\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]}{0.355} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]=1.43 \times 10^{-10}, \mathrm{pH}=9.84} \end{aligned}$ | - Calculates $\left[\mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}\right]$ or $\left[\mathrm{HCO}_{3}{ }^{-}\right]$ OR <br> Substitutes correctly into $K_{\mathrm{a}}$ expression or the HendersonHasselbalch equation. | - Correct process for calculating pH of buffer solution with one minor error, e.g., error in one of the dilutions. | - Correctly calculates pH of buffer solution (2-4 significant figures). |
| (ii) | The solution will act as an effective buffer over a pH range 9.3-11.3 ( $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}} \pm 1$ ). The solution made by the student has a pH of 8.50 which does not fall within this pH range. | - Recognises why the solution will not act effectively as a buffer. |  | AND |
| (iii) | For the solution to function as a buffer equally effective at neutralising added strong acid or base, the ratio of $\mathrm{HCO}_{3}{ }^{-}: \mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}$ needs to be a $1: 1$ ratio. At this ratio, the pH of the buffer solution will be equal to the $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ of 10.3 . Since the pH of 8.50 is lower than 10.3 , some strong base (e.g. NaOH ) needs to be added until the pH reaches 10.3. | - Identifies that carbonate ions / (strong) base needs to be added. OR Identifies pH of 10.3 or ratio of 1:1 required. | - Explains how the solution can be altered by adding more base with reference to either the ratio of $\mathrm{HCO}_{3}^{-}$: $\mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}$ OR pH 10.3. | - Elaborates on how the solution needs to be altered to produce a buffer equally effective at neutralising both added acid or base. Must mention adding carbonate ions or a strong base like NaOH to increase pH . Need to refer to BOTH 1:1 ratio and pH of $10.3\left(\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}\right)$. |


| (b)(i) <br> (ii) | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{C l}^{-}>\mathbf{N H}_{4}{ }^{+}>\mathrm{NH}_{3}=\mathbf{H}_{3} \mathbf{O}^{+}>\mathrm{OH}^{-} \\ & \mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{NH}_{3}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+} \\ & K_{\mathrm{a}}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}\right]} \\ & 5.75 \times 10^{-10}=\frac{\left(10^{-5.25}\right)^{2}}{\left[\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}\right]} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}\right]=0.0550 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}} \\ & \mathrm{n}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}\right)=0.0550 \times 0.500=0.0275 \mathrm{~mol} \\ & \mathrm{~m}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}\right)=0.0275 \times 53.5=1.47 \mathrm{~g} \end{aligned}$ | - All three boxes correct. <br> - Correct $\left[\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}\right]$. | - Correct mass of $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$, including unit and significant figures $(2-4)$. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (iii) | $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ is an acidic salt and completely dissociates to form high $\left[\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}\right]$and $\left[\mathrm{Cl}^{-}\right]$. As a result, $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ has a high [ions] and is therefore a good electrical conductor. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl} \rightarrow \mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}+\mathrm{Cl}^{-}$ <br> The $\mathrm{NH}_{4}{ }^{+}$ion is only a weak acid and therefore partially dissociates to form a relatively low $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$. (Since $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]>\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]$, the pH is still less than 7 , but not as low as for a strong acid.) $\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{NH}_{3}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$ <br> HBr is a strong acid and completely dissociates to form high $\left[\mathrm{Br}^{-}\right]$and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$. $\mathrm{HBr}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightarrow \mathrm{Br}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$ <br> As a result, HBr has a high [ions], and is therefore a good electrical conductor. Furthermore, since HBr completely dissociates, it produces a higher $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$ than $\mathrm{NH}_{4}{ }^{+}$, and therefore has a lower pH . | - Recognises a solution requires mobile ions for electrical conductivity. <br> OR pH is dependent on $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$. | - Links electrical conductivity to degree of dissociation and high [ions] for BOTH solutions. <br> - Links pH to the degree of dissociation and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]$for BOTH solutions. | - Fully compares the pH and electrical conductivity of BOTH solutions, including relevant equations (at least two correct as shown in schedule). |


| NØ | N1 | N2 | A3 | A4 | M5 | M6 | E7 | E8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No response; <br> no relevant evidence. | 1 a | 2 a | 3 a | 4 a | 3 m | 4 m | 2e, but allow minor <br> error $/$ omission in one <br> part. | 2 e |


| Q | Evidence | Achievement | Merit | Excellence |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| THREE <br> (a) | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{HCOOH}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{HCOO}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+} \\ & K_{\mathrm{a}}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{HCOO}^{-}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{HCOOH}^{+}\right]} \\ & 1.82 \times 10^{-4}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]^{2}}{0.119} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]=4.65 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}} \\ & \mathrm{pH}=-\log 4.65 \times 10^{-3}=2.33 \end{aligned}$ | - Correct process for calculating pH of HCOOH solution (correct substitution). | - Correctly calculates pH of HCOOH solution (2-4 significant figures). |  |
| (b)(i) | Approximate pH range: 8.0-8.4 <br> For this solution: $\begin{equation*} \mathrm{HCOO}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{HCOOH}+\mathrm{OH}^{-} \tag{ii} \end{equation*}$ <br> For this solution: $[\mathrm{HCOOH}]=\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]=\frac{K_{\mathrm{w}}}{\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]}$ <br> Using $K_{\mathrm{a}}$ to calculate pH : $\begin{aligned} & K_{\mathrm{a}}=\frac{\left[\mathrm{HCOO}^{-}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]}{[\mathrm{HCOOH}]} \\ & 1.82 \times 10^{-4}=\frac{\left(0.119 \times \frac{15}{35}\right) \times\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]^{2}}{10^{-14}} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]=5.97 \times 10^{-9} \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}} \\ & \mathrm{pH}=8.22 \end{aligned}$ | - Estimate of pH falls within expected range (don't accept a range from candidates). <br> - Correct process to calculate pH (cannot use $[\mathrm{KOH}]$ in calculation). Looking for correct substitution. | - Calculates pH at the equivalence point (allow error in dilution; pH of 8.41 if uses undiluted concentration). | - Calculates the pH at the equivalence point (accepts 2-4 significant figures). <br> AND <br> Explains how to choose a suitable indicator (should relate to the approximate $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ of the indicator). |


| (iii) | A suitable indicator would need to change colour in the vertical section of the curve which stretches from a pH of approximately 6 10. The $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ of the indicator would ideally need to be close to the equivalence point pH , since the pH range over which the indicator will change colour is equal to the $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}} \pm 1$. This would mean the indicator would definitely change colour in the pH range $6-10$. | - Recognises the indicator needs to change colour in the vertical section of the curve / close to the equivalence point. | - Explains the pH range over which a suitable indicator would need to change colour and relates this to its $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$. |  |
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| (c)(i) | Between $8-12 \mathrm{~mL}$, a buffer solution consisting HCOOH and HCOO is present in the conical flask. When the KOH is added, the $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$ions are neutralised by the buffer according to the equation below: $\mathrm{HCOOH}+\mathrm{OH}^{-} \rightarrow \mathrm{HCOO}^{-}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ <br> The strong base, KOH , is reacted to form a weak base, $\mathrm{HCOO}^{-}$, which has less effect on the pH . There is a small change in $[\mathrm{HCOOH}]$ : $\left[\mathrm{HCOO}^{-}\right]$, so only a small change in pH . | - Recognises a buffer solution is present between 8 and 12 mL . | - Explains how the HCOOH present in the buffer solution neutralises/reacts with/removes the added KOH . | - Fully explains why the pH does not significantly change between $8-12$ mL , including relevant equation (allow minor error in equation for E7). |
| (ii) | After 23 mL of KOH has been added: $\begin{aligned} & n(\mathrm{KOH})=c v=0.0893 \times 0.003=\mathbf{2 . 6 7 9} \times \mathbf{1 0}^{-4} \mathbf{~ m o l} \\ & c(\mathrm{KOH})=\frac{\mathrm{n}}{V}=\frac{2.679 \times 10^{-4}}{0.038} \\ & =\mathbf{7 . 0 5} \times \mathbf{1 0}^{-3} \mathbf{~ m o l ~ L} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}\right]=\frac{K_{\mathrm{w}}}{\left[\mathrm{OH}^{-}\right]}=\frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{7.05 \times 10^{-3}}} \\ & =1.42 \times 10^{-12} \\ & \mathrm{pH}=-\log 1.42 \times 10^{-12}=11.8 \end{aligned}$ | - Correctly calculates $\mathrm{n}(\mathrm{KOH})$ remaining in excess. <br> OR <br> Shows correct process to calculate diluted $[\mathrm{KOH}]$. | - Correctly calculates diluted $c(\mathrm{KOH})$. | AND <br> Correctly calculates pH (2-4 significant figures) after 23 mL has been added. |


| NØ | N1 | $\mathbf{N 2}$ | $\mathbf{A 3}$ | $\mathbf{A 4}$ | M5 | M6 | E7 | E8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No response; <br> no relevant evidence. | 1 a | 2 a | 3 a | 4 a | 3 m | 4 m | 2 e, but allow minor <br> error $/$ omission in one <br> part. | 2 e |

## Cut Scores

| Not Achieved | Achievement | Achievement with Merit | Achievement with Excellence |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0-8 | 9-13 | 14-18 | 19-24 |

