

10.1 Group 2 metals, magnesium to barium

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS thermal stability

• thermal decomposition

• solubility

• group • oxide

Objective

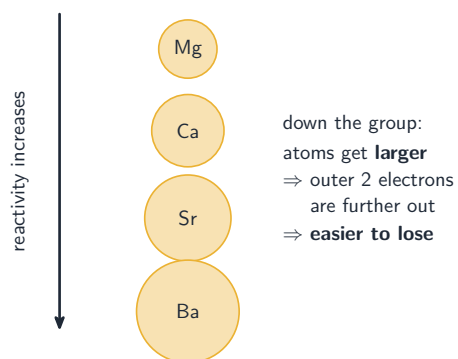
Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **Group 2 metals** – their reactions, **thermal decomposition** and **thermal stability**, and **solubility** trends.

You must be able to:

- write equations for the reactions with oxygen, water and dilute acids
- describe the thermal decomposition of the carbonates and nitrates and the stability trend
- state the solubility trends of the hydroxides and sulfates

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

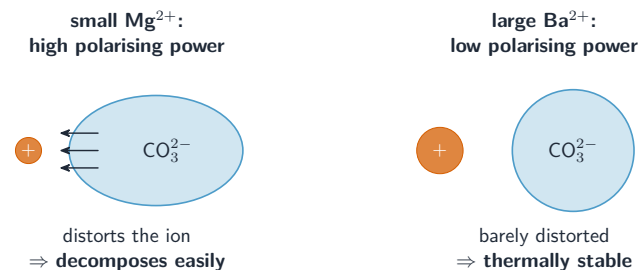
■ Reactivity and reactions



Reactivity increases down Group 2: larger atoms lose their two outer electrons more easily

- **oxygen:** $2\text{Mg} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{MgO}$.
- **water:** $\text{Ca} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 + \text{H}_2$ (faster down the group).
- **acid:** $\text{Mg} + 2\text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{MgCl}_2 + \text{H}_2$.

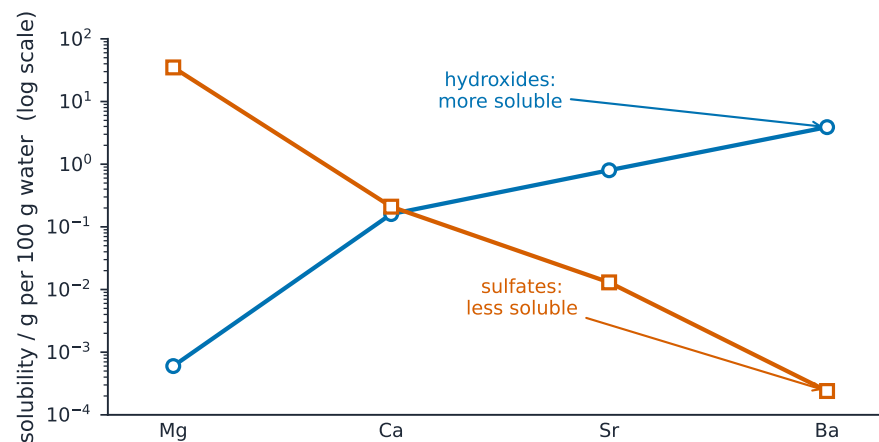
■ Thermal decomposition and stability



A small cation polarises the carbonate more, weakening it – so stability rises down the group

Carbonates $\rightarrow$ oxide + CO_2 ($\text{CaCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2$); nitrates $\rightarrow$ oxide + NO_2 + O_2 .
Thermal stability increases down the group (a larger ion polarises less).

■ Solubility



Group 2: OH^- sol. $\uparrow$ down • SO_4^{2-} sol. $\downarrow$ down

Down Group 2: hydroxides become more soluble; sulfates become less soluble

2 Practice

2.1 Write the equation for the reaction of calcium with water. [1]

2.2 State the trend in reactivity down Group 2 and why. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which carbonate is the **most** thermally stable? [1]

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A MgCO_3

B CaCO_3

C SrCO_3

D BaCO_3

3.2 Down Group 2, the solubility of the sulfates: [1]

☐

A increases

B decreases

C stays the same

D first rises then falls

3.3 (a) Write the equation for the thermal decomposition of calcium nitrate. [2]

(b) Explain why barium carbonate is more thermally stable than magnesium carbonate.[3]

3.4 Describe and explain the trend in reactivity of the Group 2 metals with water. [2]
