

Past-paper walk-through

Periodic Trends ■ 1.7

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2026 Q1
- 2025 Q1
- 2024 Q3
- 2023 Q1
- 2023 Q6
- 2022 Q3
- 2021 Q2
- 2019 Q2
- 2018 Q3
- 2016 Q1

Questions in this set

- 2014 Q5

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

A student performs a calorimetry experiment with KCl.

(a)(i) Consider the K^+ ion in KCl.

****Write**** the complete ground-state electron configuration for the potassium ion, K^+ .

(a)(ii) Which has the larger radius, the K^+ ion or the K atom? ****Explain**** your reasoning using principles of atomic structure.

Question 1

Mass of water	97.5 g
Mass of KCl (<i>s</i>)	6.80 g
Initial temperature of water	24.5°C
Final temperature of solution	21.1°C

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

A student performs a calorimetry experiment with KCl.

(b) The following information applies to parts B, C, D, and E.

A student performs an experiment to determine the enthalpy of solution, ΔH_{soln} , of KCl. The student places water in a calorimeter, measures the initial temperature, adds KCl(s), and stirs until the KCl dissolves completely. The temperature is continuously monitored during the experiment. Data from the experiment are given in the following table.

Quantity	Value	— —	Mass of water	97.5 g		Mass of KCl (s)	6.80 g	
Initial temperature of water	24.5°C		Final temperature of solution	21.1°C				

****Describe**** how the student can use the temperature readings during the experiment to determine when the dissolution is complete.

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

A student performs a calorimetry experiment with KCl.

(c)(i) Use the data in the table to do the following.

****Calculate**** the magnitude of the thermal energy, q , in joules, transferred during the dissolution. Show the work that leads to your answer. (Assume that the solution has a specific heat capacity of $3.95 \text{ J}/(\text{g} \cdot ^\circ\text{C})$.)

(c)(ii) ****Calculate**** the value of the molar enthalpy of solution, ΔH_{soln} , in kJ/mol , for KCl given that 0.0912 mol of KCl dissolved. Show the work that leads to your answer. Include the sign with your answer.

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

A student performs a calorimetry experiment with KCl.

(d) The calorimeter is not perfectly insulated. Would this cause the magnitude of ΔH_{soln} calculated in part C (ii) to be greater than, less than, or equal to the accepted value? ****Justify**** your answer.

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

A student performs a calorimetry experiment with KCl.

(e) The student performs a second experiment using the same mass of water but 6.80 g of RbCl(s) instead of 6.80 g of KCl(s). The magnitude of the molar enthalpy of solution, ΔH_{soln} , of RbCl is approximately equal to that of KCl.

Is the magnitude of ΔT in the RbCl experiment greater than, less than, or equal to that in the KCl experiment? ****Justify**** your answer. (Assume that the specific heat capacities of the solutions are equal.)

Question 1

2026 ■ Q1

A student performs a calorimetry experiment with KCl.

(f)(i) RbCl has a K_{sp} of 57 at 20°C.

****Write**** the net ionic equation for the dissolution of RbCl in pure water.

(f)(ii) ****Calculate**** the molar solubility of RbCl in a saturated solution at 20°C.

Show the work that leads to your answer.

(f)(iii) A second saturated solution is prepared by dissolving RbCl(s) in 1.0 M KCl(aq) at 20°C instead of in pure water. Will the molar solubility of RbCl in 1.0 M KCl(aq) be greater than, less than, or equal to the molar solubility calculated in part F (ii)?

****Justify**** your answer.

Question 1

2025 ■ Q1

Answer the following questions about magnesium.

(a) An incomplete mass spectrum for magnesium is shown in the diagram.

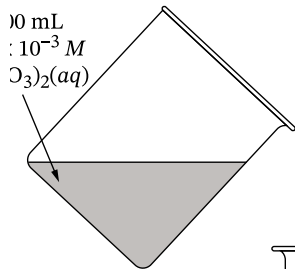
[Bar graph titled “Relative Abundance” vs. “Mass (amu)”]; y-axis from 0 to 100 in increments of 20; x-axis shows tick marks at 24, 25, 26; a single thick vertical bar is drawn at mass 24 reaching a relative abundance of about 79.]

The percent abundance of magnesium-24 is 79%. The percent abundances of the other two natural isotopes of magnesium, magnesium-25 and magnesium-26, are approximately equal.

(a)(i) Complete the mass spectrum in part A by drawing thick lines in the appropriate locations to represent the percent abundance of magnesium-25 and magnesium-26.

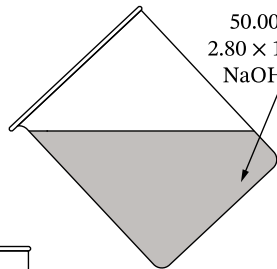
(a)(ii) Describe the difference in atomic structure that accounts for the difference in mass between magnesium-25 and magnesium-26.

Question 1



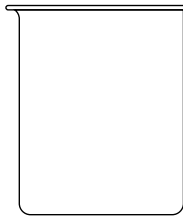
10.0 mL
 $1.0 \times 10^{-3} M$
 $\text{Co}_3(\text{OH})_2(aq)$

Beaker 1

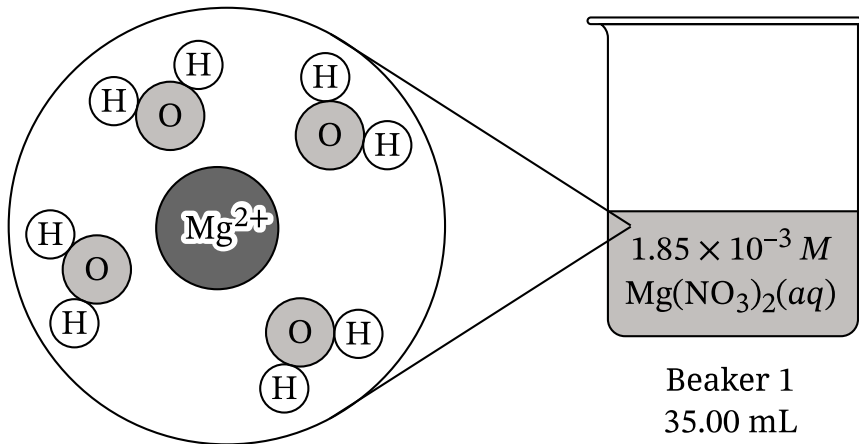


50.00 mL
 $2.80 \times 10^{-4} M$
 $\text{NaOH}(aq)$

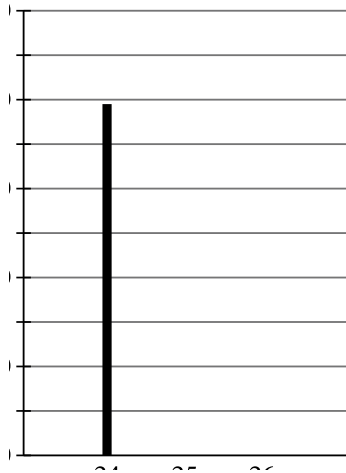
Beaker 2



Question 1



Question 1



Question 1

2025 ■ Q1

Answer the following questions about magnesium.

(b) A student prepares a $1.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ solution of $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{aq})$ in beaker 1 and a $2.80 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ solution of $\text{NaOH}(\text{aq})$ in beaker 2, as shown.

[Particle diagram: a magnesium ion, Mg^{2+} , at the center surrounded by six water molecules (H_2O), each oriented with its oxygen atom pointing toward the central Mg^{2+} ion and its two hydrogen atoms pointing outward.]

[Beaker 1: labeled " $1.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{aq})$ ", "Beaker 1", "35.00 mL".]

[Beaker 2: labeled " $2.80 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M NaOH}(\text{aq})$ ", "Beaker 2", "50.00 mL".]

The particle diagram shown represents a magnesium ion, Mg^{2+} , in beaker 1. A sodium ion, Na^+ , in beaker 2 has a weaker attraction to water than the Mg^{2+} does. Explain this phenomenon using Coulomb's law and each of the following.

(b)(i) The relative charge of the ions

Question 1

(b)(ii) The relative radii of the ions

Question 1

2025 ■ Q1

Answer the following questions about magnesium.

(c) Calculate the pH of the solution in beaker 2.

Question 1

2025 ■ Q1

Answer the following questions about magnesium.

(d) A student combines 35.00 mL of $1.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M Mg(NO}_3)_2(aq)$ with 50.00 mL of $2.80 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M NaOH}(aq)$, as shown in the diagram. Calculate $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ after the two solutions are combined but before any reaction takes place. (Assume that volumes are additive.)

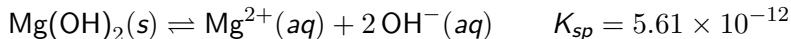
[Diagram of two conical/Erlenmeyer flasks being poured into an empty Beaker 3. Left flask: "35.00 mL", " $1.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ ", " $\text{Mg(NO}_3)_2(aq)$ ", labeled "Beaker 1". Right flask: "50.00 mL", " $2.80 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ", " $\text{NaOH}(aq)$ ", labeled "Beaker 2". Both flasks have an arrow pointing down into the empty "Beaker 3" between them.]

Question 1

2025 ■ Q1

Answer the following questions about magnesium.

(e) The dissolution of magnesium hydroxide is represented by the following equation.



(e)(i) Write the expression for the solubility product constant, K_{sp} .

(e)(ii) After the two solutions are combined in beaker 3 as described in part D, but before any reaction takes place, $[\text{OH}^{-}] = 1.65 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$. Using your answer to part D, calculate the value of the reaction quotient, Q .

(e)(iii) Using the reaction quotient, Q , predict whether a precipitate should form as the mixture in beaker 3 approaches equilibrium. Justify your answer.

Question 1

2025 ■ Q1

Answer the following questions about magnesium.

(f) In a separate experiment, the student adds $\text{HNO}_3(aq)$ to decrease the pH of a saturated solution containing undissolved $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2(s)$. Does the amount of undissolved $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2(s)$ increase, decrease, or remain the same as the $\text{HNO}_3(aq)$ is added? Justify your answer.

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- No separate response required — this is the context/stem describing the incomplete mass spectrum (magnesium-24 at 79% abundance) that parts (i) and (ii) below refer to.

(a)(i)

Mark scheme

- Draw two vertical bars at masses 25 and 26, each reaching a relative abundance of approximately 10 to 11 (since Mg-25 and Mg-26 together make up the remaining ~21% and are approximately equal, so roughly 10–11% each).

Solution 1

(a)(ii)

Mark scheme

- Magnesium-26 has one more neutron than magnesium-25 does (Mg-25 has 13 neutrons, Mg-26 has 14 neutrons; both isotopes have 12 protons, since they are the same element).

Solution 1

(b)

Mark scheme

- No separate response required — this is the context/stem introducing the $1.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M Mg(NO}_3)_2(\text{aq})$ and $2.80 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M NaOH(aq)}$ solutions (with a particle diagram of hydrated Mg^{2+}) that parts (i) and (ii) below refer to.

(b)(i)

Mark scheme

- The charge on the sodium ion (Na^+ , +1) is less than the charge on the magnesium ion (Mg^{2+} , +2). A smaller charge results in a weaker Coulombic attraction between Na^+ and water.

Solution 1

(b)(ii)

Mark scheme

- The Na^+ ion is larger (has a greater ionic radius) than the Mg^{2+} ion, so the distance between Na^+ and the oxygen atom of the water molecule will be greater. As distance increases, Coulombic attraction decreases, so Na^+ is less strongly attracted to water than Mg^{2+} .

Solution 1

(c)

Mark scheme

■ $\text{pOH} = -\log(2.80 \times 10^{-4}) = 3.553$. $\text{pH} = 14 - \text{pOH} = 14 - 3.553 = 10.447$.

Solution 1

(d)

Mark scheme

- Using $M_1 V_1 = M_2 V_2$: $M_2 = \frac{(1.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M})(0.03500 \text{ L})}{0.03500 \text{ L} + 0.05000 \text{ L}} = 7.62 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$.
So $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ after combining but before reaction is $7.62 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$.

Solution 1

(e)

Mark scheme

- No separate response required — this is the context/stem giving the $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolution equilibrium and $K_{sp} = 5.61 \times 10^{-12}$ that parts (i)–(iii) below refer to.

(e)(i)

Mark scheme

- $K_{sp} = [\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$.

Solution 1

(e)(ii)

Mark scheme

- Using $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = 7.62 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ (from part D) and $[\text{OH}^-] = 1.65 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ (given): $Q = [\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2 = (7.62 \times 10^{-4})(1.65 \times 10^{-4})^2 = 2.07 \times 10^{-11}$.

(e)(iii)

Mark scheme

- $Q (2.07 \times 10^{-11}) > K_{sp} (5.61 \times 10^{-12})$, so a precipitate should form.
Equivalently: the concentration of ions in solution (represented by Q) is greater than that of a saturated solution, so a precipitate will form.

Solution 1

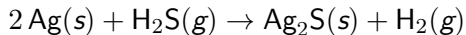
(f)

Mark scheme

- The amount of undissolved $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2(\text{s})$ will decrease. The H^+ from $\text{HNO}_3(\text{aq})$ reacts with OH^- , decreasing $[\text{OH}^-]$ and causing $Q < K_{\text{sp}}$. As a result, more $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2(\text{s})$ will dissolve until equilibrium is reestablished, resulting in less undissolved $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2(\text{s})$.

Question 3

2024 ■ Q3



3. Sterling silver is an alloy that is commonly used to make jewelry and consists of 92.5

(a) What are the oxidation numbers of silver in $\text{Ag}(s)$ and $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}(s)$?

$\text{Ag}(s)$ $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}(s)$