6.3 Reversible reactions and equilibrium

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS equilibrium • reverse reaction • reversible reaction • contact • haber

Objective

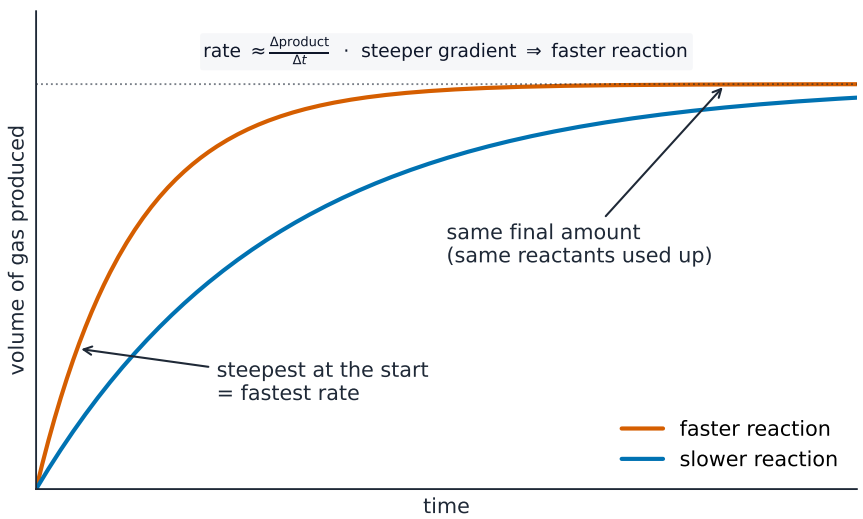
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **reversible reactions and equilibrium** – the ⇌ symbol, **equilibrium**, moving the position, and the **Haber** and **Contact** processes.

You must be able to:

- describe a reversible reaction (e.g. hydrated/anhydrous salts)
- state the conditions for equilibrium in a closed system
- predict how temperature/pressure/concentration shift the equilibrium

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Equilibrium and the Haber process



At equilibrium the forward and reverse rates are equal and concentrations stop changing

- **Haber:** $N_2 + 3H_2 \rightleftharpoons 2NH_3$; ~450 °C, ~200 atm, iron catalyst.
- **shifts:** more pressure → side with fewer gas molecules; add a substance → moves to use it up.
- a **catalyst** does **not** shift the position – only speeds up reaching equilibrium.

2 Practice

2.1 State the two conditions for a reaction at equilibrium. [2]

2.2 Give the catalyst used in the Haber process. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Adding a catalyst to a reaction at equilibrium: [1]

☐ **A** moves the equilibrium to the products
B moves it to the reactants
C does not move the position, but reaches equilibrium faster
D stops the reaction

3.2 In the Haber process $N_2(g) + 3H_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2NH_3(g)$.

(a) State the effect of increasing the pressure on the amount of ammonia. [2]

(b) Explain why a temperature of about 450 °C is used, even though a lower temperature would give more ammonia. [2]

3.3 Anhydrous copper(II) sulfate is white; adding water turns it blue. State what this is used to test for, and why this is a reversible reaction. [2]