



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2019/2020

SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (SPECIAL SCIENCE) AND
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (SCIENCE)

SCH 305: CHEMICAL KINETICS

DATE: December, 2019

TIME: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

- The paper consists of **two** sections.
- Section **A** is **compulsory** (30 marks).
- Answer any **two** questions from section **B** (each 20 marks).

Required data

- Gas constant, $R = 8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ ($0.08206 \text{ L atm K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$)
- $0^\circ\text{C} = 273.15 \text{ K}$

Section A - Compulsory.

1. a) Define the following terms as used in chemical kinetics:

- i) Molecularity of a reaction (1 mark)
- ii) Rate law of a reaction (1 mark)
- iii) Activation energy (1 mark)
- iv) Elementary reactions (1 mark)
- v) Order of a reaction (1 mark)

b) Consider the general reaction; $A + 2B \rightarrow 2C$. From the following data obtained at a certain temperature,

Exp.	[A] (M)	[B] (M)	Initial Rate (M/s)
1	0.30	0.30	0.10
2	0.30	0.60	0.40
3	0.60	0.30	0.20

Determine the:

- i) Rate law for the reaction (4 marks)
- ii) Overall order of the reaction (1 mark)
- iii) Rate constant (2 marks)

c) Given the data below;

T (K)	625	635	645
K (s^{-1})	1.1×10^{-4}	1.5×10^{-4}	2.0×10^{-4}

- i) Determine the activation energy of the reaction. (4 marks)
- ii) Calculate the rate constant for the reaction at 327 °C. (2 marks)

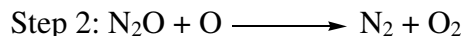
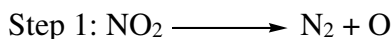
d) A certain compound (A) decomposes at a certain temperature in the gas phase as follows:

$A_{(g)} \rightarrow B_{(g)} + C_{(g)}$. The following data was obtained.

Time (min)	0	15	30	48	75
[A] (M)	0.36	0.30	0.25	0.19	0.13

- i) Determine if the above data support a first order reaction. (5 marks)
- ii) Calculate the rate constant for the reaction. (2 marks)

e) The gas-phase decomposition of nitrous oxide (N_2O) is believed to occur in two steps:



Experimentally the rate law was found to be $\text{rate} = k[\text{N}_2\text{O}]$

- i) Write the equation for the overall reaction (3 marks)
- ii) Identify the intermediates (1 mark)
- iii) Identify the rate-determining step. Justify your answer (1 mark)

Section B

Answer any two questions

Q2. a) i) For an enzyme-catalysed reaction, show that $v = \frac{v_{\max} [\text{S}]}{K_{\text{M}} + [\text{S}]}$ where v is the rate of reaction,

$[\text{S}]$ is the substrate concentration and K_{M} is the Michaelis constant [8 marks]

ii) Explain the significance of Michaelis constant (K_{M}) (2 marks)

b) The initial rates (v_0) at various substrate concentrations for an enzyme-catalysed reaction are as follows:

$[\text{S}] / \text{M}$	2.5×10^{-5}	4×10^{-5}	6×10^{-5}	8×10^{-5}	16×10^{-5}	20×10^{-5}
$v_0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M min}^{-1}$	38.0	53.4	68.6	80.0	106.8	114.0

- i) Show that this reaction follows the Michaelis-Menten kinetics (5 marks)
- ii) Determine the $v_{\max}$ of the reaction (1 marks)
- iii) Calculate the K_{M} value of the reaction (2 marks)
- iv) Calculate the initial rates at $[\text{S}] = 5.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (2 marks)

Q3: a) i) Define a chain reaction (1 mark)

ii) Explain using the photochemical reaction between hydrogen and bromine, the essential features of a chain reaction (8 marks)

b) Explain the use of the differential method in determination of the order of a chemical reaction (6 marks)

c) Explain the steady state approximation concept (5 marks)

Q4. a) The kinetic equation for a reaction of order n in substance A is written as:

$$-\frac{d[A]}{dt} = k[A]^n. \text{ Show that the half-life, } t_{1/2}, \text{ is: } \ln t_{1/2} = \ln \left(\frac{2^{n-1} - 1}{k(n-1)} \right) - (n-1) \ln A_0$$

such that A_0 is the initial molar concentration of substance A. (8 marks)

b) Explain three factors that affect the explosion limits in branched chain reactions (6 marks)

c) Derive the kinetic equation of a second order reaction, in a single substance and show that the half-life ($t_{1/2}$) as a function of the initial reactant concentration (6 marks)

Q5. a) Explain the meaning of the following:

i) Simultaneous reactions (1 mark)

ii) Complex reactions (1 mark)

iii) Consecutive reaction (1 mark)

iv) Parallel reactions (1 mark)

v) Unimolecular reactions (1 mark)

vi) Activation energy (1 mark)

b) i) Define half-life ($t_{1/2}$) of a reaction (1 mark)

ii) Show that for a first order rate reaction, the half life ($t_{1/2}$) is independent of initial concentration. (4 marks)

c) Show that for a first order reaction kinetics; $[A] = [A]_0 e^{-kt}$ (3 marks)

d) Explain **three** factors that affect the rate of a chemical reaction (6 marks)