



Simplifying Test Prep



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### Chapter-15 Polymers Class-XII Subject-Chemistry

#### 15.1 Explain the terms polymer and monomer?

#### Answer 15.1

Polymers: They are macromolecules which are composed of repeating structural units, monomers. They have high molecular mass in the range of  $(10^3 - 10^7 u)$ . In this, various monomer units are joined by strong covalent bonds. For Example: Polythene, rubber, and nylon 6, 6.

Monomers: They are simple molecules. Because of reactive nature, they combine with each other in large numbers through covalent bonds & forms polymers. For Example: Styrene, vinyl chloride, ethane.

#### 15.2 What are natural and synthetic polymers? Give two examples of each type.

#### Answer 15.2

Natural polymers: They are found in nature & formed by plants and animals. For Example: Starch, protein, cellulose, etc.

Synthetic polymers: They are made by human beings. For example: Nylon 6, Buna – S, plastic, etc

## 15.3 Distinguish between the terms homopolymer and copolymer and give an example of each.

#### Answer 15.3

Homo-polymer	<b>Co-polymer</b>
• They are formed by the polymerization of a single	• They are formed by the polymerization of two types of monomers.



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monomer.	• For example: Buna–S is a copolymer of 1, 3-
• For example: Polythene is a	butadiene and styrene.
homo-polymer of ethene.	

#### 15.4 How do you explain the functionality of a monomer?

#### Answer 15.4

The functionality of a monomer:

It is defined by the number of binding sites which are present in a monomer.

For example:

- The functionality of propene is one.
- The functionality of adipic acid is two.

#### 15.5 Define the term polymerisation.

#### Answer 15.5

Polymerization: In this process, polymers are formed by repeated addition of monomers. Polymers are high molecular mass macromolecules. In a polymer, various monomer units are joined by strong covalent bonds.

#### 15.6 Is(-NH - CHR - CO -), a homo-polymer or co-polymer?

#### Answer 15.6

It is a homo-polymer.

It is obtained from a single monomer unit, NH<sub>2</sub>-CHR-COOH.

#### 15.7 In which classes, the polymers are classified on the basis of molecular forces?

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#### Answer 15.7

On the basis of molecular forces, polymers are classified into the following groups:

- (i) Elastomers
- (ii) Fibres
- (iii)Thermoplastic polymers
- (iv)Thermosetting polymers

#### 15.8 How can you differentiate between addition and condensation polymerisation?

#### Answer 15.8

Addition polymerization: It is the process in which polymers are formed as a result of repeated addition of monomers possessing double or triple bonds.

For example: Polythene is formed by addition polymerization of ethene.

 $n \operatorname{CH}_2 = \operatorname{CH}_2 \longrightarrow (\operatorname{CH}_2 - \operatorname{CH}_2)_n$ Ethene Polyethene

Condensation polymerization: It is the process in which polymers are formed as a result of repeated condensation reactions between two different bi-functional or tri-functional monomers. Here, small molecule such as water or hydrochloric acid is eliminated in each condensation.

For example: Nylon 6, 6





#### 15.9 Explain the term copolymerisation and give two examples.

#### Answer 15.9

Copolymerization: It is the process of forming polymers from two or more different monomers. In a copolymer, multiple units of each monomer are present.

For example: Buna-S & Nylon 6, 6





15.10 Write the free radical mechanism for the polymerisation of ethene.

**Answer 15.10** Mechanism of the polymerization of ethane:

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#### 15.11 Define thermoplastics and thermosetting polymers with two examples of each.

#### **Answer 15.11**

Thermoplastic polymers: They are

- Linear
- Slightly branched
- Long chain polymers,
- Can be repeatedly softened and hardened on heating. Hence, they can be modified again and again.
- Examples: Polythene, Polystyrene

Thermosetting polymers: They are

- Cross-linked
- Get hardened during the molding process
- These plastics cannot be softened again on heating



• For example: Bakelite, Urea-formaldehyde resins.

#### 15.12 Write the monomers used for getting the following polymers.

- (i) Polyvinyl chloride
- (ii) Teflon
- (iii)Bakelite

#### **Answer 15.12**

- (i) Vinyl chloride (CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCl)
- (ii) Tetrafluoroethylene ( $CF_2 = CF_2$ )
- (iii)Formaldehyde (HCHO) and phenol (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH)

# 15.13 Write the name and structure of one of the common initiators used in free radical addition polymerisation.

#### **Answer 15.13**

One common initiator used in free radical addition polymerization is benzoyl peroxide. Its structure is:



# 15.14 How does the presence of double bonds in rubber molecules influence their structure and reactivity?

#### **Answer 15.14**

Structure of natural rubber:

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In this structure, double bonds are present between  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  of the isoprene units.

Because of this cis-configuration, intermolecular interactions between the various strands of isoprene are quite weak. This results in the random arrangement of various strands in natural rubber. Thus, it shows elasticity.

#### 15.15 Discuss the main purpose of vulcanisation of rubber?

#### **Answer 15.15**

Natural rubber is very useful in nature. But there are some limitations:

- It is quite soft and sticky at room temperature. At temperatures (> 335 K), it becomes even softer. At low temperatures (< 283 K), it becomes brittle. In order to maintain its elasticity, it is generally used in the temperature range of 283 K-335 K.
- It is easily attacked by oxidizing agents.
- It is soluble in non-polar solvents.
- It has the capacity to absorb large amounts of water.
- It has low tensile strength and low resistance to abrasion.

Due to all these listed properties, vulcanization of natural rubber is done. It improves its all these properties. In this process, a mixture of raw rubber with sulphur and appropriate additive is heated at a temperature range between 373 K and 415 K.

#### 15.16 What are the monomeric repeating units of Nylon-6 and Nylon-6, 6?

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#### Answer 15.1

The monomeric repeating unit of nylon 6 is derived from Caprolactam. Its structure is:

$$\left[ NH - \left( CH_{2} \right)_{5} - CO \right]$$

The monomeric repeating unit of nylon 6, 6 is derived from hexamethylene diamine and adipic acid. Its structure is:

$$\left[ NH - \left( CH_{2} \right)_{6} - NH - CO - \left( CH_{2} \right)_{4} - CO \right]$$

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