

JC Science – Key Definitions

Rate of reaction

REVISE
WISE

The rate of a chemical reaction tells us how quickly a chemical reaction happens.

Collide

REVISE
WISE

The rate of reaction simply depends on how often and how hard the reacting particles collide with each other.

Concentration

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WISE

When a solution is more concentrated there are more reacting particles in the same volume.

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Surface area



Surface area is the measure of how much surface (of reactants) is exposed.

Catalyst



A catalyst makes something happen without being part of what happens.

Activation energy



Activation energy is the minimum amount of energy that reactant particles must have in order for them to react.

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Acidic

REVISE
WISE

A substance that is an acid is said to be acidic.

Basic

REVISE
WISE

A substance that is a base is said to be basic.

Alkalis

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WISE

A base that will dissolve in water.

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Neutral

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WISE

A substance that is neither acid nor base.

Litmus indicator

REVISE
WISE

Litmus indicator will change colour from blue to red in acids and from red to blue in bases (or alkalis).

Universal
indicator

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WISE

Universal indicator is a mixture of dyes that change to different colours according to how strong the acid or base is.

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pH scale



A scale that indicates the acidity or alkalinity of a substance.

Neutralisation



When an acid and a base are mixed together they neutralise each other.

Exothermic reaction



An exothermic reaction is a reaction where energy is transferred from the chemicals to the surroundings.

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Endothermic
reaction

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WISE

An endothermic reaction is where energy is absorbed by the chemicals from the surroundings.

Bond energy

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WISE

Bond energy is the energy required to break different bonds.

Mole (mol)

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WISE

A mole (symbol mol) is the unit used to measure the amount of a substance.