I. Prerequisites

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The key ideas required to understand this section are:

Торіс	Book page	
More advanced ideas about electronic structure	43	
Periodic Table	194	
Variation of properties of elements within	211	
groups and periods		

2. Hydrogen - a special case

A hydrogen atom, electron arrangement 1s¹, can achieve stability in three ways:

- (i) Forming covalent bond with non-metals, e.g., in HCl(g).
- (ii) Losing an electron to form H⁺. H⁺ has a tiny radius (0.0015 pm) and the ion has a great polarizing power. So, the free hydrogen ion does not exist in solution; it exists as H⁺(aq) or H_3O^+ .
- (iii) Gaining an electron to form the hydride ion, H⁻. This happens when hydrogen reacts with certain metals, e.g., Li. The products are ionic solids under normal conditions. 2Li (s) + H₂ (g) \rightarrow 2Li⁺H⁻ (s)

In reactions (i) and (iii) hydrogen behaves as a non-metal from Group 17, and in reaction (ii), its behaviour is more like that of a metal in Group 1. This makes it difficult to decide where to put hydrogen in the Periodic Table.

Hydrogen's position in the Periodic Table

Is your politics left or right?

Left, with Group 1? Right, with Group 17?

Group 1	
For	Against
H sometimes loses an electron.	Most H compounds are covalent
Group 17	
For	Against
H forms one covalent bond because it is one	Cl, Br, F, I form negative ions with all metals. H
electron short, like Cl	forms H^- only with electropositive metals.

Because of its unique properties, many Periodic Tables show hydrogen on its own.

Abundance of hydrogen

It is the tenth most abundant element in the Earth's crust, and a plentiful supply of the element exists in the oceans. Hydrogen is present in more compounds than any other element.

Preparation of hydrogen

(i) Passing steam over hot coke produces "water gas" heat $C(s) + H_2O(g) \rightarrow CO(g) + H_2(g)$

- (ii) The 'steam reformer process': $CH_4 + H_2O \rightarrow CO + 3H_2$
- (iii) Very pure hydrogen is obtained by electrolysis of water.
- (iv) Metals high in the 'activity series', such as magnesium, react with acids making hydrogen: $Mg(s) + 2HCl(aq) Mg^{2+}(aq), 2Cl^{-}(aq) + H_2(g)$

Properties of molecular hydrogen

- (i) The lightest gas.
- (ii) The gas burns, making water, reacts explosively with F_2 and explosively with Cl_2 in sunlight.

Apart from this it is not a particularly reactive gas, because H—H bond energy is 435.5 kJ mol⁻¹ i.e. there is a kinetic limitation to its reactions. Many commercial processes, e.g., the Haber process, involve the breaking of the H—H bond with a catalyst.

Classification of hydrides

	Ionic	Covalent	Metallic
e.g.	Na⁺H⁻	H ₂ S	ZrH _{1.9}

3. Group 13 elements – B, Al, Ga, In, Tl

These elements have three electrons in the outermost shell of their atoms (or the general electronic structure $ns^2 np^1$, where *n* is greater than one). Boron is classified as a semi-metal or metalloid because its chemical behaviour is generally that of a non-metal – characterized by covalent bonding in its compounds (see page 66). The other elements are all classified as metals, although covalency occurs in some of their compounds as well.

EXERCISE I2A

Why is covalent behaviour common in the compounds of Group 13 elements?

About the elements

Boron is a rare element in the Earth's crust. One of the most important of its ores is borax $(Na_2B_4O_7.10H_2O)$. Boron is used in the construction of high-impact resistant steel and, since it absorbs neutrons, in reactor control rods for controlling atomic reactions.

Aluminium is by far the most important element in Group 13. It is the third most abundant element in the Earth's crust. Economically, the most important ore is bauxite $(Al_2O_3.2H_2O)$ from which the metal is obtained by electrolysis of the molten ore. Bauxite is dissolved in another ore, cryolite $(Na_3[AlF_6])$ to lower the temperature of the melt. Aluminium is a reactive metal and in air reacts rapidly with oxygen. A thin oxide layer is formed which protects it from further attack by oxygen and retards reaction of the aluminium with dilute acids. Many uses of aluminium are possible because of this protective coating – for example, saucepans, vehicle bodywork, aircraft, and window frames. In order to protect the aluminium even more, it is possible to increase the thickness of the layer by an electrolytic process known as anodizing. Dyes can be used to colour the oxide layer, making the aluminium more attractive for use in domestic and personal articles.

Gallium, indium and thallium are much less common than aluminium. Gallium is used in making semiconductors, but there are no major uses for these elements.

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EXERCISE 12B

A 0.7849 g sample of elemental boron was heated in the presence of oxygen gas and gave 2.5274 g of boric oxide, B_2O_3 . Calculate the atomic mass of boron. m(O) = 15.999 u

4. Chemistry of Boron

(i) Boron forms a series of volatile hydrides (boranes) that are quite different from those of carbon and silicon. The hydride BH₃ does not exist as the monomer at room temperature – instead, it dimerizes and the simplest stable hydride is diborane, B_2H_6 , which is an inflammable and very reactive gas.



Fig. 12.1 An incorrect representation of the structure of diborane, because there are not enough valence electrons in the molecule to make this the correct structure for diborane

A satisfactory Lewis structure (see Fig. 12.1) cannot be written for B_2H_6 that is consistent with the theory of regular covalent bonds and the properties of the compound.

The structure most in keeping with the properties of diborane is one with two different kinds of hydrogen atoms. Four of the six hydrogen hydrogen atoms are involved in two-centre, two-electron bonds (i.e. 'regular' covalent bonds), but the other two bridge the boron atoms in three-centre, two-electron bonds, where the two electrons are spread out, or *delocalized* over a bridging hydrogen atom and each of the boron atoms. Boron makes use of this type of bond in many of its compounds. Many neutral boron hydrides and an even larger number of boron hydride anions have been identified. Examples include B_4H_{10} , $B_{10}H_{14}$ and $B_3H_8^-$. All these compounds contain three-centre, two-electron bonds.



Sodium borohydride, NaBH₄, is a very useful reducing agent, particularly in organic chemistry.

EXERCISE **I2C**

- (i) Draw a Lewis structure for the [BH₄]- ion.
- (ii) What is its shape?
- (iii) What is the oxidation number of the hydrogen in the complex hydride?
- (iv) What property does hydrogen have in this oxidation state?

(ii) Boron burns at 700°C, forming boron oxide, B_2O_3 . Boron oxide can be obtained as crystals, but when melted and allowed to solidify it forms a glass. A mixture of the oxide with silica, SiO₂, is used to produce heat-resistant borosilicate glass, useful for cooking utensils and in laboratory glassware. Boron oxide, an acidic oxide, dissolves in hot water to form weak boric acid, $B(OH)_3$ (can be written as H_3BO_3) which is often used as an eyewash.

(iii) Borates are salts of boric acid. Borate anions range from the trigonal planar BO_3^{3-} ion to complex species containing chains and rings of boron atoms (see Fig 12.2).



Fig. 12.2 Structures of some borates

Commercially, the most important borate is borax, or hydrated sodium tetraborate, NaB_4O_7 .10H₂O. Borax is used to soften water and make washing compounds. When heated, borax melts and forms a glass that dissolves metal oxides. Different metals form borax glasses of different colours – cobalt borax glass is blue, for example.

(iv) All covalent boron trihalides have the formula BX_3 (where X = a halogen) and they will react readily with electron-pair donors, such as ammonia (see Unit 4, page 55 in the book).

5. Chemistry of aluminium

(i) Aluminium dissolves in hydrochloric acid, evolving hydrogen:

 $AI(s) + 6HCI(aq) \rightarrow 2AICI_3(aq) + 3H_2(g)$

The ionic equation: Al(s) + 6HCl(aq) \rightarrow 2Al³⁺(aq), 6Cl⁻ (aq) + 3H₂(g)

(ii) Aluminium dissolves in dilute sodium hydroxide, forming hydrogen:

 $2AI(s) + 2NaOH(aq) + 6H_2O(I) \rightarrow 2Na[AI(OH)_4](aq) + 3H_2(g)$ sodium aluminate

The fact that aluminium reacts with both strong acids and alkalis shows that it is an amphoteric metal.

(iii) Much of the chemistry of aluminium compounds is influenced by the high charge and small radius of the aluminium ion. This makes it a polarizing cation; it will distort the electron cloud of an anion next to it. If this effect is sufficiently large, there is an effective electron density between the aluminium ion and its neighbouring anion which constitutes partial covalent bonding.

EXERCISE **I2D**

Will Ga³⁺ have a greater or smaller polarizing effect than Al³⁺? Explain.

The influence on polarization on bonding, structure and properties is illustrated by the aluminium halides (see Table 12.1).

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	Aluminium fluoride, AIF ₃	Aluminium chloride, AlCl ₃	Aluminium bromide, Al ₂ Br ₆
Bonding	lonic	Depends on its phase	Covalent, even in the solid state
Structure	Al ³⁺ F Al^{3+} F Al^{3+} Al ³⁺ F Al^{3+} F Al^{3+} Al^{3+} Al^{3+} F Al^{3+} Al^{3+} Al ³⁺ F Al^{3+} F	The solid shows ionic bonding (close packed Cl- ions with Al ³⁺ ions in the octahedral holes) but the compound in the vapour phase consists of Al ₂ Cl ₆ dimers (see the structure of Al ₂ Br ₆ opposite).	Br Al Br Br Br Br Al Br Br Br Br The outer shell of each Al atom is completed by a coordinate (or dative) bond from a Br atom in another AlBr ₃ unit. A simple Al ₂ Br ₆ molecule is formed (a dimer)
melting point	1291°C	sublimes at 178°C	98°C

(iv) Aluminium oxide is normally regarded as containing AI^{3+} and O^{2-} ions. However, the oxide ions are polarized by the aluminium ions, giving it a large amount of degree of covalent character. The bonding in aluminium oxide is very strong. It is insoluble in water and has a very high melting point; the intermediate nature of its bonding is also shown in its amphoteric character.

EXERCISE 12E

Write equations for the reaction of aluminium oxide with

- (i) dilute sulfuric acid
- (ii) dilute sodium hydroxide solution

(v) Lithium aluminium hydride (or lithium tetrahydridoaluminate), Li[AlH₄] is a useful reducing agent, especially in organic chemistry, as it reduces carbonyl compounds to alcohols. It reacts violently with water, so it is absolutely necessary to use dry organic solvents. Lithium aluminium hydride is ionic (Li⁺ [AlH₄]⁻) and the anion is tetrahedral.

6. Gallium, indium and thallium

(i) They form oxides when heated in oxygen gas:

 $4M(s) + 3O_2(g) \rightarrow 2M_2O_3(s)$

(ii) The oxides become increasingly basic as the group is descended, owing to the increasing metallic character of the element. So Ga_2O_3 is classified as amphoteric, In_2O_3 as weakly basic, and Tl_2O_3 as a basic oxide.

(iii) The oxidation number of +1 becomes more stable as compared with +3 (the inert pair effect), as the group is descended. Thallium (I) compounds are very similar to those of the alkali metals – for example, both the hydroxide, TIOH, and carbonate, Tl_2CO_3 , are soluble.

(iv) They dissolve in dilute acids, with the production of hydrogen (gallium metal is amphoteric and also reacts with sodium hydroxide solution):

$$2M(s) + 6HCl(aq) \rightarrow 2M^{3+}(aq), 6Cl \cdot (aq) + 3H_2(g) (M = Ga, In)$$

Thallium dissolves slowly in hydrochloric acid, since the TICI formed is only sparingly soluble.

(v) TI^+ is very toxic. It can enter cells, take the place of the K^+ ion and interfere with enzyme processes.

7. Group 15 elements - N, P, As, Sb, Bi

These elements have five electrons in the outermost shell of their atoms (or the general electronic structure ns2 np3, where n is greater than one).

There is a gradation of chemical and physical properties from nitrogen, the lightest element (a nonmetal), through arsenic and antimony to bismuth, which is a silvery metal. All the elements in Group 15 have compounds in which they exist in oxidation states +3 and +5. The stability of the +3 oxidation state is greatest for bismuth (the inert pair effect again!).

8. Chemistry of nitrogen

The element nitrogen exists in the atmosphere (78% by volume) as the very stable diatomic dinitrogen molecule, N_2 . The element is relatively unreactive; however, it reacts with H_2 at high temperatures, pressures and in the presence of a catalyst to form ammonia, NH_3 (see the Haber Process on page 118). In nature, bacteria can convert dinitrogen to ammoniun and nitrate products (the nitrogen cycle, page 117). Some very reactive metals react directly with nitrogen – magnesium burns in air to form the nitride as well as forming magnesium oxide:

 $3Mg(s) + N_2(g) \rightarrow Mg_3N_2(s)$

EXERCISE **I2F**

Draw a Lewis structure of the dinitrogen molecule, N2. Why do you think it is so unreactive?

Oxides of nitrogen

Nitrogen forms a number of oxides, where the element exists in a range of oxidation states.

Name	Formula	Oxidation state	Type of oxide	Preparation
Dinitrogen oxide (nitrous oxide or laughing gas)	N ₂ O	+1	neutral	Heat ammonium nitrate: $NH_4NO_3(S) \rightarrow N_2O(g) + 2H_2O(I)$
Nitrogen monoxide (nitric oxide)	NO	+2	neutral	Oxidation of ammonia (Pt catalyst): $4NH_3(g) + 5O_2(g) \rightarrow 4NO(g) + 6H_2O(I)$
Dinitrogen trioxide	N ₂ O ₃	+3	acidic	Formed from NO and NO ₂ at low temperatures; a blue liquid
Nitrogen dioxide (a	NO ₂	+4	acidic	Oxidation of NO: 2NO(g) + O ₂ (g) \rightarrow 2NO ₂ (g)

reddish				
Dinitrogen tetroxide	N ₂ O ₄	+4	acidic	The following equilibrium exists: $2NO_2(g) \leftrightarrow N_2O_4(g)$ brown colourless At high temperatures, NO ₂ predominates
Dinitrogen pentoxide	N ₂ O ₅	+5	acidic	A colourless solid, formed by dehydration of nitric acid: $2HNO_3(aq) \rightarrow N_2O_5(s) + H_2O(l)$

Nitrous acid

Nitrous acid, HNO_2 , is a weak, unstable acid. It can be prepared by mixing sodium nitrite with dilute hydrochloric acid at 0°C:

 $NaNO_2(aq) + HCl(aq) \rightarrow HNO_2(aq) + NaCl(aq)$

Nitrous acid is used in making organic diazonium compounds, these are widely used in synthesis.

Nitric acid

Pure nitric acid, HNO₃, is a colourless liquid which is a very powerful oxidizing agent. Concentrated nitric acid is a solution of the acid in water of concentration about 12 mol dm-3.

A solution of the acid of concentration over 2 mol dm-3 has oxidising properties as well as acidic properties. The products from its reaction with copper, for example, vary depending upon the concentration of the acid:

 $3Cu(s) + 8HNO_3(aq) \rightarrow 3Cu(NO_3)_2(aq) + 4H_2O(l) + 2NO(g)$ $3Cu(s) + 8H^{+}(aq) + 2NO_{3}(aq) \rightarrow 3Cu^{2+}(aq) + 4H_{2}O(l) + 2NO(g)$ Ionic equation: $(acid = 5 mol dm^{-3})$

With more concentrated acid:

 $Cu(s) + 4HNO_3(aq) \rightarrow Cu(NO_3)_2(aq) + 2H_2O(I) + 2NO_2(g)$ $Cu(s) + 4H^{+}(aq) + 2NO_{3}^{-}(aq) \rightarrow Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2H_{2}O(l) + 2NO_{2}(g)$ lonic equation: $(acid = 12 mol dm^{-3})$

Nitric acid is produced in industry by the Ostwald process – ammonia is first oxidized to nitrogen monoxide:

 $4NH_3(g) + 5O_2(g) \rightarrow 4NO(g) + 6H_2O(I)$

More oxygen is added to oxidize the nitrogen monoxide:

 $2NO(g) + O_2(g) \rightarrow 2NO_2(g)$

The nitrogen dioxide produced is then added to water to give nitric acid:

 $3NO_2(g) + H_2O(I) \rightarrow 2HNO_3(g) + NO(g)$

Nitrogen monoxide produced in the last reaction is oxidized to more $NO_2(g)$.

9. Chemistry of phosphorus

Phosphorus has three common allotropes: white, red and black phosphorus (see page 75). Red phosphorus is used in the striking strips on match boxes. Phosphine gas, PH₃, (which is colourless, toxic and smells of garlic), is made when calcium phosphide reacts with water:

$$Ca_{3}P_{2}(s) + 6H_{2}O(I) \rightarrow 2PH_{3}(g) + 3Ca(OH)_{2}(aq)$$

Oxides of phosphorus

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Tetraphosphorus decaoxide, P_4O_{10} , (phosphorus pentoxide, phosphorus(V) oxide) is formed when phosphorus is burned in plenty of oxygen:

 $P_4(s) + 5O_2(g) \rightarrow P_4O_{10}(s)$

In a limited supply of oxygen, P_4O_6 , tetraphosphorus hexaoxide is formed. The reaction of water with the acidic oxide, P_4O_{10} , is vigorous and gives phosphoric acid (phosphoric(V) acid, orthophosphoric acid):

 $P_4O_{10}(s) + 6H_2O(l) \rightarrow 4H_3PO_4(aq)$

Because of its affinity for water P_4O_{10} is often used as a dehydrating agent.

Phosphoric acid, H₃PO₄

This acid has three acidic hydrogens (it is a weak triprotic acid). In water it loses one proton:

 $H_3PO_4(aq) + H_2O(I) \Leftrightarrow H_2PO_4(aq) + H_3O(aq)$ dihydrogen phosphate ion

In excess strong base, however, the other two protons can be removed:

	–H⁺		–H+	
H₂PO₄⁻(aq)	\rightarrow	HPO₄²-(aq)	\rightarrow	PO₄³-(aq)
		hydrogen phosphate		phosphate

Phosphoric acid is added to soft drinks to make them sharp-tasting.

10. Arsenic, antimony and bismuth

(i) Arsenic exists as a yellow allotrope and as a metallic allotrope. It is a metalloid. Shiny antimony and bismuth are classified as 'borderline metals'. All three form covalent compounds.

(ii) The oxides of As and Sb are amphoteric, while Bi_2O_3 is definitely basic.

(iii) The hydrides, arsine, stibine and bismuthine (AsH₃, SbH₃ and BiH₃) are thermally unstable, toxic gases.

II. Group 16 elements – O, S, Se, Te, Po

These elements have six electrons in the outermost shell of their atoms (or the general electronic structure $ns^2 np^4$, where n is greater than one). In this group there is again a gradual change in the characteristics of the elements from true non-metals (oxygen and sulfur) through metalloids

(selenium and tellurium) to a metal (polonium). Polonium, discovered by Marie Curie, is a radioactive element and must be handled with great care.

EXERCISE **I2G**

Why do you think Marie Curie named the element she discovered Polonium?

12. Chemistry of oxygen

Dioxygen (O_2) is an important allotrope of oxygen which makes up 21 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere. The gas is necessary for life and is used in combustion. Another important allotrope of oxygen is ozone (O_3) , made by passing an electric discharge through dioxygen. Ozone in the atmosphere filters out harmful UV radiation.

There are two important hydrides of oxygen – water (H_2O) and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) . Hydrogen peroxide is more acidic than water and it can act as an oxidizing agent when it is reduced to water:

$$H_2O_2(aq) + 2H^+(aq) + 2e^- \rightarrow 2H_2O(I)$$

or as a reducing agent when it is oxidized to oxygen in basic solution:

$$H_2O_2(aq) + 2OH^-(aq) \rightarrow O_2(g) + 2H_2O(I) + 2e^{-1}$$

When pure, it decomposes slowly into oxygen, but very rapidly in the presence of manganese (IV) oxide, for example, which catalyses the decomposition:

 $2H_2O_2(I) \rightarrow 2H_2O(I) + 2O_2(g)$

Hydrogen peroxide has many uses. For example it is used as a disinfectant, or for bleaching paper or hair.

I3. Chemistry of sulfur

Sulfur forms many allotropes based on rings and chains of its atoms (see page 75). Sulfur is extracted from the ground as the element in the Frasch process. Superheated water (at about 170°C and under 10 atm pressure so that it stays liquid) is pumped into the sulfur beds. The water melts the sulfur, which runs into a reservoir at the base of the pump and is then pushed up to the surface by compressed air. Many natural gas deposits contain hydrogen sulfide, which can be extracted and oxidized to sulfur.

The foul-smelling and poisonous gaseous hydride, H_2S , is formed by the action of dilute acid with a metal sulfide:

 $FeS(s) + 2HCl(aq) \rightarrow H_2S(g) + FeCl_2(aq)$

Sulfur burns in air with a blue flame to form sulfur dioxide:

 $S_8(s) + 8O_2(g) \rightarrow 8SO_2(g)$

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Sulfur dioxide is a colourless gas with an irritating odour. It is an acidic oxide and is readily soluble in water to form weak sulfurous acid:

 $SO_2(g) + H_2O(I) \rightarrow H_2SO_3(aq)$

The gas is a reducing agent and is oxidised to the sulfate ion; the half reaction is:

 $SO_2(g)+2H_2O(I) \rightarrow SO_4^{2-}(aq) + 4H^+(aq) + 2e^-$

Examples of substances it will reduce are:

- the iron (III) ion $Fe^{3+}(aq) + e^{-} \rightarrow Fe^{2+}(aq)$
- chlorine gas $Cl_2(g) + 2e^- \rightarrow 2Cl^-(aq)$
- potassium permanganate $MnO_{4^-}(aq) + 8H^+(aq) + 5e^- \rightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + 4H_2O(I)$

Sulfur trioxide is a colourless liquid at room temperature. It is prepared industrially by the oxidation of sulfur dioxide with oxygen using V_2O_5 as a catalyst. Sulfur trioxide is a very acidic oxide that combines vigorously with water, forming sulfuric acid:

 $SO_3(g) + H_2O(I) \rightarrow H_2SO_4(aq)$

Dilute sulfuric acid behaves as a strong acid. Concentrated sulfuric acid displaces acids of lower boiling points from their salts:

$$Cu(NO_3)_2(aq) + H_2SO_4(aq) \rightarrow 2HNO_3(g) + CuSO_4(aq)$$

Because of its strong affinity for water, concentrated sulfuric acid behaves as a dehydrating agent. If poured on to sugar, it extracts the elements of water from the sugar and black carbon is left:

$$C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}(s) \rightarrow 12C(s) + 11H_2O(l)$$

Concentrated sulfuric acid is a strong oxidizing agent and in such reactions it is reduced to sulfur dioxide. For example, it reacts with copper metal:

$$Cu(s) + 2H_2SO_4(aq) \rightarrow CuSO_4(aq) + SO_2(g) + 2H_2O(I)$$

$$Cu(s) + 4H^+(aq) + SO_{4^2}(aq) \rightarrow Cu^{2+}(aq) + SO_2(g) + 2H_2O(I)$$

EXERCISE 12H

Cotton is composed largely of cellulose, $C_6H_{10}O_5$. Write an equation for the reaction that would occur if you spilled sulfuric acid on your lab coat.

14. Selenium, tellurium and polonium

(i) Selenium has a number of allotropic forms including grey (metallic), red and black forms; some contain Se₈ rings. It is a semiconductor and photoconductor and is used in photocopiers. It burns in air with a purple flame to form solid SeO₂. Selenic acid H_2 SeO₄ is similar to sulfuric acid.

(ii) The one semi-metallic form of tellurium burns readily in air with a blue flame to form TeO_2 , which has an ionic structure and is amphoteric. Direct combination of the elements also gives PoO_2 which is more basic than TeO_2 .

(iii) The trioxides SeO₃, and TeO₃ are known, but not PoO_3 .

(iv)The hydrides H_2Se , H_2Te and H_2Po decrease in thermal stability as the Group 16 element gets heavier. The hydrides are all very toxic.

Revision questions

- **1.** Use the Periodic Table of the elements on page v of the book to answer the following questions:
 - (i) Is rubidium (Rb) more metallic than lithium (Li)?
 - (ii) Is radon (Rn) a metal or a non-metal?
 - (iii) Is boron (B) less metallic than Aluminium (AI)?
 - (iv) Is dichlorine oxide (Cl₂O) ionic or covalent?
 - (v) Is potassium oxide (K₂O) ionic or covalent?

2. Which of the following oxides would you expect to be mainly ionic or mainly covalent?

- (i) BaO.
- (ii) NO₂.
- (iii) F₂O.

3. An element, Z, has an atomic radius of 114 pm and an ionic radius of 195 pm. Is it a metal or a non-metal? Explain.

4. Two elements, R and Q, with atomic numbers 4 and 12 are in the same group of the Periodic Table.

- (i) Which group of the table are they in?
- (ii) Which of these elements is the most metallic, and why?
- (iii) What are the formulae of the chlorides of these elements?
- (iv) Write a balanced equation for the action of heat on $Q(NO_3)_2$.

5. The element 117 in Group 17 ('eka-Astatine') has not yet been discovered. Imagine you are Mendeleev, and try to predict its properties:

- (i) Would you expect it to be a solid, liquid or gas?
- (ii) Would you expect it to be more or less metallic than the other members of Group 17? Explain your answer.

Answers

Exercises

Exercise 12A

The sum of the first three ionization energies for each of the elements is very high, especially for boron, because the outer electrons are near to the nucleus. So boron always forms covalent compounds and, apart from in solution, so do the other elements.

Exercise 12B

This can be worked out by doing a calculation to find the empirical formula of boric oxide as follows:

Symbols of elements involved	В	0
Composition in g	0.7849	2.5274 – 0.7849 =
		1.7425
Divide by molar masses (use	0.7849/ <i>x</i>	1.7425/15.999
15.999 for O and <i>x</i> for B)		



3

 $\frac{2}{3}$

This is equal to a ratio of: therefore:

2	
0.7849/ <i>x</i>	=
1.7425/15.999	=

Solving, x = 10.81

 $\begin{bmatrix} H \\ H^{\circ}_{\bullet} B^{\circ}_{X^{\circ}} H \\ H^{\circ}_{\bullet} H \end{bmatrix}$

(ii) Tetrahedral (four bonding pairs around central atom).

(iii) - I (Boron n is less electronegative than hydrogen – see electronegativity table on page 60) (iv) It can be oxidized (it is a reducing agent).

Exercise I2D

Smaller – both ions have the same charge but Ga^{3+} is a much larger ion.

Exercise 12E

(i) $Al_2O_3(s) + 3H_2SO_4(aq) \rightarrow Al_2(SO_4)_3(aq) + 3H_2O(l)$ (ii) $Al_2O_3(s) + 2NaOH(aq) + 3H_2O(l) \rightarrow 2Na[Al(OH)_4](aq)$

Exercise 12F

The molecule has a strong triple bond and no dipole.

Exercise 12G

After Poland, her home country.

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Exercise I2H} \\ C_6H_{10}O_5(s) \rightarrow 6C(s) + 5H_2O(l) \end{array}$

[think of cellulose as $C_6(H_2O)_5$]

Revision questions

١.

- (i) Rubidium is more metallic; on descending a group the elements become more metallic.
- (ii) Radon is at the bottom end of the right-hand side of the Periodic Table and, in common with the rest of its group, displays a number of non-metallic properties. However, it is true that as a group is descended, the elements become more metallic it is therefore possible that heavier noble elements that have yet to be discovered could display typically metallic properties!

(iii)Aluminium displays typical metallic properties, unlike boron. The outer valence electrons in aluminium are more shielded from the nucleus and therefore more available to take part in the typical properties associated with a metal – conductivity, ionic compounds, etc.

(iv) It is covalent:

(v) It is ionic:

2.

- (i) lonic(ii) Covalent
- (iii) Covalent

3. It is a non-metal.

4.

- (i) Group 2 electronic structures 2.2 and 2.8.2
- (ii) Q the outer electronic are further away, and more shielded by, the nucleus.
- (iii)RCl₂, QCl₂
- (iv) $2Q(NO_3)_2 \rightarrow 2QO + 4NO_2 + O_2$

5.

- (i) a solid (it is heavier and contains more electrons than iodine)
- (ii) more metallic