

Organic Chemistry, 8e (Bruice)

Chapter 2 Acids and Bases: Central to Understanding Organic Chemistry

1) Which of the following is not a conjugate acid-base pair?

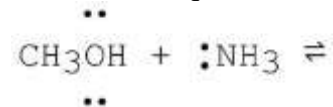
- A) H₂O, HO⁻
- B) H₂O, H₃O⁺
- C) HSO₄⁻, H₂SO₄
- D) -OH, O²⁻
- E) NO₃⁻, NO₂⁻

Answer: E

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

2) What is the product formed from the following acid-base reaction when ammonia functions as a base? The equilibrium lies far to the reactants.



- A) CH₃O⁻ + ⁺NH₄
- B) CH₂OH + ⁺NH₃
- C) CH₃OH₂⁺ + ⁻NH₂
- D) CH₃NH₂ + H₂O
- E) CH₄ + NH₂OH

Answer: A

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

3) The conjugate acid of H₂O is

- A) H₃O⁻.
- B) H₃O.
- C) H₃O⁺.
- D) HO⁻.
- E) H₂O⁺.

Answer: C

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

4) Which of the following ions is the strongest acid?

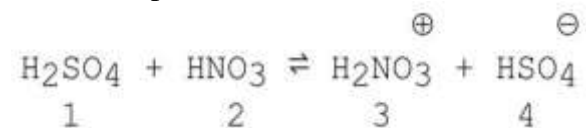
- A) H⁻
- B) HO⁻
- C) HSO₄⁻
- D) H₂O
- E) H₃O⁺

Answer: E

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

5) Which species act as bases in the following reaction?



- A) 1 and 2
- B) 3 and 4
- C) 2 and 4
- D) 1 and 3
- E) 2 and 3

Answer: C

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

6) What is the conjugate acid of NH₃?

- A) +NH₃
- B) -NH
- C) +NH₄
- D) -NH₂
- E) +NH₂

Answer: C

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

7) What is the conjugate acid of CH₃NH₂?

- A) CH₃NH₃⁺
- B) CH₃NH⁻
- C) NH₄⁺
- D) NH₂⁻

Answer: A

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

8) What is the conjugate base of CH_3NH_2 ?

- A) CH_3NH_3^+
- B) CH_3NH^-
- C) NH_4^+
- D) NH_2^-

Answer: B

Section: 2-1

9) Give the conjugate acid and the conjugate base for HSO_4^- :

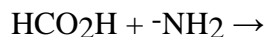
Answer: conjugate acid: H_2SO_4

conjugate base: SO_4^{2-}

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

10) Write a completed equation for the acid-base pair shown below.



Answer: $\text{HCO}_2\text{H} + ^-\text{NH}_2 \rightarrow \text{HCO}_2^- + \text{NH}_3$

Section: 2-1

MCAT: 1.4

11) What is the pH of a 0.1 M solution of HCl? (Note: pK_a for HCl is -6.)

- A) 6
- B) -6
- C) 1
- D) -8
- E) -1

Answer: C

Section: 2-2

MCAT: 1.4

GLO: G2, G4

12) If H_2O has a pK_a value of 15.7 and HF has a pK_a value of 3.2, which is a stronger base, HO^- or F^- ? Explain.

Answer: HO^- is a stronger base than F^- because HF is a stronger acid than H_2O , and the stronger the acid the weaker its conjugate base.

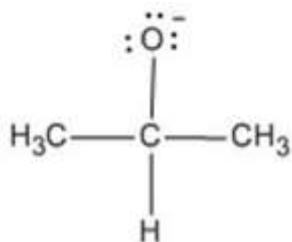
Section: 2-2

MCAT: 1.4

GLO: G2

13) 2-Propanol is shown below. Draw the structure of its conjugate base.
(CH₃)₂CHOH

Answer:



Section: 2-3

14) Which of the following is the strongest acid?

- A) CH₃OH
- B) CH₃OH₂⁺
- C) H₂N⁻
- D) CH₃NH₂
- E) CH₃NH₃⁺

Answer: B

Section: 2-6

GLO: G2

15) The pK_a of CH₃COOH is 4.8 and the pK_a of HCOOH is 3.8. Given this information, one knows that

- A) CH₃COOH completely ionizes in water.
- B) HCOOH is a weaker acid than CH₃COOH.
- C) HCOO⁻ is a weaker base than CH₃COO⁻.
- D) CH₃COOH reacts with HO⁻ while HCOOH does not.
- E) HCOOH reacts with HO⁻ while CH₃COOH does not.

Answer: C

Section: 2-6

MCAT: 20.2

16) Which of the following is the strongest acid?

- A) HF
- B) H₂O
- C) :NH₃
- D) CH₄
- E) CH₃OH

Answer: A

Section: 2-6

MCAT: 1.4

17) Which of the following is the strongest acid?

- A) $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$
- B) CH_3OCH_3
- C) $\text{CH}_3\text{—NH—CH}_3$
- D) $\text{CH}_3\text{—C}\equiv\text{CH}$
- E) $\text{CH}_3\text{—CH=CH}_2$

Answer: A

Section: 2-6

MCAT: 1.4

18) Consider the set of compounds, NH_3 , HF , and H_2O . Rank these compounds in order of increasing acidity and discuss your rationale.

Answer: $\text{NH}_3 < \text{H}_2\text{O} < \text{HF}$

When determining relative acidity, it is often useful to look at the relative basicity of the conjugate bases. The stronger the acid, the weaker (more stable, less reactive) the conjugate base. In this case, one would look at the relative basicity of F^- , OH^- , and NH_2^- . The relative strengths of these species can be gauged based on the electronegativity of the charged atom in each base. Since fluorine is the most electronegative, F^- is the most stable, least reactive base in the group. This means that its conjugate acid, HF , is the strongest.

Section: 2-6

MCAT: 1.4

GLO: G2

19) Identify the compound with the highest pK_a .

- A) CH_3NH_2
- B) CH_3OH
- C) CH_3COOH
- D) H_2O
- E) CH_3NH_3^+

Answer: A

Section: 2-6

MCAT: 1.4

GLO: G2

20) Identify the compound with the highest pK_a .

- A) CH_3CH_3
- B) HCCH
- C) CH_2CH_2
- D) CH_3OH
- E) CH_3NH_2

Answer: A

Section: 2-6

MCAT: 1.4

21) Identify the most acidic carboxylic acid.

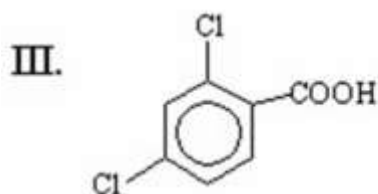
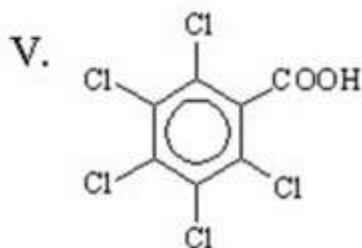
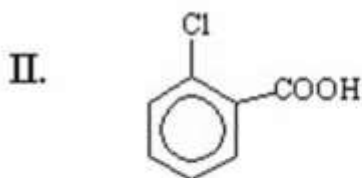
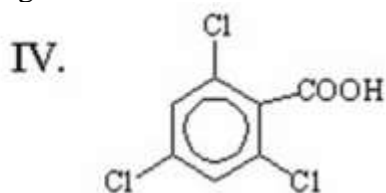
- A) ICH_2COOH
- B) BrCH_2COOH
- C) CH_3COOH
- D) FCH_2COOH
- E) ClCH_2COOH

Answer: D

Section: 2-7

MCAT: 1.4, 20.2

22) Which of the following is the strongest acid?



- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV
- E) V

Answer: E

Section: 2-7

MCAT: 1.4, 20.2

23) Explain why :NF_3 is a weaker base than :NH_3 .

Answer: Fluorine has an electron withdrawing effect that reduces the availability of the pair of electrons on nitrogen. Thus the basicity of :NF_3 is less than that of :NH_3 .

Section: 2-7

MCAT: 1.4

GLO: G2

24) Would you predict trifluoromethanesulfonic acid, $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, to be a stronger or weaker acid than methanesulfonic acid, $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$? Explain your reasoning.

Answer: Trifluoromethanesulfonic acid is a stronger acid. Compare the strengths of the conjugate bases and remember that the weaker the base, the stronger the conjugate acid. In the case of the trifluoro derivative, the presence of the highly electronegative fluorine atoms serves to delocalize the negative charge to a greater extent. This additional delocalization makes trifluoromethanesulfonate a weaker base.

Section: 2-7

MCAT: 1.4

25) Which of the following anions, $\text{CH}_3\text{CHBrCO}_2^-$ or $\text{CH}_3\text{CHF}_2\text{CO}_2^-$ is the stronger base? Explain your choice.

Answer: $\text{CH}_3\text{CHBrCO}_2^-$ is the stronger base. The more electronegative F atom can more effectively delocalize the negative charge via induction. This greater delocalization stabilizes $\text{CH}_3\text{CHF}_2\text{CO}_2^-$ relative to $\text{CH}_3\text{CHBrCO}_2^-$ and makes it a weaker base.

Section: 2-7

MCAT: 1.4, 20.2

GLO: G2

26) Draw a resonance contributor and the resonance hybrid for HOCO_2^- .

Answer: resonance contributor: resonance hybrid:



Section: 2-8

MCAT: 20.8

27) The pK_a of CH_3COOH is 4.8. If the pH of an aqueous solution of CH_3COOH and CH_3COO^- is 4.8, then one knows

- A) CH_3COOH is completely ionized.
- B) $[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}] > [\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]$.
- C) $[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}] = [\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]$.
- D) $[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}] < [\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]$.
- E) CH_3COOH is completely unionized.

Answer: C

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

28) When a small amount of hexanoic acid [$\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{pK}_a \sim 4.8$], is added to a separatory funnel which contains the organic solvent diethyl ether and water with a pH of 2.0, it is found mainly in the _____ phase as _____.

- A) ether; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2^-$
- B) water; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2^-$
- C) ether; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$
- D) water; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$
- E) none of the above

Answer: C

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

29) When a small amount of hexanoic acid [$\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{pK}_a \sim 4.8$], is added to a separatory funnel which contains the organic solvent diethyl ether and water with a pH of 12.0, it is found mainly in the _____ phase as _____.

- A) ether; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2^-$
- B) water; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2^-$
- C) ether; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$
- D) water; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$
- E) none of the above

Answer: B

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

30) At what pH will 25% of a compound with a pK_a of 5.3 be in its basic form?

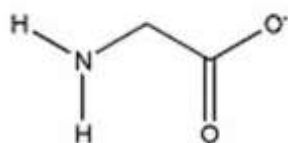
Answer: 4.8

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

31) The amino acid glycine ($\text{H}_3\text{N}^+\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$) has two acidic Hs, one with $\text{pK}_a = 2.34$ and the other with $\text{pK}_a = 9.60$. Draw the structure of the form of glycine that predominates at a pH of 12.

Answer:



Section: 2-10

MCAT: 24.3

GLO: G2, G4

32) H-A is an acid with a pK_a of 4.5. Which of the following statements about an aqueous solution of H-A is true?

- A) At pH = 4.5, the solution contains much more H-A than A⁻.
- B) At pH = 4.5, the solution contains much more A⁻ than H-A.
- C) At pH = 3.5, the solution contains about 90% A⁻ and 10% H-A.
- D) At pH = 6.5, the solution contains about 80% A⁻ and 20% H-A.
- E) At pH = 5.5, the solution contains about 90% A⁻ and 10% H-A.

Answer: E

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

33) At what pH will the concentration of a compound with a pK_a of 5.7 be 100 times greater in its acidic form than in its basic form?

Answer: 3.7

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

34) HCN has a pK_a = 9.1. What form of the compound, HCN or CN⁻, will predominate in a solution of pH = 7.0

Answer: HCN

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

35) Propanoic acid, CH₃CH₂COOH, has a pK_a = 4.9. Draw the structure of the conjugate base of propanoic acid and give the pH above which 90% of the compound will be in this conjugate base form.

Answer: CH₃CH₂COO⁻; 5.9

Section: 2-10

GLO: G2, G4

36) Buffering is used to maintain the pH of human blood in the relatively narrow 7.3 - 7.4 range. What acid/base pair serves to buffer the blood?

- A) H₂O / HO⁻
- B) H₃O⁺ / H₂O
- C) H₂CO₃ / HCO₃⁻
- D) NH₄⁺ / NH₃
- E) HCl / Cl⁻

Answer: C

Section: 2-11

GLO: G2, G7

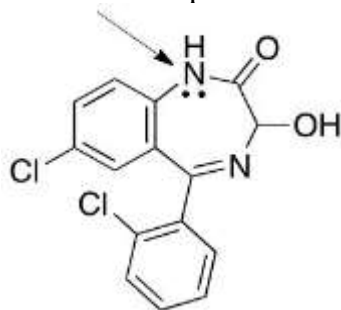
37) Explain why AlCl_3 is a Lewis acid.

Answer: A Lewis acid is an electron pair acceptor. Aluminum in AlCl_3 has an empty p orbital that can accommodate the pair of electrons provided by a Lewis base.

Section: 2-12

MCAT: 1.4

38) Structure of Lorazepam, a widely known drug for short-term anxiety is shown below. Is the indicated lone pair localized or delocalized?



Answer: Delocalized

Section: 2-8

MCAT: 2.3

39) Predict the direction of equilibrium in the following reaction. Explain your answer.



Answer: Right

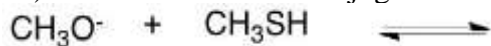
Conjugate base on the right is more stable due to resonance that puts negative charge on the oxygen atom.

Section: 2-9

MCAT: 1.3

GLO: G2

40) What would be the conjugate base in the following acid base reaction?



A) CH_2O

B) CH_3OH

C) CH_3SH_2^+

D) CH_3S^-

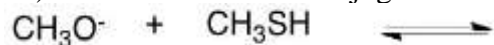
E) H_2O

Answer: D

Section: 2-3

MCAT: 1.4

41) What would be the conjugate acid in the following acid base reaction?



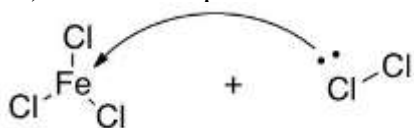
- A) CH_2O
- B) CH_3OH
- C) CH_3SH_2^+
- D) CH_3S^-
- E) H_2O

Answer: B

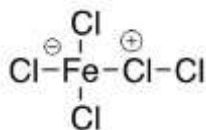
Section: 2-3

MCAT: 1.4

42) What is the product of the following Lewis acid-base reaction?



Answer:



Section: 2-2

MCAT: 1.4

43) Which of the following species cannot function as a Lewis acid?

- A) H^+
- B) TiCl_4
- C) AlCl_3
- D) NH_4^+
- E) H_2O

Answer: E

Section: 2-12

MCAT: 1.4