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5.2 HONORS CLASS WORKSHEET – ACIDITY, ALKALINITY AND THE PH SCALE

1) Acidity and Alkalinity

The ion which makes solutions acidic is

The ion which makes solutions alkaline is

Water dissociates very slightly to produce H^+ and OH^- ions. Equation:

As a result, all aqueous solutions contain both H^+ and OH^- ions.

In pure water, the concentration of H^+ and OH^- is around mol/L

Any solution which contains equal concentrations of H^+ and OH^- ions is said to be

In solutions which contain acids, how will the concentrations of H^+ and OH^- compare to those in pure water, and therefore to each other?

In solutions which contain alkalis, how will the concentrations of H^+ and OH^- compare to those in pure water, and therefore to each other?

The product of the concentrations of H^+ and OH^- ions in a solution is always equal to 1×10^{-14}

Concentration of H^+ ions (mol/L)	Concentration of OH^- ions (mol/L)	Type of solution
0.1 (1×10^{-1})	1×10^{-13}	acidic
0.001 (1×10^{-3})		
1×10^{-5}		
1×10^{-7}		
1×10^{-9}		
1×10^{-11}		
1×10^{-13}		

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2) The pH scale

The level of acidity or alkalinity of a solution (ie the relative concentrations of H⁺ and OH⁻ ions) is measured on a scale called the **pH scale**

The pH of a solution is defined as
(pH stands for power of hydrogen)

pH is a logarithmic scale. What does this mean?

- If the H⁺ concentration is 0.1 (ie 1 x 10⁻¹) mol/L, the pH of the solution is 1
- If the H⁺ concentration is 0.001 (ie 1 x 10⁻³) mol/L, the pH of the solution is
- If the H⁺ concentration is 1 x 10⁻⁷ mol/L, the pH of the solution is
- If the H⁺ concentration is 1 x 10⁻¹¹ mol/L, the pH of the solution is
- If the H⁺ concentration is 1 x 10⁻¹³ mol/L, the pH of the solution is

What does a low pH tell you about the solution?

What does a high pH tell you about the solution?

The relationship between pH, acidity and alkalinity is summarised in the table below:

pH	-1	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15
Acidity									
[H ⁺]									
[OH ⁻]									

Examples of the pH of common solutions are:

solution	pH	Solution	pH	solution	pH
1 mol/L HCl		lemon juice		vinegar	
orange juice		pure water		household bleach	
1 mol/L NaOH					