

May 8, 2026

Dear student,

Welcome to 2026-2027 AP Chemistry course. A good foundation of first year chemistry concepts is crucial to success in AP Chemistry. Do not discard this email, because it contains important links and information for the course.

You are expected to have learned the following BEFORE taking the course.

- Classification of matter into elements, compounds, and mixtures
- Certain scientific laws like the Laws of Conservation, Multiple Proportions, and Definite Proportions
- SI units and their prefixes
- Significant digit rules for measurements and calculations
- Dimensional Analysis (factor label method) for problem solving and converting units
- Atomic structure including the determination of numbers of protons, neutrons, and electrons
- Periodic table organization
- Chemical nomenclature (naming and formula writing for ionic compounds and molecular compounds)
- Calculation of empirical and molecular formulas
- Stoichiometry, including limiting reagent, excess yield, and percent yield

The textbook for the course is Chemistry: The Central Science, 15th edition, by Brown and LeMay

You will need to check the textbook out from the library before leaving for the summer break. Books will be available for check out after 5/13.

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. The course content is organized into nine units. You can find a list of these nine units here:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-chemistry-course-overview.pdf>

All students are required to take the AP Chemistry Exam in May of 2027. Your assignment for the summer is to work through a portion of Unit 1, Atomic Structure and Properties. While some of this is a review of material covered in honors chemistry, there is new content as well. **To cover the material in unit 1, you will be reading specified pages from the textbook, watching videos while taking notes in the unit 1 notes packet.** The videos total about 2.5 hours of viewing time on normal playback speed. The links for the videos are listed below. I recommend that you work through the packet answering as much as you can on your own first. Then, watch the video lessons to check your work and learn about those topics that are new to you. **You will need to come by room 203 and pick up a paper copy of the notes packet.**

You will be covering topics 1.1-1.5 of unit 1. I have listed the relevant textbook pages and links for the topics in each part. Some pages cover more than one topic section.

Part one: Topics 1.1 – 1.3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpDHbWSms0o&list=PLmtMZsGcmFlsGaBrpjdEWW55Vc84XA1Jc>

- 1.1: Moles and molar mass, pages 93-98
- 1.2: Mass spectra of elements, pages 48-53
- 1.3: Elemental composition of pure substances, pages 92-101

Part two: Topics 1.4-1.5 watch up to 47:20 min. mark <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPdhwLE0Pdo>

- 1.4 Composition of mixtures, pages 4-9, 91
- 1.5: Atomic structure and electron configuration, pages 49, 214-219, 223-224, 230-245

We will discuss, practice, and continue with Unit 1 Concepts beginning on the first day of class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at ewatson@caschools.us **After watching these videos and taking notes, complete the following problems from the textbook. Show all work for calculations. These are due the first day of class.**

p 80: 2.39, 2.40; p 83 2.100; p 113-115: 3.26c, 3.35 b, 3.36a, b, c, 3.48 a, 3.54 a, 3.55b, 3.60;
p 252: 6.74, 6.76 a-d; p291 737a, e, 738a, b, e,

Polyatomic ions that you should know There will be a quiz on these(just the ions, not the acids) during the first week of school.

Here's a list of common polyatomic ions and acids:

<i>Ion</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Acid Formula</i>	<i>Acid Name</i>
NH_4^+	Ammonium*		
NO_3^-	Nitrate	HNO_3	Nitric Acid
NO_2^-	Nitrite	HNO_2	Nitrous Acid
OH^-	Hydroxide*	HOH	Water (not really an acid)
CN^-	Cyanide	HCN	Hydrocyanic Acid
SCN^-	Thiocyanate	HSCN	Thiocyanic Acid
ClO_4^-	Perchlorate*	HClO_4	Perchloric Acid
ClO_3^-	Chlorate*	HClO_3	Chloric Acid
ClO_2^-	Chlorite*	HClO_2	Chlorous Acid
ClO^-	Hypochlorite*	HClO	Hypochlorous Acid
$\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$	Acetate	$\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$	Acetic Acid
MnO_4^-	Permanganate	HMnO_4	Permanganic Acid
SO_4^{2-}	Sulfate*	H_2SO_4	Sulfuric Acid
SO_3^{2-}	Sulfite*	H_2SO_3	Sulfurous Acid
HSO_4^-	Hydrogen sulfate or Bisulfate*	H_2SO_4	Sulfuric Acid
$\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$	Thiosulfate	$\text{H}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$	Thiosulfuric Acid
CO_3^{2-}	Carbonate	H_2CO_3	Carbonic Acid
HCO_3^-	Hydrogen carbonate or bicarbonate	H_2CO_3	Carbonic Acid
CrO_4^{2-}	Chromate	H_2CrO_4	Chromic Acid
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$	Dichromate	$\text{H}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$	
O_2^{2-}	Peroxide	H_2O_2	Hydrogen Peroxide (not really an acid)
$\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$	Oxalate	$\text{H}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4$	Oxalic Acid
PO_4^{3-}	Phosphate*	H_3PO_4	Phosphoric Acid
HPO_4^{2-}	Hydrogen Phosphate*	H_3PO_4	Phosphoric Acid
H_2PO_4^-	Dihydrogen Phosphate*	H_3PO_4	Phosphoric Acid

Hints to help you remember these ions:

- For the asterisked (*) ions, you can figure out their charge from the non-oxygen element and the periodic table. Example: ClO_3^- ; Cl corresponds to a 1- charge on the periodic table.
- Changing the number of Oxygens does not change the charge. Example: ClO_4^- , ClO_3^- , ClO_2^- , ClO^-
- Adding Hydrogens increases the charge by +1. Examples: PO_4^{3-} , HPO_4^{2-} , H_2PO_4^-
- Ammonium(NH_4^+) is the only + polyatomic ion you need to know.
- Phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) is the only 3- polyatomic ion you need to know.
- "Per-X-ate" → loses oxygen → "X-ate" → loses oxygen → "X-ite" → loses oxygen → "hypo-X-ite"

Hints to help you remember the acids:

- "Per-X-ate" ion corresponds to "Per-X-ic Acid"
- "X-ate" ion corresponds to "X-ic Acid"
- "X-ite" ion corresponds to "X-ous Acid"
- "Hypo-X-ite" ion corresponds to "hypo-X-ous Acid"

What about acids of mono-atomic anions? (Where anion ends in -ide) Like HCl? Or HF? "Hydro-X-ic Acid"

HCl	Hydrochloric Acid
HF	Hydrofluoric Acid
HCN	Hydrocyanic Acid

1.1 Moles and Molar Mass

Essential knowledge statements from the AP Chemistry CED:

- One cannot count particles directly while performing laboratory work. Thus, there must be a connection between the masses of substances reacting and the actual number of particles undergoing chemical changes.
- Avogadro's number ($N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$) provides the connection between the number of moles in a pure sample of a substance and the number of constituent particles (or formula units) of that substance.
- Expressing the mass of an individual atom or molecule in atomic mass units (amu) is useful because the average mass in amu of one particle (atom or molecule) or formula unit of a substance will always be numerically equal to the molar mass of that substance in grams. Thus, there is a quantitative connection between the mass of a substance and the number of particles that the substance contains.

The particles of a substance can be described as atoms, molecules, or formula units, as shown in the following examples. The molar mass of a substance can be determined or calculated from the atomic mass values on the periodic table.

$$1 \text{ mol Mg} = 24.30 \text{ g Mg} = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ atoms Mg}$$

$$1 \text{ mol CO}_2 = 44.01 \text{ g CO}_2 = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules CO}_2$$

$$1 \text{ mol NaCl} = 58.44 \text{ g NaCl} = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ formula units NaCl}$$

1. Calculate the mass, in grams, of 0.0850 mol Ba(OH)_2 .
2. Calculate the number of moles of C_4H_{10} present in 2.00 g C_4H_{10} .
3. Calculate the number of atoms of Si present in 35.0 mol Si.
4. Calculate the number of moles of O_3 present in 4.3×10^{24} molecules of O_3 .

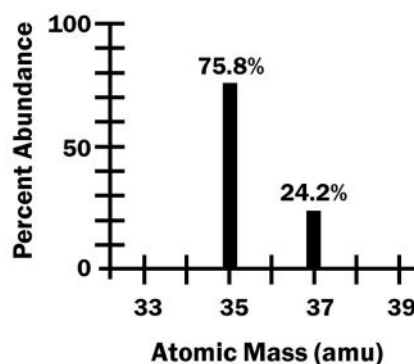
5. Calculate the mass, in grams, of 8.2×10^{22} molecules of CHCl_3 .
6. Calculate the number of formula units of Na_2SO_4 present in 0.248 g Na_2SO_4 .

1.2 Mass Spectra of Elements

Essential knowledge statements from the AP Chemistry CED:

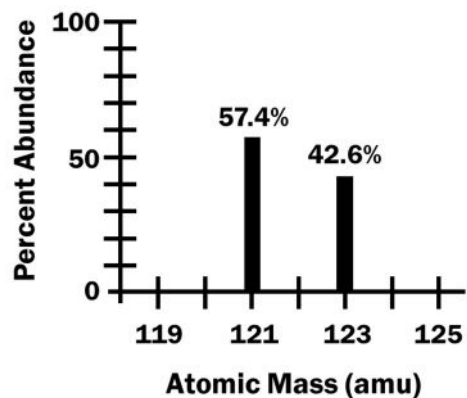
- The mass spectrum of a sample containing a single element can be used to determine the identity of the isotopes of that element and the relative abundance of each isotope in nature.
- The average atomic mass of an element can be estimated from the weighted average of the isotopic masses using the mass of each isotope and its relative abundance.

Isotope	Abundance
Cl-35	75.8%
Cl-37	24.2%



7. Based on the information shown above,
- (a) calculate the average atomic mass of Cl.
- (b) Fill in the table below.

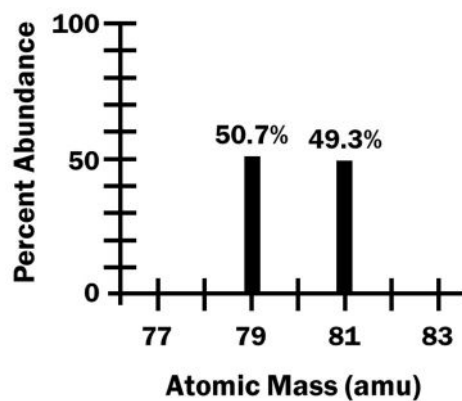
Isotope	Protons	Neutrons
Cl-35		
Cl-37		



8. Based on the information shown above,

(a) calculate the average atomic mass of the element.

(b) What is the most likely identity of this element? _____



9. Based on the information shown above,

(a) what is the most likely identity of this element? _____

(b) Fill in the table below.

Mass Number	Protons	Neutrons
79		
81		

10. A certain element has two naturally occurring isotopes with mass numbers of 63 and 65.

(a) What is the most likely identity of this element? _____

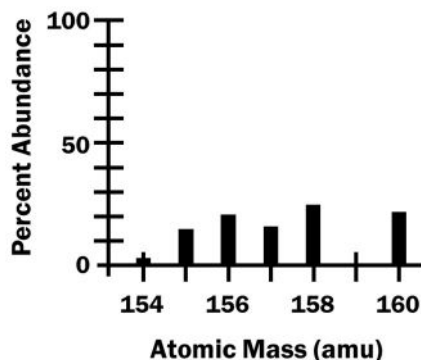
(b) Fill in the table below.

Mass Number	Protons	Neutrons
63		
65		

(c) Which isotope of this element, mass number = 63 or mass number = 65, is more abundant in nature? Justify your answer.

11. If an element has several naturally occurring isotopes, the calculation of the average atomic mass of the element can be a bit more complicated.

Mass Number	Abundance
154	2.18%
155	14.80%
156	20.47%
157	15.65%
158	24.84%
160	22.06%



(a) Based on the information above, estimate the average atomic mass of the element to the nearest whole number. Then use a calculator to determine the average atomic mass.

(b) What is the most likely identity of this element? _____

1.3 Elemental Composition of Pure Substances

Essential knowledge statements from the AP Chemistry CED:

- Some pure substances are composed of individual molecules, while others consist of atoms or ions held together in fixed proportions as described by a formula unit.
 - According to the law of definite proportions, the ratio of the masses of the constituent elements in any pure sample of that compound is always the same.
 - The chemical formula that lists the lowest whole number ratio of atoms of the elements in a compound is the empirical formula.
-

12. Calculate the percent composition by mass of each element in glucose ($C_6H_{12}O_6$).

13. Calculate the percent composition by mass of each element in erythrose ($C_4H_8O_4$).

14. What is the empirical formula of glucose? _____

What is the empirical formula of erythrose? _____

***Two different compounds with the same empirical formula
have the same percent composition by mass.***

15. A certain compound has the following percent composition by mass.

43.64% P 56.36% O

Determine the empirical formula of this compound.

If you are given mass data for a certain compound, the following procedure will help you to determine the empirical formula of the compound.

- Convert the mass of each element into moles.
- Divide each value of moles by the lowest number.
- At this point, you may already have whole numbers for the moles of each element. If not, then you may need to multiply each value by 2 or by 3 in order to get whole numbers.
- Use the whole number values of moles to write the empirical formula.

16. A certain compound has the following percent composition by mass.

52.14% C 13.13% H 34.73% O

Determine the empirical formula of this compound.

17. A pure sample of tin (Sn) with a mass of 6.18 g is burned in air until the tin is completely converted into tin oxide. The mass of the tin oxide is equal to 7.85 g. Determine the empirical formula of the tin oxide compound.

18. Compound X consists of the elements C, H, and N. A 15.00-g sample of compound X contains 9.81 g C, 1.37 g H, and 3.82 g N.

(a) Determine the empirical formula of compound X.

(b) It is determined that a 25.0-gram sample of compound X contains 9.11×10^{22} molecules. Calculate the molar mass of compound X, in units of g/mol.

18. (c) Based on your answers to parts (a) and (b), determine the molecular formula of compound X.

Another way to determine the empirical formula of a compound is to use data from a combustion experiment. If a compound that contains carbon and hydrogen is burned in the presence of excess oxygen gas, the carbon will be converted into CO_2 and the hydrogen will be converted into H_2O . If the compound contains other elements such as nitrogen or sulfur, other gases may be formed.

Mass of sample that is burned	5.00 g
Mass of CO_2 produced	10.99 g
Mass of H_2O produced	6.00 g

19. A sample of a compound that contains carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen is burned completely in O_2 . Data from the combustion experiment is shown in the table above.
- (a) Determine the mass of carbon (C) present in 5.00 g of the compound.
- (b) Determine the mass of hydrogen (H) present in 5.00 g of the compound.
- (c) Determine the mass of oxygen (O) present in 5.00 g of the compound.
- (d) Determine the empirical formula of the compound.

Another type of situation that involves mass and mole ratios involves a substance known as a hydrate. A hydrate is a substance in which water molecules are included in the chemical formula. These substances are often ionic compounds in which water molecules are bonded to the ions in the crystal structure. A hydrate salt can be heated to remove the water through evaporation, forming an anhydrous salt. Two examples of anhydrous salts and hydrates are listed in the table below.

Anhydrous Salt	Hydrate Salt
copper(II) sulfate, CuSO_4	copper(II) sulfate pentahydrate, $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$
calcium chloride, CaCl_2	calcium chloride dihydrate, $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

20. A sample of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has a mass of 25.00 g.

(a) Calculate the mass of CuSO_4 present in this 25.00-g sample.

(b) Calculate the mass of H_2O present in this 25.00-g sample.

21. Calculate the percentage of H_2O by mass in $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

22. In a certain experiment, a sample of a hydrate of magnesium sulfate, $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, is heated in order to remove all of the water from the sample. Experimental data is shown in the table below.

mass of empty container	25.356 g
mass of container and hydrate salt, before heating	28.418 g
mass of container and sample after 1 st heating	26.931 g
mass of container and sample after 2 nd heating	26.853 g
mass of container and sample after 3 rd heating	26.852 g

(a) Explain how the data indicates that all of the water has been removed from the hydrate salt in this experiment.

22. (b) Calculate the mass of the hydrate salt used in this experiment.

(c) Calculate the mass of water that was removed from the hydrate sample in this experiment.

(d) Determine the value of n in the formula $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

1.4 Composition of Mixtures

Essential knowledge statements from the AP Chemistry CED:

- Pure substances contain atoms, molecules or formula units of a single type. Mixtures contain atoms, molecules or formula units of two or more types, whose relative proportions can vary.
 - Elemental analysis can be used to determine the relative numbers of atoms in a substance and to determine its purity.
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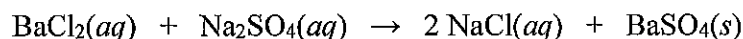
Mass of NaCl	Mass of MgCl ₂	Total Mass of Mixture
2.75 g	3.42 g	6.17 g

1. Answer the following questions about the mixture whose composition is listed in the table above.
 - (a) Calculate the percentage of NaCl by mass in this mixture.
 - (b) Calculate the percentage of Na by mass in this mixture.
 - (c) Calculate the percentage of Cl by mass in this mixture.
2. A sample of a solid labeled as AgNO₃ may be impure. A student analyzes the sample, and determines that it contains 68% Ag by mass.
 - (a) Calculate the percentage of Ag by mass in a pure sample of AgNO₃.

2. (b) Which of the following is more likely to represent the solid sample that was analyzed by the student? Justify your answer.

a mixture of AgNO_3 and AgCl	a mixture of AgNO_3 and AgBr
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3. A student needs to analyze a mixture that contains BaCl_2 and NaCl . The student dissolves a 6.75-g sample of this mixture completely into water and adds an excess amount of $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4(aq)$. A white precipitate of $\text{BaSO}_4(s)$ is formed, based on the following chemical equation.



The solid precipitate is filtered, dried, and weighed, and its mass is recorded as 2.36 g.

- (a) Calculate the number of moles of $\text{BaSO}_4(s)$ that is recovered in this experiment.
- (b) Calculate the percentage of BaCl_2 by mass in this mixture.
4. A mixture of CaCO_3 and Na_2CO_3 is found to contain 35.00% Na by mass. Calculate the percentage of Na_2CO_3 by mass in this mixture.

1.5 Atomic Structure and Electron Configuration

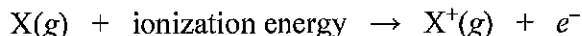
Essential knowledge statements from the AP Chemistry CED:

- The atom is composed of negatively charged electrons and a positively charged nucleus that is made of protons and neutrons.
- Coulomb's law is used to calculate the force between two charged particles.

$$F_{\text{coulombic}} \propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

- In atoms and ions, the electrons can be thought of as being in "shells (energy levels)" and "subshells (sublevels)," as described by the ground-state electron configuration. Inner electrons are called core electrons, and outer electrons are called valence electrons. The electron configuration is explained by quantum mechanics, as delineated in the Aufbau principle and exemplified in the periodic table of the elements.
- The relative energy required to remove an electron from different subshells of an atom or ion or from the same subshell in different atoms or ions (ionization energy) can be estimated through a qualitative application of Coulomb's law. This energy is related to the distance from the nucleus and the effective (shield) charge of the nucleus.

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5. The valence electrons of both Na and Mg are located in the 3rd energy level. Which atom, Na or Mg, experiences a greater attractive force between the nucleus and the valence electrons? Justify your answer in terms of Coulomb's law.
6. The valence electron of Na is located in the 3rd energy level, whereas the valence electron of K is located in the 4th energy level. Which atom, Na or K, experiences a greater attractive force between the nucleus and the valence electron? Justify your answer in terms of Coulomb's law.
7. Ionization energy is normally expressed in units of kilojoules per mole, and is defined as the energy required to remove one mole of electrons from one mole of gaseous atoms (or ions) in their ground states. This process is represented by the equation below.



Based on your answers to Questions #5 and #6, arrange the atoms Na, Mg, and K in order of increasing ionization energy value.

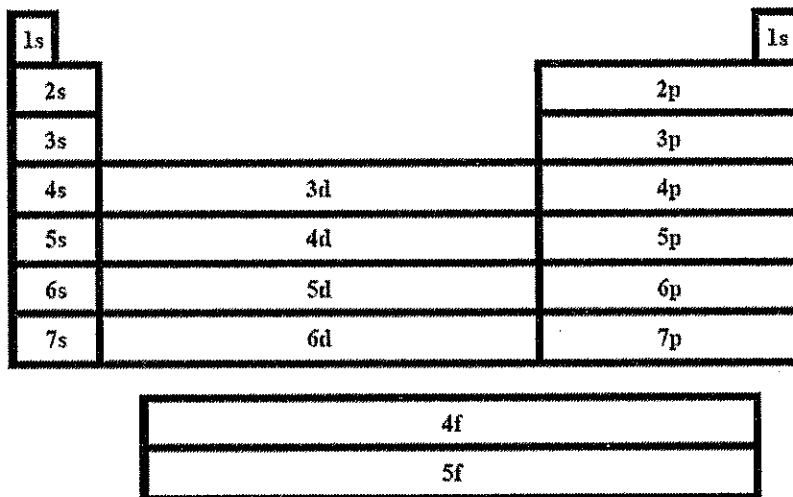
lowest ionization energy value	----->	highest ionization energy value

The Bohr Model of the Hydrogen Atom (1913)

- Electrons travel in orbits around the nucleus. Only orbits of certain radii, corresponding to certain specific energy values, are permitted for the electron.
- An electron absorbs energy when it moves farther away from the nucleus from a lower energy level to a higher energy level.
- An electron releases energy when it moves closer to the nucleus from a higher energy level to a lower energy level.
- The letter “n” refers to the principal quantum number or the electronic energy level. The lowest energy level (n = 1) for a hydrogen atom is called the ground state. The higher energy levels (n = 2 or higher) are called excited states.

The Bohr model of the hydrogen atom is a primitive, inaccurate model. Today we do not think of electrons as moving in orbits around the nucleus. Instead, we use the term atomic orbital, which is a mathematical function used to indicate the probability of finding an electron. We can visualize atomic orbitals as “electron clouds.”

The **electron configuration** is the distribution of the electrons in an atom or an ion among the various orbitals. There are patterns on the periodic table that help you write the electron configuration of an atom or an ion.



8. Fill in the missing information in the table below.

Element Symbol	Atomic Number	Complete Electron Configuration	Noble Gas Abbreviated Electron Configuration
O	8	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^4$	[He] $2s^2 2p^4$
			[Ne] $3s^2 3p^1$
Ca		$1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2$	
	26		
As			
Cd			

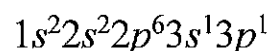
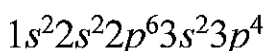
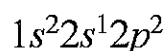
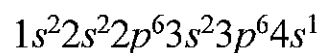
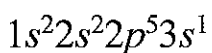
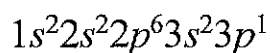
An orbital diagram is another way to represent the electron configuration. Each box represents an orbital. Each electron is represented by an arrow. Electrons that have opposite spins are represented by a pair of arrows pointing in opposite directions. Electrons are paired when they occupy the same orbital. An unpaired electron is an electron in an orbital without another electron of opposite spin.

9. Fill in the missing information in the table below.

Element Symbol	Atomic Number	Orbital Diagram for the Electron Configuration
Be	4	 $1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$
N	7	 $1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$
O	8	 $1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$
Na	11	 $1s$ $2s$ $2p$ $3s$

The **ground state** electron configuration refers to the arrangement of the electrons in the lowest available energy levels. An **excited state** electron configuration refers to a situation in which at least one of the electrons has moved up to a higher energy level.

10. Circle all of the following that represent an excited state electron configuration.



Electron Configurations of Ions

- When electrons are removed from an atom to form a cation, they are always removed first from the occupied orbitals having the largest principal quantum number n (energy level).
- When electrons are added to an atom to form an anion, they are added to the empty or partially filled orbital that has the lowest value of n .
- When an atom of a transition metal (e.g., elements #21 – #30 and #39 – #48) loses electrons to become a cation, *the electrons are first removed from the valence s orbitals*. If additional electrons are lost, they are removed from the valence d orbitals.

11. Write the ground state electron configuration for each of the following ions.

Ca^{2+} _____

Fe^{2+} _____

O^{2-} _____

Fe^{3+} _____