

zwitter

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20th Baltic Chemistry Olympiad's newspaper

Issue 1

Hello, young chemist!
Welcome in Latvia at the Baltic Chemistry Olympiad. Do you know why this year so special is? This year Baltic Chemistry Olympiad takes place the 20th time. So let us smile, say each other good words and the main thing – that your mind does not trick you and the periodic table does not tell lies.

Hopefully your arrival was successful, you are full of energy and

positivism and sparkles of knowledge spit from you.

In the daily plan for you, young, curious pupil is the opening ceremony of the 20th Baltic Chemistry Olympiad. What follows? After that you are going to have a practical examination, where you will need a clear mind, concentration of your attention and a lot of energy to let your brain work fully.

However the evening is not

going to end with that. After the practical examination you are going to have real Chemical Olympic Games where you will have to be erudite, agile, positive and able to react adequately.

Therefore, young chemist, let Mendeleev help you, be positive and don't grieve if you have not a good luck this time.

DAILY PROGRAMME

10:00 – 12:00 Arrival and registration.

Welcome to Riga! Aren't you tired after the long journey? Today you have arrived at the Baltic Chemistry Olympiad and are going to spend here three wonderful, unforgettable, chemically colourful days.

12:00 Opening ceremony.

Can you really imagine that this is a very special year for the Baltic Chemistry Olympiad? This Olympiad takes place the 20th time, so with acclamation let us welcome the best future chemists from Baltic countries.

12:50 Lunch.

Do you know that lunch is the most important meal of the day? We suggest you to enjoy the meal because you have to take up much energy after the long way to be able to concentrate on your most important task of the day.

14:00 – 18:00 Practical examination.

The moment has come. Your Baltic Chemistry Olympiad has started. So concentrate yourself, follow the safety rules in the laboratory, do not forget to wear glasses.

Advice Nr 1 – Think good thoughts and do not lose optimism, because chemistry is a restless science.

Advice Nr 2 – Concentrate yourself, because the result of a reac-

tion depends on you.

Advice Nr 3 – Remember why you are here and focus on your goal. Good Luck!

18:15 Dinner.

After the tiring work and great thinking your organism is going to be rewarded with warm, delicious and strengthening meal to be able take part at evening entertainment.

19:00 Chemical Olympic Games.

Have you ever been at Olympic Games? If not, this evening you are going to have a possibility to take part at different disciplines of Olympic games where your erudition, agility and chemistry knowledge will be examined.

ABOUT RIGA



Riga is the Baltic metropolis, a major port and industrial centre of nearly a million. Often mentioned as "Paris of the North", Riga is well known for its architectural and cultural values. Riga is located on

the both shores of Daugava River, about 15km from its mouth in the south-eastern corner of the Gulf of Riga.

Centuries-old German buildings are strewn throughout the historic quarter of Vecriga (Old Riga), and taking the lift up to the spire of St Peter's Church for an aerial view of the neighbourhood is one of the highlights of a visit. Riga Castle dates from 1330, when it was built as the headquarters of the Livonian Order. It's now the home of Latvia's president. With as much

history as Riga has, it is difficult to decide where to begin the exploration of it all.

Today there are 28 museums, 7 professional theatres, 12 cinemas, 4 concert halls as well as the circus and zoo in Riga. Every year many cultural activities take place in the city: Days of Art, the assembly of Vanguard Fashion, 'Arsenals' film festival, National Folk Song and Dance Festival. Besides, there are 277 amateur art groups in the city.

The Freedom Monument

The Freedom Monument, so-called because of its dedication to "Fatherland and Freedom" marked by the friezes around the base, signals the beginning of Brivibas street in the centre of Riga. The monument proves that size indeed does matter, as at 42 metres high the monument is visible from many angles in the Central District, guiding the lost tourist to Brivibas. The woman at the pinnacle, known simply as the 'Liberty Statue' or affectionately as 'Milda,' holds three stars symbolizing the three regional parts of Latvia: Kurzeme, Vidzeme and Latgale. In perhaps Latvia's prime example of tragic



optimism, the statue was unveiled in 1935 during the very brief period of the nation's actual freedom. Luckily, even the Soviets didn't dare topple this symbol during their reign, and now it once again represents Latvia's independence, where locals place flowers at the base to remember.

Old Riga

Old Riga is the historical and geographical centre of Riga, located on the right bank of the Daugava River. Old Riga comprises a fairly small interior fortification system area (built during XIII-XVIII centuries), where unique middle-aged architectural monuments are concentrated.

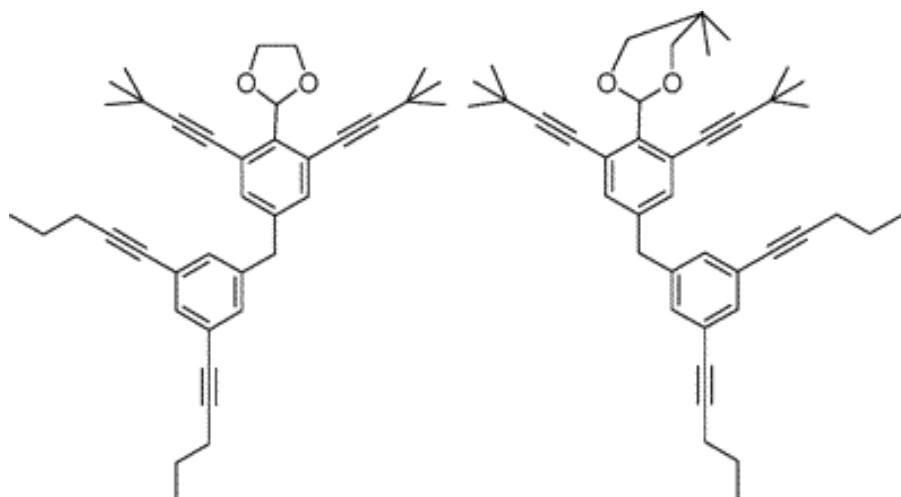
RIGA DOME CATHEDRAL

The Dome is the Latvian Archbishop's cathedral and a church of the Dome parish. Historically, the Riga Dome was the Livonian Order's central cathedral until the disintegration of the Order in 1561. In the medieval period, the Riga Dome Cathedral was the largest and one of the oldest sacral buildings in Latvia and the entire Baltic Region.



CHEMISTRY JOKES

!!! Chemistry is funny and chemists have a great sense of humor!!!



If you didn't get the joke, you probably didn't understand the science behind it. If this is the case, it's a chance for you to learn a little chemistry.

A chemistry professor couldn't resist interjecting a little philosophy into a class lecture. He interrupted his discussion on balancing chemical equations, saying, "Remember, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate!"

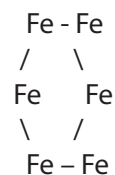
One day on the Tonight Show, Jay Leno showed a classified add that read: "Do you have mole problems? If so, call Avogadro at 602-1023."

Q: How did the football cheerleader define hydrophobic on her chemistry exam?

A: Fear of utility bills.

Q: What do chemists call a benzene ring with iron atoms replacing the carbon atoms?

A: A ferrous wheel:



Q: If H-two-O is the formula for water, what is the formula for ice?

A: H-two-O-CUBED

Q: Why do chemists like nitrates so much?

A: They're cheaper than day rates.

Q: Why do chemists call helium, curium and barium the medical elements?

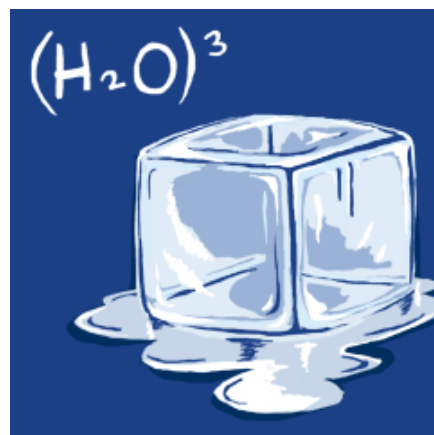
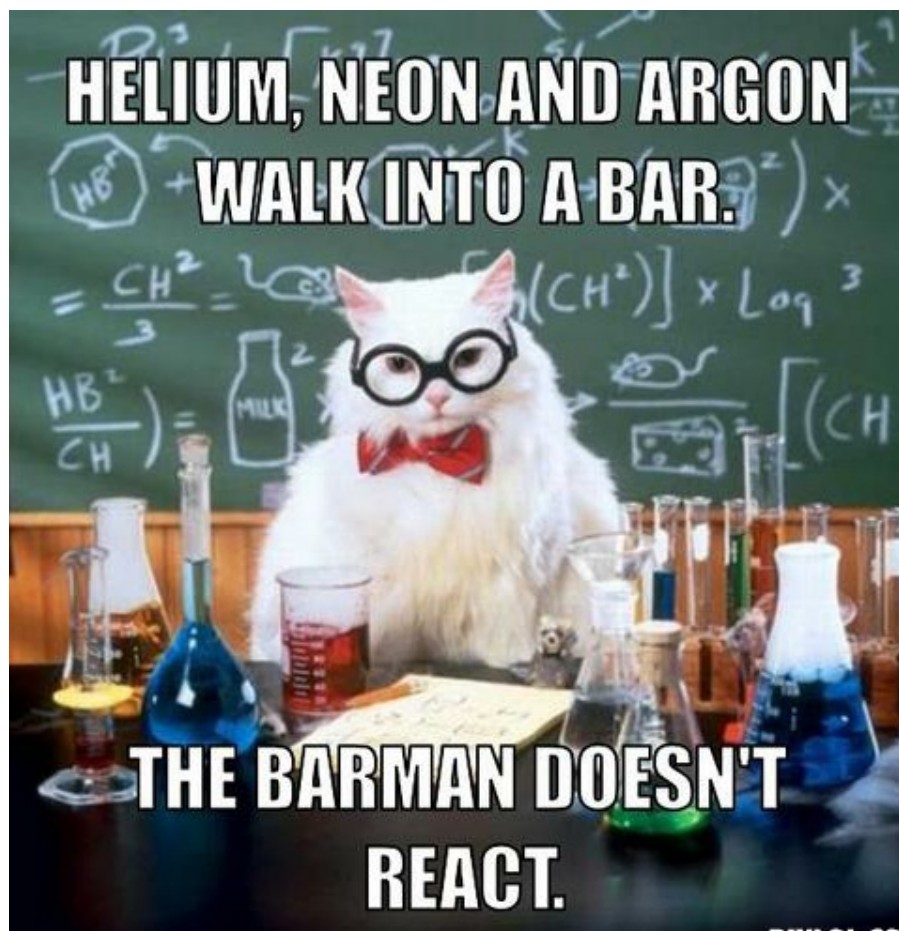
A: Because if you can't helium or curium, you barium!

Q: What does a teary-eyed, joyful Santa say about chemistry?

A: HOH, HOH, HOH!

A group of organic molecules were having a party, when a group of robbers broke into the room and stole all of the guest's joules. A tall, strong man, armed with a machine gun came into the room and killed the robbers one by one. The guests were very grateful to this man, and they wanted to know who he was. He replied: My name is BOND, Covalent Bond.

Billy was a chemist's son, but Billy is no more; what he thought was H₂O was H₂SO₄!



First postulate

If a substance has stench it has molecular structure. To claim otherwise is wrong.

Conclusion

Not all organic substances have a stench.

A useful thought that helps to keep calm.

If you accidentally open a bottle of pyridine in the laboratory you don't have to worry, the safety protocols forbid eating in laboratory.

Second postulate

What doesn't work-doesn't stink.

Conclusion

Active lab can be found by the smell.

Third postulate

In a system where more than one reaction is probable the most possible will be the one which is the least wanted.

Conclusion

In a reaction the amount of by products is infinite while the product amount for the part of synthesis, finite.

Reaction speed postulate

The higher is reaction speed the less probable it is to stop it.

Conclusion

The reactions with highest reaction speed usually end in an explosion and the appearance of supervising staff.

Main Professional skill

Main thing a chemist has to know is how to wash the laboratory appliances.

Conclusion

The main chemical reagent in all lab is „skaidra“, the cleaning paste

First Professional skill anti-law

The dirtier the dishes the better the catalysis.

Conclusion

It's not only unnecessary but hazardous to wash the dishes.

The law of necessity

Synthesis outcome is reversely proportional to the need for the product.

Conclusion

The best outcomes are for synthesizing unnecessary substances.

The law of pyrotechnics

The most probable time for a fire to start in laboratory is when the supervising staff is nearby

Conclusion

Supervising staff-piromaniacs and extrasense

The necessary things to determine a substance's structure

If the analytic data don't confirm the structure of the substance you have to get rid of them.

First rule of correct behaviour

If, judging by the color of gained substance the reaction has happened this substance should be disposed of.

Second rule of correct behaviour

If the results of experiment are not compatible to the theory, the gained substance should be disposed of by draining it in the sink. The principle of similarities
A hot flask looks the same as a cold flask

SURVIVAL RULES

- If you turn shit on, turn it off after
- If you open things, close them too
- If you took it apart put it together after
- If you can't put it together call for professional
- If you didn't take it apart, don't try to put it together
- If you gave things away, get them back
- If you don't know how it works, for ponies unicorns and bunnies sake don't touch it
- If it doesn't matter for you, don't mess at it.
- If you don't know how to do that – ask for advice now.
- If you didn't get it, scratch your head
- If you still don't get it, forget it
- If you are burning in the laboratory, make sure nothing else catches fire
- If something blew up, check for your pulse
- If you haven't read these rules don't step in a laboratory

