The content on this sheet is assessed on paper 2 only.

Topic 9b—Hydrocarbons

* Indicates that these are some examples only: you could be asked about any substance / reaction.

9.10—Formulae and structures of the alkanes

Methane:

Formula = CH₄

Ethane:

Formula = C_2H_6

Propane:

Formula = C₃H₈

Butane:

Formula = C_4H_{10}

9.12—Formulae and structures of the alkenes

Ethene:

Formula = C₂H₄

Propene:

Formula = C_3H_6

But-1-ene:

Formula = C₄H₈

Structure =
$$\begin{bmatrix} H & H & H & H \\ C = C - C - C - H \\ I & I & I \end{bmatrix}$$

But-2-ene:

Formula = C₄H₈

9.14—Testing for unsaturation*

We test for unsaturation by adding bromine water.

In the presence of a double bond, an addition reaction occurs. For ethene, the following molecule forms:

This molecule is called 1,2-dibromoethane.

Other alkenes will react in a similar way.

9.15—Bromine water

As described above, bromine water is used to test for the presence of unsaturation. In the presence of an alkene, bromine water will undergo a colour change from orange to colourless. In the presence of an alkene, the bromine water would remain orange.

9.11—Alkanes

Alkanes are made of carbon atoms which all form single bonds to other carbon atoms: they are described as being saturated for this reason. They consist of carbon and hydrogen atoms only, and so are hydrocarbons.

9.13—Alkenes

Alkenes contain a C=C functional group. This double bond means that they are described as being unsaturated. They consist of carbon and hydrogen atoms only, and so are hydrocarbons.

9.16—Combustion of hydrocarbons

All hydrocarbons can combust (burn in oxygen) to release energy. In complete combustion, the only products of these reactions would be water and carbon dioxide.