

Chemistry 7: Hydrocarbons

Section 1: Key terms

1 Crude oil	A mixture of hydrocarbons formed over millions of years from dead plankton subjected to pressure .
2 Hydrocarbon	A molecule containing hydrogen and carbon atoms only .
3 Alkane	A hydrocarbon containing only single bonds . Follows the formula C_nH_{2n+2} .
4 Fractional distillation	The method of separating hydrocarbons based on their boiling point .
5 Intermolecular force	Weak forces of attraction that exist between molecules .
6 Boiling point	The temperature at which a liquid turns into a gas .
7 Viscosity	The ability of a substance to flow .
8 Flammability	The ability of a substance to burn or ignite .
10 Combustion	A reaction between a fuel and oxygen that produces heat .
11 Complete combustion	Combustion in adequate oxygen . Complete combustion of a hydrocarbon will produce carbon dioxide and water .
12 Incomplete combustion	Combustion in inadequate oxygen . Incomplete combustion of a hydrocarbon produces water and carbon monoxide or carbon particulates .
13 Alkene	A hydrocarbon containing at least one double bond . If they contain one double bond only they follow the formula C_nH_{2n} . Used to make polymers .
14 Bromine water	A chemical that is brown/ orange in colour. If added to an alkene it reacts and changes to colourless . Alkanes do not produce a change in colour.
15 Cracking	The process by which less-useful long-chain hydrocarbons are split to produce an alkane and an alkene .
16 Catalyst	A chemical that speeds up the rate of reaction without being used itself.
17 Covalent bond	A strong bond that exists between non-metal atoms .
18 Fraction	A fraction contains similar length hydrocarbons with a small range of boiling points .

Section 2: Alkanes

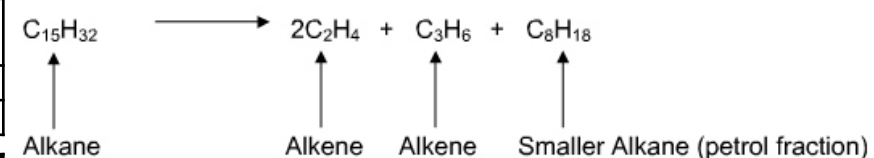
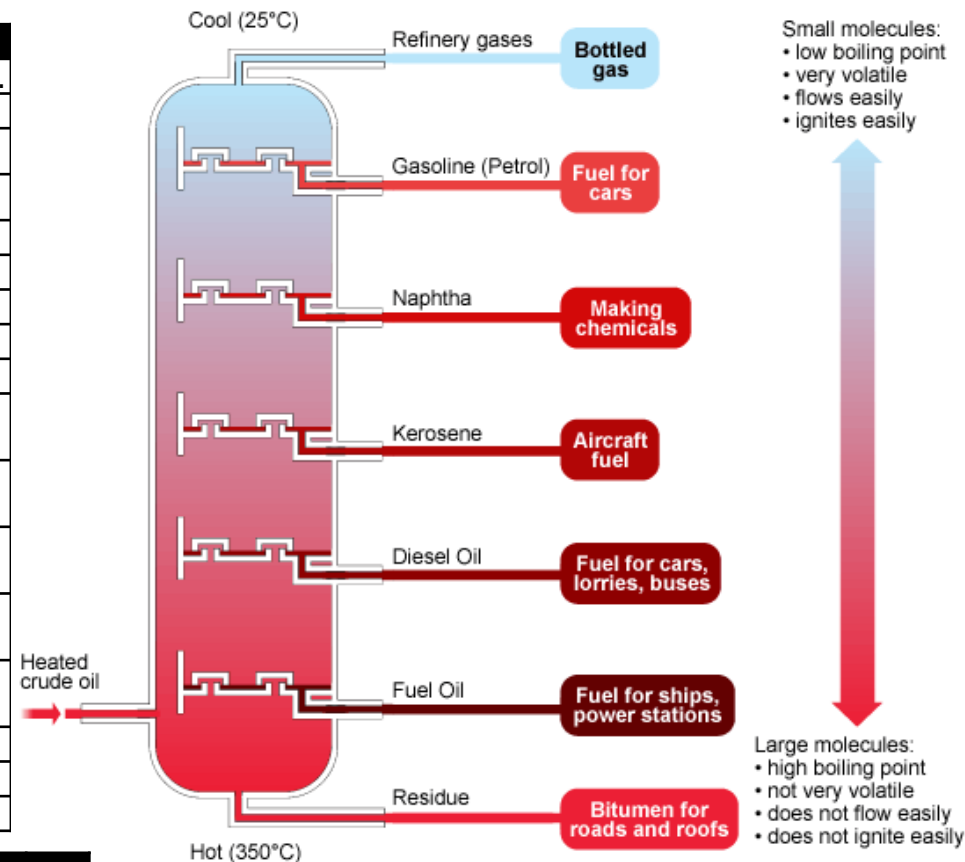
methane CH ₄	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \\ \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\ \\ \text{H} \end{array}$	19
ethane C ₂ H ₆	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \quad \text{H} \\ \quad \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\ \quad \\ \text{H} \quad \text{H} \end{array}$	20
propane C ₃ H ₈	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \\ \quad \quad \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\ \quad \quad \\ \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \end{array}$	21
butane C ₄ H ₁₀	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\ \quad \quad \quad \\ \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \end{array}$	22

Section 3: Fractional Distillation

23	The crude oil is heated to 400°C.	H
24	Most fractions evaporate and become vapours . The residue doesn't boil and flows to the bottom of the column.	E
25	Hot vapours rise up the column and cool down .	R
26	When the vapours cool to their boiling point they condense and flow out of the column.	C
27	Those with lower boiling points rise further before cooling down.	
28	Refinery gases do not cool down to their boiling point so remain as gases .	

Section 4: Cracking

Cracking Method	Process	Temperature
29 Catalytic Cracking	Fraction is heated in the presence of a zeolite catalyst .	500°C .
30 Steam Cracking	Fraction is diluted with steam and heated .	850°C .



31 Cracking breaks down long-chain hydrocarbons to shorter hydrocarbons and an alkene. The atoms in the products must be the same as the atoms in the reactants.