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Chapter 9 chemistry study guide

Studying for the AP Chemistry exam is a challenging undertaking. There are so many different topics and types of problems that you're expected to master, some of which you might not have fully understood in your class. 2021 AP Test Changes Due to COVID-19 Due to the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, AP tests will now be held over three different sessions between May and June. Your test dates, and whether or not your tests will be online or on paper, will depend on your school. To learn more about how all of this is going to work and get the latest information on test dates, AP online review, and what these changes means for you, be sure to check out our 2021 AP COVID-19 FAQ article. This AP Chemistry study guide is written to help you effectively navigate the road towards the AP exam. I'll give you all the information and resources you need to create a study plan, review the content, and practice your skills. What's the Purpose of This AP Chemistry Study Guide? This guide will aid you in preparation for the AP Chemistry exam and any other assessments you encounter in your class. The first section outlines a study plan that will help you review the material effectively before the test. You can also use this plan as general advice for the best way to use practice tests in the context of your studying throughout the year. The next section lists study tips that specifically apply to AP Chemistry. It's nice to have some strategies in hand before you begin prepping so that you get the most out of your time with the material! The section after this deals with the content of the course, divided into AP Chemistry's main units. I'll link to notes that provide information detailing each of the content areas and give you some supplemental videos that may help with explanations. Finally, I'll provide online resources that you can use to test your knowledge of AP Chemistry, including practice multiple-choice quizzes by topic area and sample free-response questions. Alright, let's do this. AP Chemistry Study Plans AP Chemistry has many different components: data interpretation, math problems, concept memorization, logical reasoning. Where do you start? I'll describe the basic study process step-by-step first and then provide an approximate timeline. Step 1: Take and Score an Initial Diagnostic Test Practice tests are available online, through your AP teacher, or in review books. Take your diagnostic test under the same time constraints as the real exam (1 hour 30 minutes for multiple choice and 1 hour 45 minutes for free response).You should aim to take your first full-length practice test around the beginning of your second semester. Side Note: Even though they can be useful, you should always be wary of practice tests from review books. Whenever possible, try to use official tests from the College Board to judge your score level instead of tests that were written by prep companies. Unofficial tests are often significantly easier or harder than the real AP test. Step 2: Evaluate Your Results When you're done, go back through your answers and score the test. Keep track of which types of questions you answered incorrectly (or answered correctly because of a lucky guess). This will allow you to collect a repository of concepts that you need to work on before taking the real test. Step 3: Study Weak Content Areas and Do Practice Problems Refer to your notes, review book, or information included later in this guide to refresh your knowledge of ideas that you had trouble with on the practice test. If you're struggling with a particular type of problem, find a similar problem in your textbook, review book, or online, and walk yourself through the steps of solving it. First, just read the solution explanation. Then, try to do it yourself without looking at the explanation and see if you can find the right answer. If you go through a few problems or questions like this in areas that need work, you will start to build up comfort with the material. Step 4: Take and Score a Second Practice Test When you feel you've addressed the main issues you noticed on the first diagnostic test, you can take another practice test to measure your improvement. Overview of the Entire Process: Take and score a practice test (3.5-4 hours) Analyze and categorize your mistakes (1-2 hours) Do practice problems and study content that correspond to your areas of weakness on the test (2-3 hours) Take and score a second practice test (3.5-4 hours) After the second practice test, check your progress. If you're satisfied, you can stop here at nine to 13 hours of studying, but I'd say that's the minimum study time for this test. Assuming you still want to improve or get more comfortable with the format of the exam, you can repeat the cycle as many times as necessary to reach your goals. Oh boy, a study plan that never has to end! AP Chemistry Study Strategies Before we get to notes on content, here are some study tips that you should keep in mind as you review. In a subject like chemistry, there's a huge difference between looking over the material and actually learning it. #1: Start With the Basics AP Chemistry is a subject that builds on itself from the ground up. If you don't understand the essential reasoning behind the properties of different elements, you'll have trouble answering more obscure problems down the road. For this reason, your studying should begin with the topics that were covered earliest in the year. If there's a concept you learned early on that's still giving you trouble, you should revisit it right away to solidify your understanding. If you don't absorb foundational knowledge before solving complex problems, you'll end up wasting your time and getting more confused (or memorizing how to solve a specific problem without expanding your understanding of the concept). #2: Do It Yourself When studying a subject that requires step-by-step problem solving, students often read answer explanations and overestimate their levels of understanding. Everything seems so clear when you're reading about it, but you'll feel different during the AP test when all you have is the problem in front of you. That's why it's critical to re-do problems yourself after looking at the answer explanations. Learning by doing is the only way to go with chemistry. If you can find the solution on your own while genuinely understanding how you got there, you'll do well on similar problems when they come up in the future. #3: Double Check for Logic and Units When you finish a chemistry problem, you might be tempted to accept the answer you calculated right away and continue to the next question. Before you do, check to make sure that your answer matches up with what you know about the problem and its scale. Many issues with units and significant figures can happen in chemistry, so you should double check to verify that your answer is in the correct form and makes logical sense. #4: Invest in a Review Book If you have the means, I'd highly recommend buying a review book to supplement independent studying. Review books can provide you with more concise explanations of concepts and better ideas for how to structure your time. They also have practice tests and questions that you can consult as you review different parts of the curriculum. Check out our article on the best AP Chemistry review books for more specific ideas. It's time to break open your piggy bank (if only so it doesn't break you open first based on its incredibly disturbing facial expression). AP Chemistry Content First, I have for you a super sweet interactive periodic table! The periodic table is your best friend in AP Chemistry, and you'll have access to it on the test. You should know all about the different types of elements and what the numbers in the table mean! This other site is also useful for sorting the elements according to their various unique properties. Here are links to some notes for the main topics that fall under each of the nine units of the course. The units represent nine fundamental themes of AP Chemistry under the newly-organized curriculum. These resources should help you to review key concepts if you find that you're missing sections in your notes from class. Note that, because AP Chemistry's curricula was recently updated in 2019, most online notes haven't been updated yet, which is why some topics don't have corresponding notes and some notes cover multiple topics. Unit 1: Atomic Structure and Properties Unit 2: Molecular and Ionic Compound Structure and Properties Unit 3: Intermolecular Forces and Properties Looking for help studying for your AP exam? Our one-on-one online AP tutoring services can help you prepare for your AP exams. Get matched with a top tutor who got a high score on the exam you're studying for! Unit 4: Chemical Reactions Unit 5: Kinetics Unit 6: Thermodynamics Unit 7: Equilibrium Unit 8: Acids and Bases Unit 9: Applications of Thermodynamics This is how jazzed up you'll be while you're studying. Online Practice Resources This is a list of free online resources that have practice tests and problems that may aid in your studying. If you need more practice, you should also consider buying a review book or asking your AP teacher for additional official practice tests. College Board The College Board has free-response questions (along with scoring guidelines) from past tests (2006 to 2013) on its site for AP Chemistry. You can also find free-response questions from 2014 to 2018 and 2019 on the AP Student section of the College Board website. All of these are great for practice! ScienceGeek I like this site because it's not all multiple choice. You have to solve problems completely on your own, which awesome practice for the AP test. There are tons of different activities that relate to all aspects of the course, and you can check your answers as you find them. This is a helpful resource for practice problems that will allow you to develop a strong fundamental understanding of the concepts. Albert iO Albert has sets of practice questions organized by concept. Each question is labeled Easy, Medium, or Hard, so you'll know whether you've mastered the material. (You need to pay to access some materials.) The site also records your progress and the accuracy of your answers in each topic area to make it easier to identify where your skills still need work. All questions are multiple choice, so make sure you also practice open-ended questions elsewhere (or do some of the problems without looking at the answer choices). Varsity Tutors This site has a bunch of practice tests on all topics related to AP Chemistry. Each test has a difficulty rating along with a listing of the average amount of time required to complete the questions. These tests are multiple choice, but there are plenty that will ask you to solve stoichiometry problems or balance equations. Just like Albert iO, once you're well-versed in the material, you can try to do the problems without looking at the answer choices. Adrian Dingle's Chemistry Pages This is a resource that offers short multiple choice quizzes on all topics in AP chemistry. The quizzes are only five questions long each, so they're good for quick review of concepts that you already know fairly well. Conclusion AP Chemistry is tough. It covers so much information, and most of it is complex and challenging to understand. Take a diagnostic test before you start studying so you can devise a plan that fits your needs, whether that means studying for 10 hours or 40 hours. I'd recommend that you use the study strategies and supplemental resources in this guide to bolster your understanding of the material. If you're willing to work hard to master every topic in AP Chemistry, the test will be a much less stressful experience! What's Next? If you're still planning out your future high school schedule, take a look at this guide that will help you decide which AP classes to take in addition to chemistry. How high does your AP score have to be to qualify for college credit? Learn more about getting credit for AP classes in college. One of the single most important parts of your college application is what classes you choose to take in high school (in conjunction with how well you do in those classes). Our team of PrepScholar admissions experts have compiled their knowledge into this single guide to planning out your high school course schedule. We'll advise you on how to balance your schedule between regular and honors/AP/IB courses, how to choose your extracurriculars, and what classes you can't afford not to take. Borax, a popular addition to laundry detergents and slime recipes, is a natural ingredient that has been getting flack for possibly being harmful to children. But is this true?By Alia HoytIf you've ever had a half-frozen beer explode on you, you know that yes, alcohol freezes — but not all types freeze at the same rate. We'll let you in on the secrets to frozen alcoholic delights.By Alison Cooper If anyone could pull it off, she could. That’s what friends and colleagues said when Roxanne Coady left New York in 1989 to open a bookstore in a small town.Of course, they believed in her. She had been one of the top tax accountants in the country. She was whip- smart, driven, and tireless — “on 82 different boards,” as she likes to say, which is only a slight exaggeration. She even grew up in business: As a girl, she kept the books for her father’s bakeries. “If you were to pick a dream person to start her own bookstore, it would be Roxanne,” says friend and Connecticut Public Radio host Faith Middleton. “She’s so smart about business.”Coady nearly proved everybody wrong.For the first several years, R.J. Julia Independent Booksellers, located on the main drag in Madison, Connecticut, grew by leaps and bounds. The im-pressive growth, however, obscured a dotcomlike inability to turn a profit. Coady says that she ignored budgets and “blew probably $250,000” of the money that she and her husband, a former real-estate developer, had saved up. It was twice what she should have invested, but she couldn’t resist going all out on free wine and food at book signings, stylish extra-strength bags, and excessive bonuses. “Instead of solving problems, I threw more money at them,” she says. “I didn’t run the store like a business.”As an accountant, Coady had always used her head. But as a bookseller and book lover, she let her heart take over. She built the most appealing bookstore she could imagine, while neglecting to build a sustainable business. “Now,” she says, “I’m combining head and heart.”Thirteen years after dramatically changing careers, Coady, 54, has proven that she could pull it off after all. In the same time that nearly half of the independent bookstores in the country have closed, R.J. Julia has achieved more than $3 million in annual sales and a modest profit. And Coady, its ever-fashionable, opinionated, and animated owner, has made the transition from successful accountant to successful bookseller.A Bookseller Waiting to HappenCoady’s passion for reading and her talent for accounting were inspired by her parents, who survived the Holocaust and immigrated to the United States in 1948, settling in New York’s Lower East Side. Although her mother had yet to understand English, she read to her children anyway, pronouncing the words phonetically. Once Coady learned to read, she wanted to tackle every children’s book in the library in alphabetical order. When she was in middle school, her father, a baker, purchased the first of 10 bakeries, called Em’s, and brought her to a meeting with his accountant.“Who’s going to do the bookkeeping?” the accountant asked.“She is,” her father replied.He wasn’t joking. The accountant agreed to teach her, and Coady, the oldest of six, juggled school, family baby-sitting duties and payroll books until she left for college. “Now my father feels I work too hard,” she says, laughing. “He says, ‘You can’t ride two horses with one ass.’ I tell him, ‘Daddy, this is what you raised me to do.’ “By the 1980s, Coady had become a partner and national tax director at BDO Seidman, the New Yorkffibased international accounting firm. She was the first woman selected for the job. “People tell me now, ‘It must have been boring working with taxes,’ ” Coady says. “But I loved it.” She had a 12th-floor corner office overlooking Central Park and was making about $250,000 a year. In 1988, she was featured on the cover of Money magazine, which dubbed her “the accountant’s accountant.”Heady stuff, to be sure. But it wasn’t enough to keep her there. “As much as I enjoyed the work, it wasn’t enriching,” Coady says. “It was in terms of dollars, but it wasn’t enriching to my heart.” At least not in the way that books had always been.Even as she climbed the corporate ladder, Coady remained an insatiable reader. She would always carry a novel with her, stealing a few moments in a taxi, on the train, anywhere. She was forever recommending favorite titles to friends. “I ran a little library out of my house,” she says. “People would say, ‘Oh geez, that was the best book you gave me.’ “They were telling her something. It was time to make a change.Creating a Modern-Day Town GreenR.J. Julia, named for Coady’s grandmother, Julia, who perished in a concentration camp in World War II, is much more than a store where you buy the latest Harry Potter or John Grisham. It’s a local institution that has become interwoven with people’s lives as few businesses are. “It’s the heart of the community,” says Norman Weissman, a retired writer, director, and producer who lives in neighboring Guilford and attends a monthly book-club meetings at R.J. Julia. “The bookstore and the town are inseparable.” Area residents feel a responsibility to support the independent bookstore — their bookstore — even if it means paying a little more at times.From the beginning, Coady wanted R.J. Julia to be a modern-day town green. “I felt people were becoming disconnected from each other,” she says. “We had lost a public place for conversation about things that mattered.” The store hosts more than 200 events a year, from book signings to book-club meetings to children’s-story hour on Wednesday mornings. By lobbying publishers and catering to visiting authors, Coady has made Madison, an affluent coastal town with 2,200 residents, a regular book-tour stop between New York and Boston. The walls are lined with dozens of autographed photos of past visitors: Jimmy Carter, Garrison Keillor, and Anne Rice.At Coady’s suggestion, Lee Jacobus started a classical literature book club at R.J. Julia. A professor emeritus of English at the University of Connecticut, he prepares as though he were still teaching in a classroom, reading, analyzing, and making notes 40 minutes a day, three days a week. “It’s an enormous time investment and, yes, I do it for free,” says Jacobus. “But this is an institution that should be supported. It’s important to the intellectual life of the town.”For R.J. Julia to distinguish itself in an increasingly crowded marketplace, Coady believes it has to offer unparalleled service and expertise. Like their boss, the staff is well read, which prepares them for “hand-selling” — that is, recommending books that they or their colleagues have read. “That’s the value that we add to the book-buying experience,” Coady says. “We put the right book in the right hands.” The store’s top-selling section is staff recommendations, where each book is accompanied by a “shelf talker,” a capsule review from a bookseller, or in the case of the new Harry Potter, by a bookseller’s child (“I’m 11, and I finished in exactly five days, down to the hour! Once you start reading it, you won’t stop!” raves Hana, the manager’s stepdaughter).Suzanne Coopersmith is one of about 35 booksellers on staff. Like Coady, she’s sociable, totally unreserved, and capable of talking about books all day. She can’t imagine working at a chain, even the one that’s coming to Waterford, about 15 miles from where she lives. “There are too many rules,” says Coopersmith. “Here, I can give a discount to a customer whenever I want to.” It’s true. Coady lets the staff do whatever it takes to make a customer happy. There may not be many official rules, but the staff definitely knows the kind of store that she wants R.J. Julia to be. When it comes to sharing likes and dislikes, Coady’s an open book. As she reminds the staff, she prefers the offer, “Let me know if I can be of help,” or “Are you finding what you need?” “Can I help you?” strikes her as intrusive.For Natalie Ferringer, it was love with R.J. Julia at first browse. The dark wooden bookshelves, brass fixtures, and renditions of various writers’ signatures painted on the hardwood floor give the place the ambience of a neighborhood bookstore in Europe or New York. Ferringer, the head of the political-science department at the University of New Haven, can spend entire afternoons shopping, which translates to between $350 and $400 worth of books a month. And yet, it’s hard to say who benefits more: Ferringer or the bookstore. “I know them by name,” she says of the staff. “There’s Nancy, Karen, Lisa, Suzanne, Meredith, Beth, Babette, Roxanne.” “It’s the heart of the community,” says an R.J. Julia customer. “The bookstore and the town are inseparable.” Perhaps the best measure of R.J. Julia’s relationship with its customers comes from Denise Harrington, an avid murder-mystery reader and a customer from the beginning. During a recent visit, she picked up a special order, The Thin Woman, a lighthearted British who-done-it, written by Dorothy Cannell and originally published in 1984. What’s remarkable about her purchase is that Harrington never requested the book. In fact, she had never even heard of it. “Suzanne ordered it for me without my knowing,” she says.“I knew she’d love it,” says Coopersmith.She was right.The Roxanne EffectWhen Coady launched R.J. Julia, Madison, like many small towns, was in decline. Suburban big-box retailers were becoming the rage. “After I opened, the theater, the hardware store, the five-and-dime, and the restaurant all closed,” she says. “I thought, ‘What did I just do?’ ” Now, Madison is a different story. Although the business district consists of just one long block on Boston Post Road, there’s an art house and an elegant Italian restaurant across from R.J. Julia. There are a variety of shops and boutiques. There’s even a Starbucks.As an entrepreneur, Coady has come a long way herself. She’s running R.J. Julia like a business, with budgets, a training manual, and more-structured evaluations. By coincidence, her son Edward and the store were born in the same year. Since turning 13 this year, says Coady, both have had their bar mitzvahs: Edward became a man, R.J. Julia a mature business.In reality, though, adding corporate discipline to the bookstore remains a challenge, especially without the financial incentives she had at her disposal at a major accounting firm. Instead, Coady offers a casual, fun environment in which booksellers can be their passionate selves. They constantly remind her that the operative word in independent bookseller is independent. When Coady tried to get the staff to wear matching R.J. Julia shirts, they declined. So she bought R.J. Julia buttons, which no one wore for long. A newly arrived box of green R.J. Julia lanyards in the office could be next. “This is where the democracy thing shoots me in the foot,” she says.Coady’s natural effusiveness and love of writing — she reads about six books at a time — make her an irresistible bookseller. “When Roxanne is on the floor, our sales go up 20%,” says store manager Meredith Warner. Faith Middleton, the radio host, experiences the Roxanne Effect twice a month, when Coady appears on her show to talk about books. Recently, as she described Family History, Dani Shapiro’s novel about a mother’s attempts to save her fractured family, “the hair stood up on the back of my neck,” says Middleton. “You could hear a pin drop in the studio.”That passion infuses every square foot of R.J. Julia, and every ounce of its owner. When Coady first contemplated changing careers, she imagined that running a bookstore would be a change of pace, less demanding for her than being an executive at a large firm. “I often joke that I gave up money for time, and now I have neither,” she says. She’s still a type A, so it comes as no surprise that running a successful bookstore isn’t enough. Currently, she’s expanding the children’s section, revamping the gift-shop area, and drawing up a business plan to take the brand in new directions.A second R.J. Julia? A chain of stores? Coady can’t say. That chapter has yet to be written.Sidebar: 5 Great Reads“Everybody has time for one discretionary thing,” says Roxanne Coady, the owner of R.J. Julia. “Mine’s reading.”Below are five of her all-time favorite books. If these aren’t enough, check out R.J. Julia’s lists of recommended books for adults (www.rjjulia.com/fivefeet.htm) and kids (www.rjjulia.com/threefeet.htm).Stones From the River by Ursula Hegi“It’s about World War II and the Holocaust from the perspective of a small German town that may or may not understand what’s going on, but in a quiet way is mimicking what’s happening. You feel the impact of betrayal and of being co-conspirators through silence.”Dearest Friend: A Life of Abigail Adams by Lynne Withey“A view of the Revolution from Abigail’s vantage point, what it was like at home, raising her kids during a dangerous time.”The Book of Laughter and Forgetting by Milan Kundera “It’s about sorrow as a way of defining you, how you need it to live and function in a meaningful way. It’s a philosophical book, but in that Eastern European, wacky Kafka way.” The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison“The narrator is a black girl who has been abused, and the novel is about how she moves through that experience. This is one of those books that changes the way you look at the world.”A Child’s Anthology of Poetry by Elizabeth Sword“I’ve been reading from this to my son since he was two, and we always find something that amuses us, whatever mood we’re in.” Chuck Salter (csalter@fastcompany.com) is a Fast Company senior writer based in Baltimore. Learn more about R.J. Julia on the Web (www.rjjulia.com).

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