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| Chemical Investigations |
| Factors affecting enzyme activity |
| Teacher/Technician Guide |

A glass of water

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Factors Affecting Enzyme Activity

UNIT 2 PPA 3

**Introduction**

Enzymes are globular protein molecules which catalyse biochemical reactions. An enzyme is very specific usually catalysing only one reaction of one particular compound. The latter is known as the substrate and it binds on to an enzyme's active site where it undergoes reaction. The active site has a unique shape which is matched by that of the substrate molecule. This allows an enzyme to accept only its substrate molecule and reject all others. Any change which alters the shape of the active site will affect an enzyme's activity.

The aim of this experiment is to investigate the effect or pH or temperature changes on enzyme activity.

We will study catalase. an enzyme widely distributed in living organisms. It catalyses the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen:

2H2O2(aq) 🡪2H2O(l) + 02(g)

Choose the factor you will investigate (either pH or temperature) and proceed to the appropriate section below.

**pH**

**You will need**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| test tube with side arm | delivery tube |
| stopper | syringes |
| small beaker | clamp stand and clamp |
| Timer |  |
| potato discs (catalase source) | hydrogen peroxide (30 volumes) |
| buffer solutions (pH 4, 7 and 10) | 0.1 mol l-1 sodium hydroxide (pH 13) |
| 0.1 mol l-1 hydrochloric acid (pH l) |  |

**Health & Safety**

30 vol Hydrogen peroxide is corrosive to the eyes.

0.1 mol l-1 sodium hydroxide is a skin and eye irritant

Most buffers are of no significant hazard at working concentration – check with your teacher /lecturer though before using them.

Wear goggles and wash off any chemical spillages on the skin.

When using the syringes always keep them pointing downwards.

**Method**

**Procedure**

1. Diagram

   Description automatically generatedAttach the delivery tube to the side arm of the test tube and clamp the test tube in a vertical position.
2. Half fill the beaker with water.
3. Arrange the apparatus so that the bent end of the delivery tube is beneath the surface of the water in the beaker
4. Using a syringe, add 5cm3 of the pH 7 buffer solution into the test tube along with 3 potato discs.
5. Leave the mixture to stand for three minutes and during this time measure I cm3 of hydrogen peroxide into a syringe.
6. Add the hydrogen peroxide to the test tube and immediately start the timer and stopper the test tube. Then count and record the number of bubbles of oxygen given off during the next 3 minutes.
7. Repeat the experiment with each of the two remaining buffer solutions and then with 0.1 rnol l-1 hydrochloric acid (pH l) and finally with 0.1 mol l-1 sodium hydroxide solution (pH 13).

In each experiment remember to:

* leave the buffer/potato disc mixture to stand for 3 minutes before adding the hydrogen peroxide
* count and record the number of bubbles of oxygen produced during the first 3 minutes of reaction.

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**Temperature**

**You will need**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| test tube with side arm | delivery tube |
| stopper | syringes |
| small beaker & large beaker | clamp stand and clamp |
| Timer | tripod |
| Bunsen burner and heating mat | thermometer |
| potato discs (catalase source) | hydrogen peroxide (30 volumes) |
| Deionised water |  |

**Health & Safety**

30 vol Hydrogen peroxide is corrosive to the eyes.

Wear goggles and wash off any chemical spillages on the skin.

When using the syringes always keep them pointing downwards.

**Method**

1. Diagram

   Description automatically generatedHalf fill both beakers with water from the cold tap and place the larger one on the tripod.
2. Attach the delivery tube to the side arm of the test tube, place the test tube in the large beaker of water and clamp it in a vertical position.
3. Arrange the apparatus so that the bent end of the delivery tube is beneath the surface of the water in the small beaker.
4. Using a syringe, add 5 cm3 of deionised water into the test tube along with 3 potato discs.
5. Place the thermometer in the test tube and leave the mixture to stand until its temperature remains steady. Measure and record this steady temperature.
6. Measure 1 cm3 of hydrogen peroxide into a syringe.
7. Add the hydrogen peroxide to the test tube and immediately start the timer and stopper the test tube. Then count and record the number of bubbles of oxygen given off during the next 3 minutes.
8. Repeat the experiment another four times after heating the water in the large beaker first to 30 °C, then to 40 °C, then to 50 °C and finally to 60 °C. It is not necessary to heat the water to these precise temperatures - they are only approximate values.

In each experiment remember to:

* leave the water/potato disc mixture to stand until its temperature remains steady
* measure and record this steady temperature just before adding the hydrogen peroxide
* count and record the number of bubbles of oxygen produced during the first 3 minutes of reaction.