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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2007/2008

April 2008

**KIT 254 – Polimer**  
**[Polymer]**

Duration: 2 hours  
*[Masa : 2 jam]*

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Please check that this examination paper consists of **TEN** printed pages before you begin the examination.

**Instructions:**

Answer any **FOUR** (4) questions.

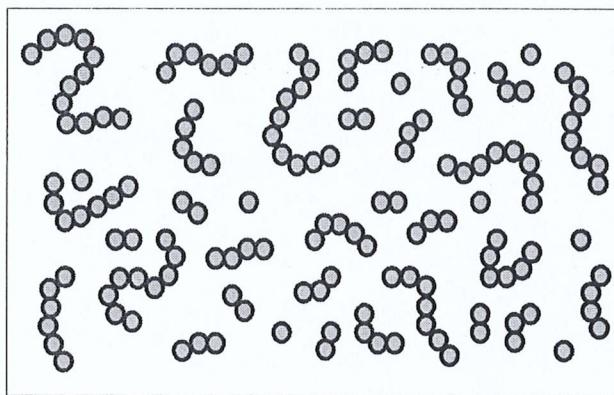
Answer each question on a new page.

You may answer either in Bahasa Malaysia or in English.

If a candidate answers more than four questions, only the answers to the first four questions in the answer sheet will be graded.

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1. The diagram below illustrates the result of an incomplete step-growth polymerization of 150 monomer units. There are 38 molecules, with chain lengths,  $x$ , ranging from 1 to 12.
- (a) Plot the number distribution and the weight distribution of the chain lengths. (17 marks)
- (b) Calculate the number-average and the weight-average chain length.



(8 marks)

2. (a) TABLE 1 gives the values of melting temperature,  $T_m$  for a series of polyamides of the type  $-[\text{HN}-(\text{CH}_2)_x-\text{NH}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_4-\text{CO}]_n-$ .

TABLE 1

$x$	$T_m / ^\circ\text{C}$
2	258
3	221
4	240
5	196
6	215

Explain the dependence of  $T_m$  on  $x$ .

(8 marks)

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- (b) From question 2(a), what would be the effect on  $T_m$  if the  $-(CH_2)_x-$  group is replaced with a *p*-phenylene (*p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-) group? Give reasons for your answer. (5 marks)
- (c) By using appropriate examples, explain how the **free volume concept** can be used to determine the glass transition temperature,  $T_g$  of polymers. (12 marks)
3. Styrene can be polymerized anionically using butyllithium as an initiator and dioxane as a solvent.
- (a) Describe the mechanisms involved in this polymerization. (6 marks)
- (b) Discuss the effects of solvent on the rate and degree of polymerization. (6 marks)
- (c) Calculate  $\overline{M}_n$ ,  $\overline{M}_w$  and the polydispersity index, P.I. for a hypothetical polymer sample that contains **equimolar** amounts of three polymer molecules having molecular weights of 30,000, 60,000 and 90,000 g mol<sup>-1</sup> respectively. What would be the  $\overline{M}_n$ ,  $\overline{M}_w$  and P.I. values if **equal weights** of the polymer molecules are used? (8 marks)
- (d) List the general characteristics of crosslinked (network) polymers that differ from those of linear or branched polymers. State one main problem associated with the former. (5 marks)
4. (a) **TABLE 2** presents a hypothetical step-reaction polymerization of 10 AB monomer molecules. A and B represent two different functional groups and *ab* is the product of their reaction with each other ( $nAB \rightarrow Ab...ababab...aB$ ). Based on the above definitions, complete the table with the required information:

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TABLE 2

Step	Molecular species present	Remarks
1	AB	$p = 0$
2	AbaB AbaB AbaB AB AB AB AB	$p = ?, \bar{x}_n = 1.43$
3	AbabaB AbaB AbabaB AB AB	$p = 0.5, \bar{x}_n = ?$
4	(Draw the possible molecular species)	$p = ?, \bar{x}_n = 2.5,$
5	(Draw the possible molecular species)	$p = 0.9, \bar{x}_n = ?$

(6 marks)

- (b) In the polymerization of nylon 6,6, what would happen to the polymer if adipic acid (1,6-hexanedioic acid) contains acetic acid as an impurity? Show the relevant reaction and calculations to substantiate your point.

(10 marks)

- (c) In a normal free radical mechanism with added initiator, the polymerization rate and degree of polymerization,  $\overline{DP}$ , are proportional to the first power of monomer concentration. What would be the effect of monomer concentration on  $\overline{DP}$  in a thermal polymerization system? Derive kinetic expressions to show the difference between these two systems.

(9 marks)

5. (a) Briefly outline the mechanistic steps for the chain-reaction polymerization of methyl methacrylate (MMA) using a free radical initiator. Draw the possible isomeric structures of a section of an MMA chain. Which one is more favourable? Explain.

(10 marks)

- (b) In the solution polymerization of  $5.00 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  MMA ( $M_0=100$ ), addition of an alkyl mercaptan, R-SH (a chain transfer agent) at a concentration of  $0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  reduces the number-average molecular weight from 100,000 to 10,000. What is the chain transfer constant for the mercaptan? Describe how such compounds act to reduce polymer molecular weight.

(10 marks)

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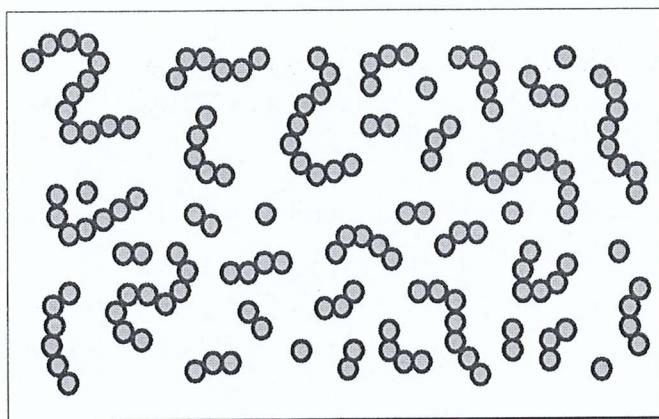
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1. Gambarajah di bawah menunjukkan keputusan pempolimeran langkah-pertumbuhan bagi 150 unit monomer yang tidak lengkap. Terdapat 38 molekul dengan panjang rantai,  $x$ , pada julat 1 hingga 12.

(a) Plotkan taburan nombor dan taburan berat bagi panjang rantai tersebut.

(17 markah)

(b) Kirakan purata-nombor dan purata-berat bagi panjang rantai tersebut.



(8 markah)

2. (a) **JADUAL 1** memberikan nilai-nilai suhu lebur,  $T_m$  bagi satu siri poliamida berjenis  $-(HN-(CH_2)_x-NH-CO-(CH_2)_4-CO)_n-$ .

**JADUAL 1**

<b>x</b>	<b><math>T_m / {}^\circ C</math></b>
2	258
3	221
4	240
5	196
6	215

Terangkan kebergantungan  $T_m$  terhadap  $x$ .

(8 markah)

...8/-

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- (b) Daripada soalan 2(a), apakah kesan pada  $T_m$  jika kumpulan  $-(CH_2)_x-$  digantikan dengan kumpulan *p*-fenilen (*p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)? Berikan sebab untuk jawapan anda.
- (5 markah)
- (c) Dengan menggunakan contoh-contoh yang sesuai, terangkan bagaimana **kONSEP ISIPADU BEBAS** dapat digunakan bagi menentukan suhu peralihan kaca,  $T_g$  polimer.
- (12 markah)
3. Stirena dapat dipolimerkan secara anionik dengan menggunakan butillitium sebagai pemula dan dioksana sebagai pelarut.
- (a) Perihalkan mekanisme yang terlibat dalam pempolimeran ini.
- (6 markah)
- (b) Bincangkan kesan pelarut terhadap kadar dan darjah pempolimeran ini.
- (6 markah)
- (c) Hitung  $\overline{M}_n$ ,  $\overline{M}_w$  dan indeks poliserakan, I.P. bagi suatu sampel polimer hipotetikal yang mengandungi kuantiti ekuimolar tiga molekul polimer dengan berat molekul masing-masing 30,000, 60,000 dan 90,000 g mol<sup>-1</sup>. Apakah nilai-nilai  $\overline{M}_n$ ,  $\overline{M}_w$  dan I.P. sekiranya molekul polimer itu digunakan pada berat yang sama?
- (8 markah)
- (d) Senaraikan ciri-ciri umum bagi polimer berangkaisilang (rangkaian) yang berbeza daripada polimer linear atau bercabang. Nyatakan satu masalah utama yang berkaitan dengan polimer berangkaisilang ini.
- (5 markah)

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4. (a) **JADUAL 2** mewakili suatu pempolimeran tindak balas-berperingkat yang hipotetikal bagi 10 molekul monomer AB. A dan B mewakili dua kumpulan berfungsi berbeza dan *ab* adalah hasil tindak balas antara satu sama lain ( $nAB \rightarrow Ab...ababab...aB$ ). Berdasarkan takrifan di atas, lengkapkan jadual tersebut dengan maklumat yang dikehendaki.

**JADUAL 2**

Langkah	Spesies molekul yang hadir	Catatan
1	AB AB AB AB AB AB AB AB AB	$p = 0$
2	AbaB AbaB AbaB AB AB AB AB	$p = ?, \bar{x}_n = 1.43$
3	Ababab AB Ababab AB AB	$p = 0.5, \bar{x}_n = ?$
4	(Lukiskan spesies molekul yang mungkin)	$p = ?, \bar{x}_n = 2.5,$
5	(Lukiskan spesies molekul yang mungkin)	$p = 0.9, \bar{x}_n = ?$

(6 markah)

- (b) Dalam pempolimeran nilon 6,6, apakah yang akan terjadi kepada polimer tersebut jika asid adipik (asid 1,6-heksadioik) mengandungi asid asetik sebagai bendasing? Tunjukkan tindak balas dan pengiraan yang relevan bagi menguatkan hujah anda.

(10 markah)

- (c) Dalam mekanisme radikal bebas normal yang ditambahkan bahan pemula, kadar pempolimeran dan darjah pempolimeran,  $\overline{DP}$ , adalah berkadar terus dengan kuasa pertama kepekatan monomer. Apakah kesan kepekatan monomer ke atas  $\overline{DP}$  dalam sistem pempolimeran terma? Terbitkan ungkapan kinetik bagi menunjukkan perbezaan antara kedua-dua sistem ini.

(9 markah)

5. (a) Dengan ringkas berikan garis kasar langkah-langkah mekanisme bagi pempolimeran tindak balas-rantai metil metakrilat (MMA) yang menggunakan pemula radikal bebas. Lukiskan struktur-struktur isomer yang mungkin bagi sebahagian rantai MMA. Isomer manakah yang lebih digemari? Jelaskan.

(10 markah)

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- (b) Dalam pempolimeran larutan bagi  $5.00 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  MMA ( $M_0=100$ ), penambahan alkil merkaptan, R-SH (agen pemindahan rantai) pada kepekatan  $0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  akan mengurangkan berat molekul purata-bilangannya daripada 100,000 ke 10,000. Apakah pemalar pemindahan rantai bagi merkaptan? Perihalkan bagaimana sebatian seperti ini bertindak mengurangkan berat molekul polimer.

(10 markah)

- (c) Berikan garis kasar perbezaan struktur antara polimer ataktik, isotaktik dan sindiotaktik. Terangkan pengaruh ketaktikan terhadap kehabluran polimer.

(5 markah)

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