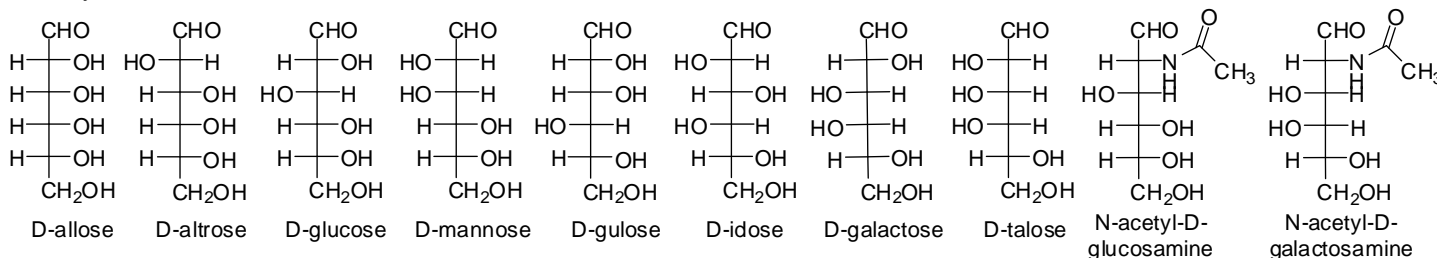


The examination has eight questions on seven pages. The point values for each question are found with the question. Partial credit will be given where appropriate.

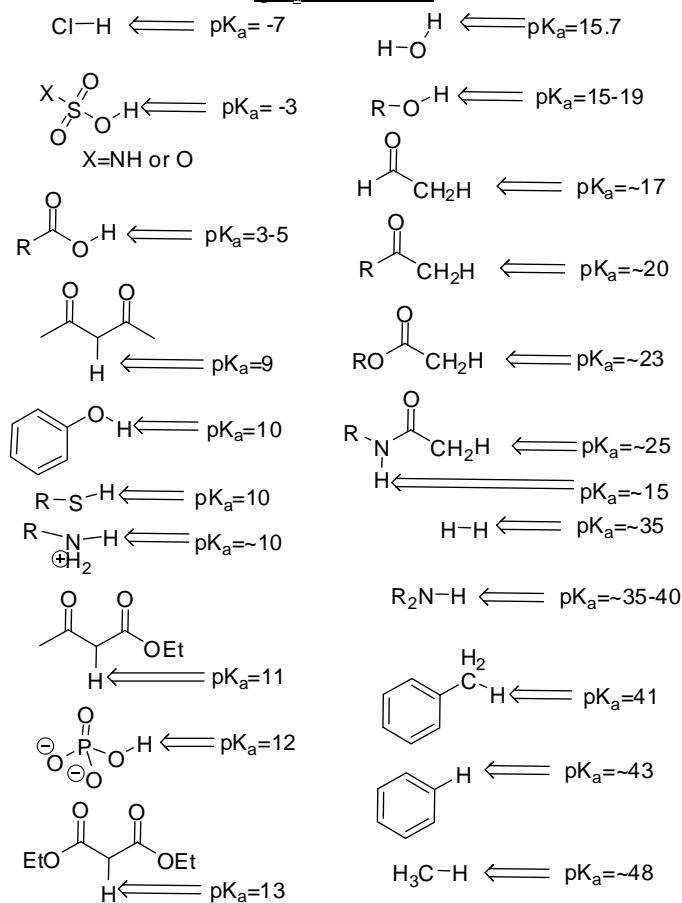
Read each question carefully before answering. Be certain you understand everything the question is requesting. Do the easy questions first. If questions appear confusing or exceedingly complex, then you may need to rethink the question. Keep in mind the intended examination topics.

In organic chemistry, hand-drawn pictures convey specific information. Be sure the drawing you have made conveys the essential information required to answer the question. Make certain that three-dimensional pictures display the correct atom arrangements. Don't forget to include lone pairs of electrons and formal charges when appropriate.

Carbohydrate structures:



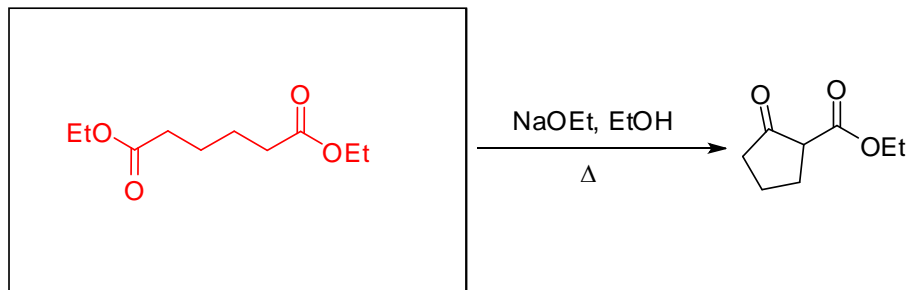
pK<sub>a</sub> information



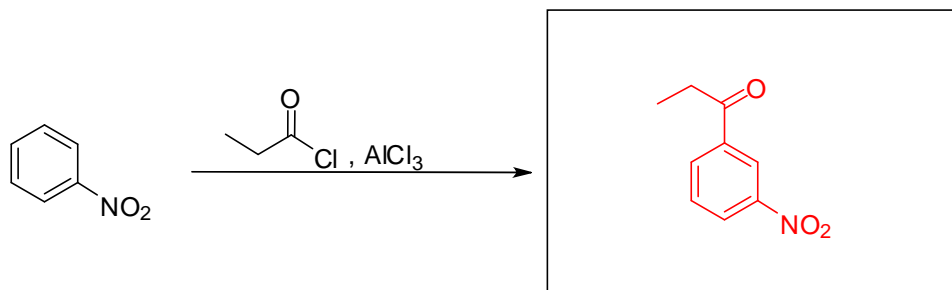
Note: R=alkyl

1. Provide the necessary information, product, reagents, or starting materials, to complete the following reactions. (4 pts. per question)

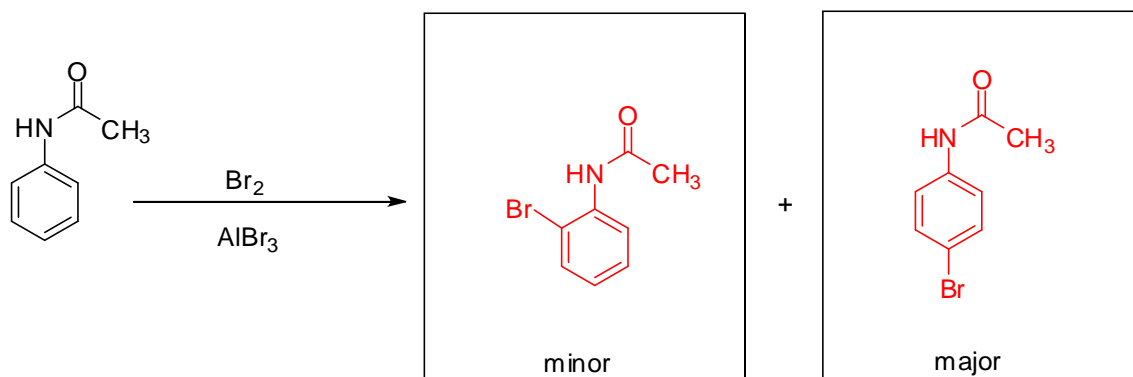
a)



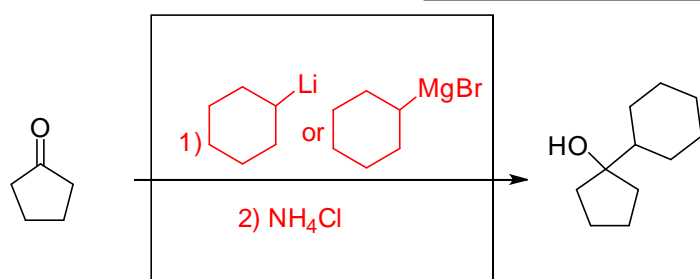
b)



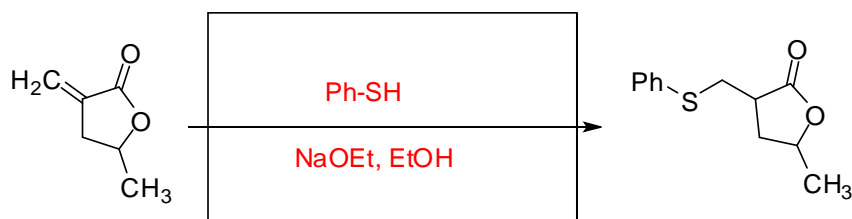
c)



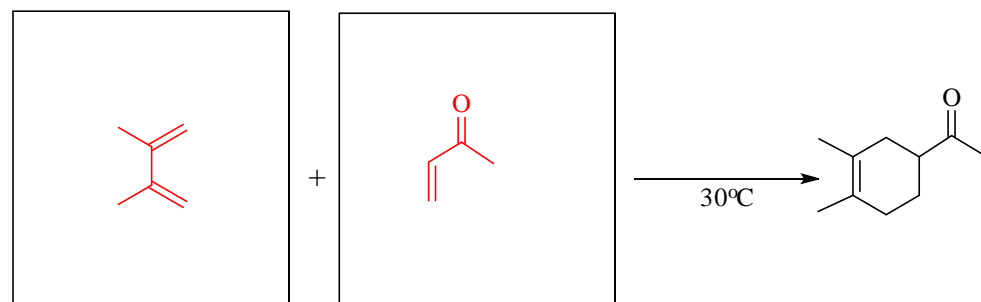
d)



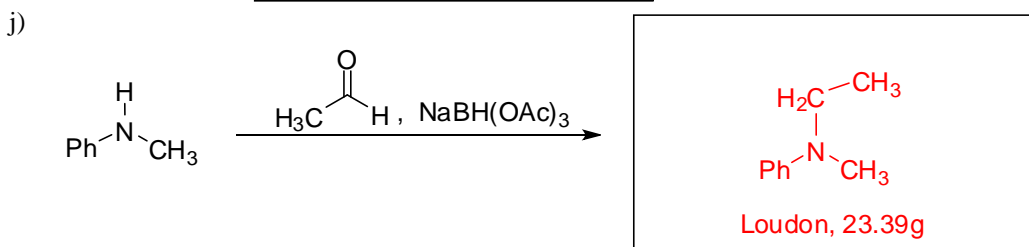
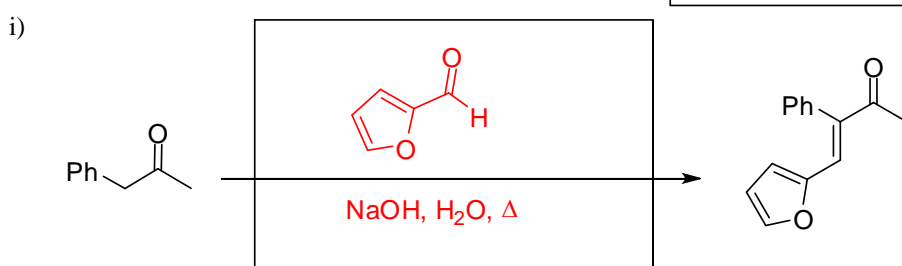
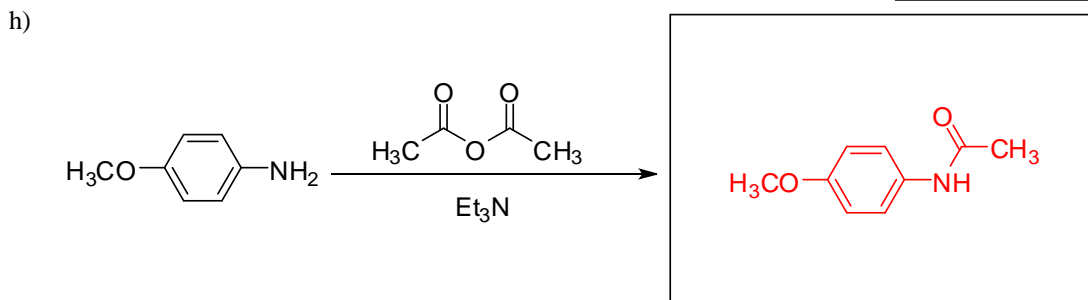
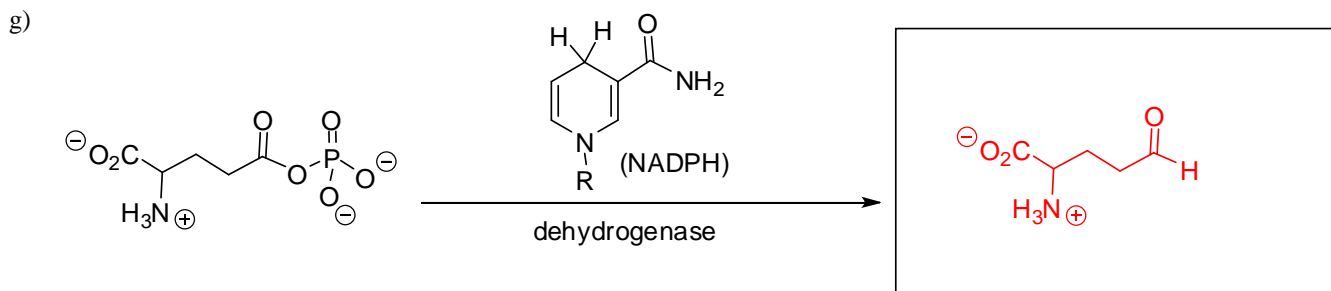
e)



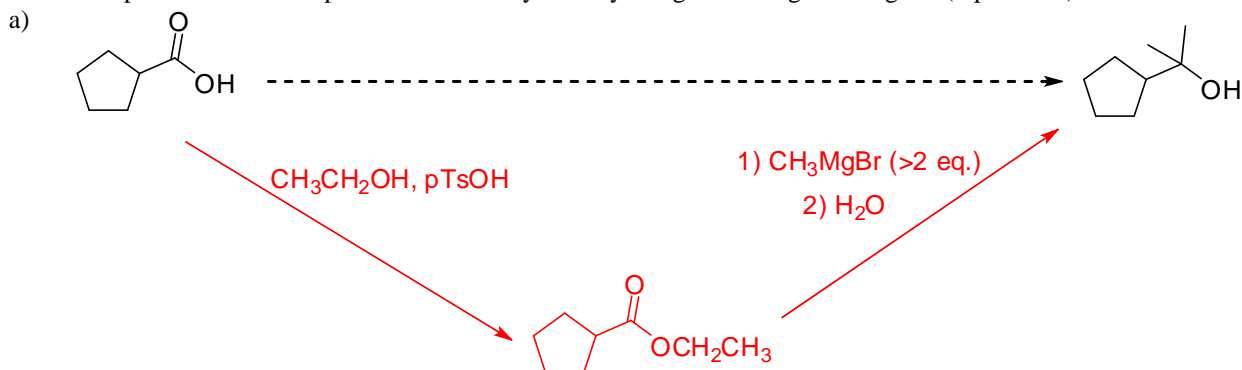
f)

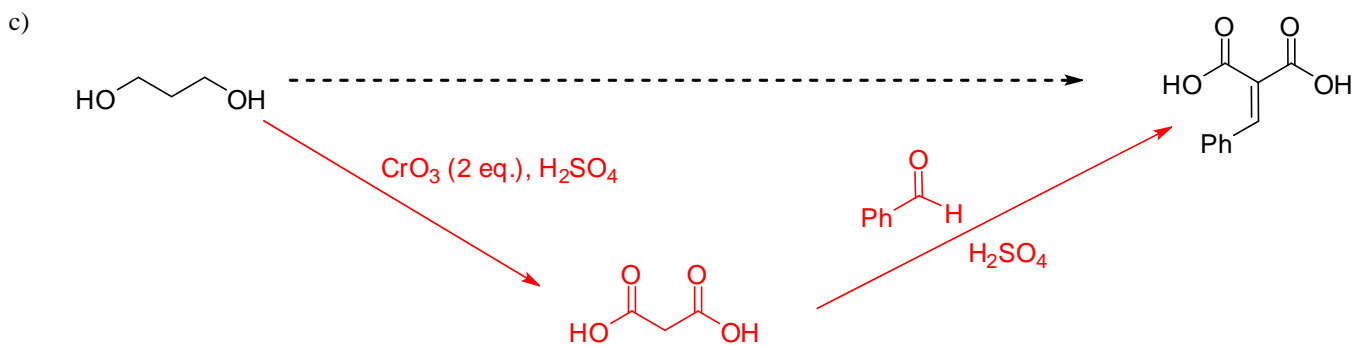
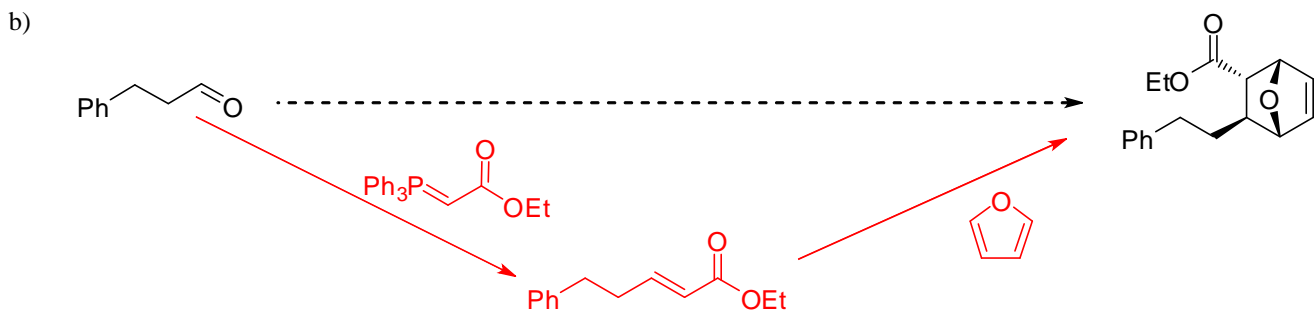


/24 pts.

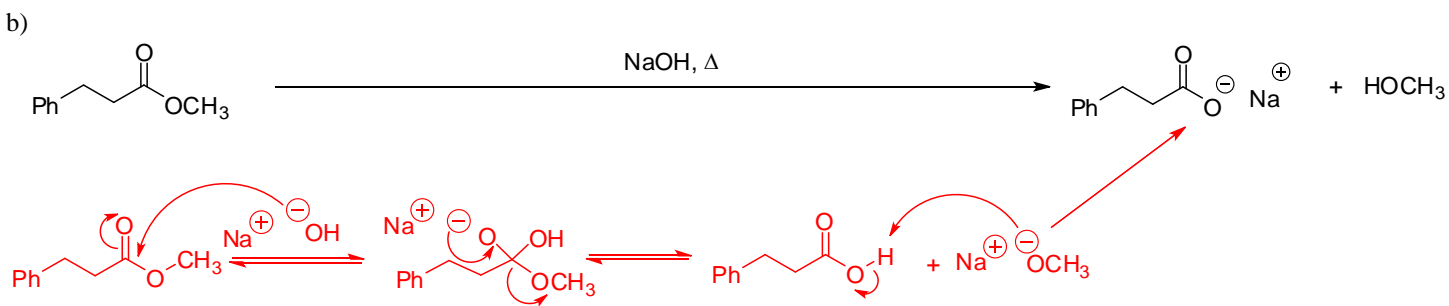
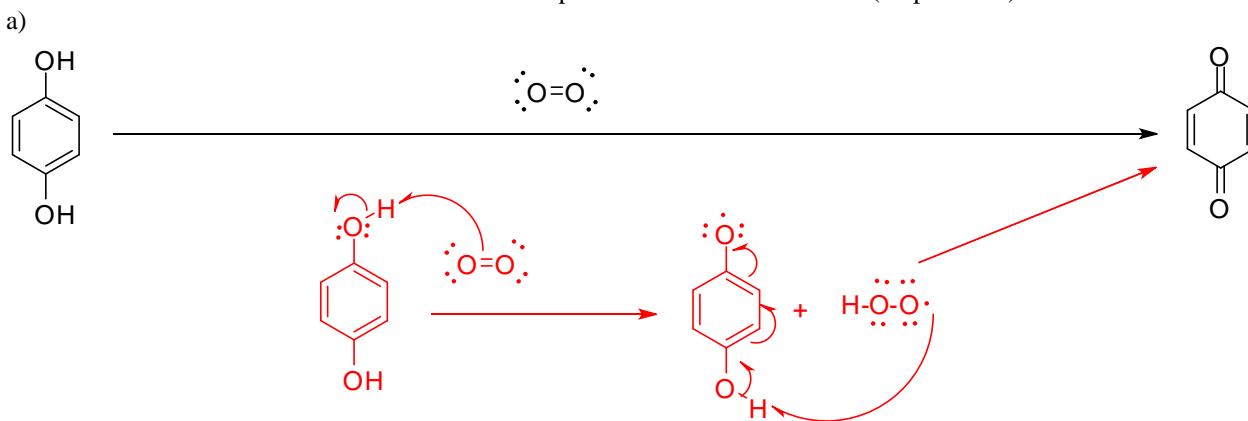


2. Suggest a synthesis to take the starting material on the left to the product on the right. This will require more than one step, but can be accomplished in three steps or less. You may use any inorganic or organic reagent. (7 pts. each)

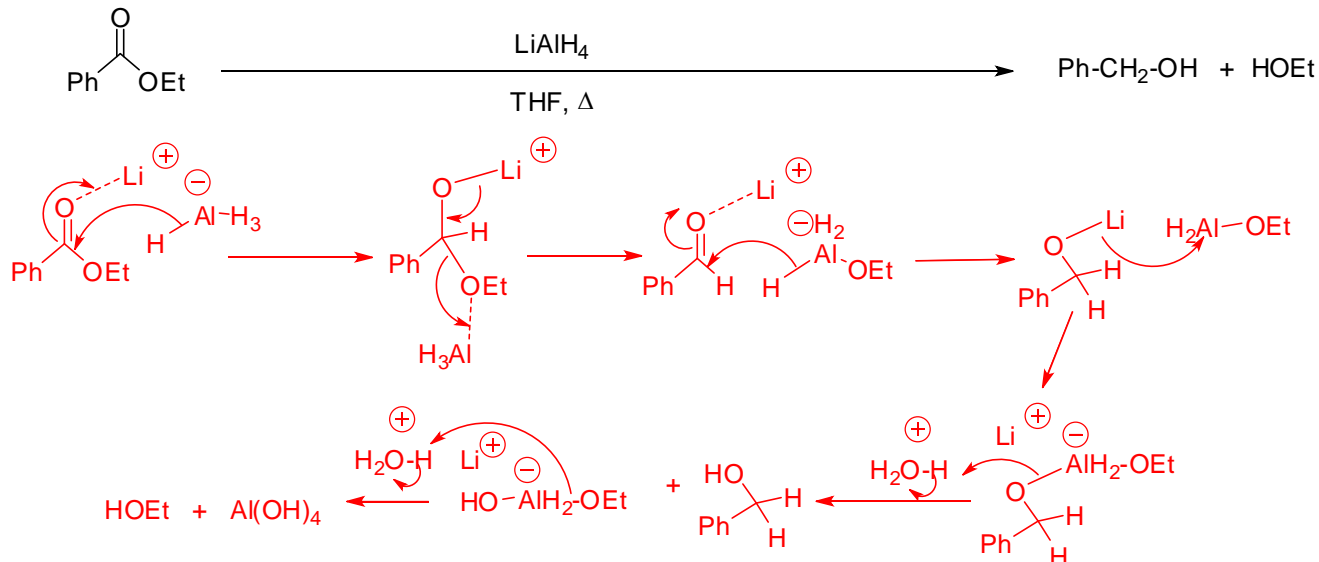




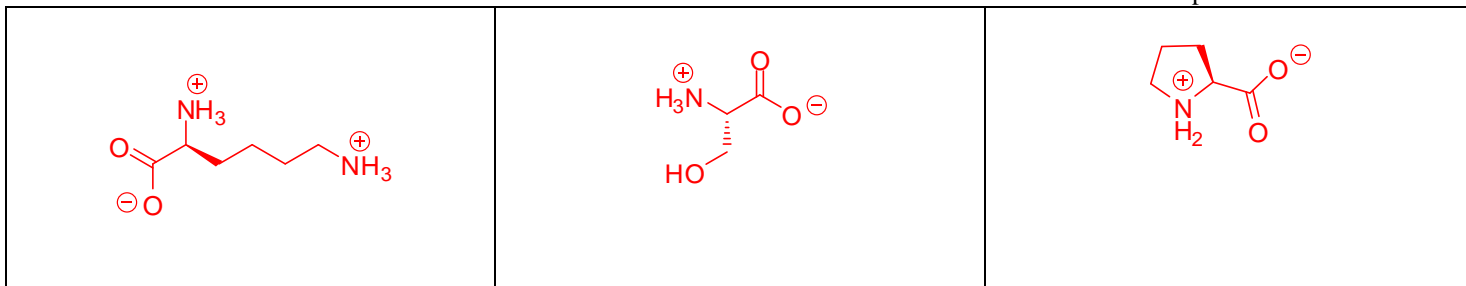
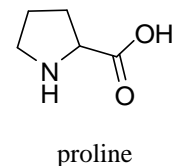
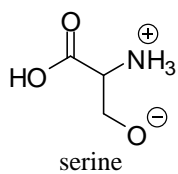
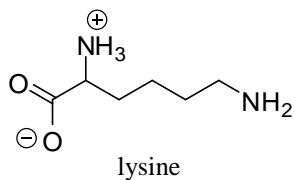
3. Draw the mechanisms for the reactions shown below. Your mechanism should include formal charges, counter ions and curved electron flow arrows. You do NOT need to draw important resonance structures. (10 pts. each)



c)



4. Three natural alpha-amino acids are drawn below in various forms of ionization and without any stereochemistry. Add the correct stereochemistry and the correct state of ionization of all functional groups in a physiological solution of pH~7 in the box below each. (9 pts.)

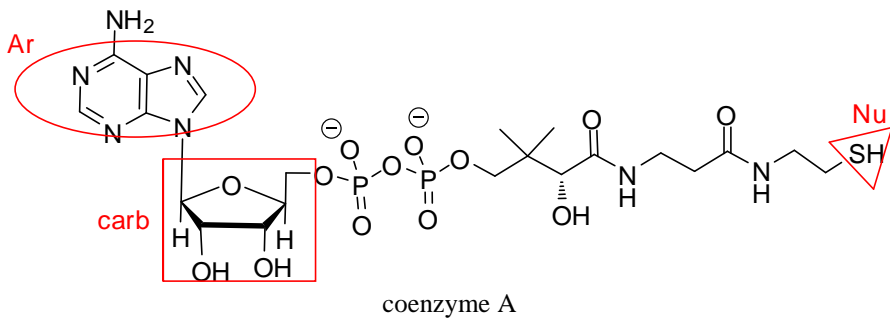


5. The structure of coenzyme A is shown below. Answer the following questions about coenzyme A's structure based on course discussions. (7 pts.)

a) Circle all the aromatic parts of coenzyme A and place an Ar next to them.

b) Place a box around the carbohydrate portions of coenzyme A and write 'carb' next to them.

c) Put a triangle around the most nucleophilic functional group in coenzyme A and label it 'Nu'.



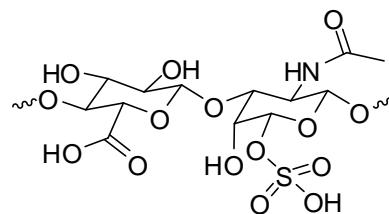
/26 pts.

6. Chondroitin sulfate is a polysaccharide and an important component of cartilage. The Wikipedia site for chondroitin sulfate shows the following structure for one unit of the polysaccharide. Answer the questions below about the structure based on your understanding of carbohydrate molecules and related biochemical topics. (24 pts.)

Circle the correct answer to complete the phrases below.

a) Chondroitin sulfate's core repeating unit is a...

- (1) monosaccharide  
 (2) **disaccharide**  
 (3) trisaccharide  
 (4) tetrasaccharide  
 (5) pentasaccharide



chondroitin sulfate's repeating unit

b) The carbohydrate farthest to the right in the chondroitin sulfate repeating unit is a derivative of...

- (1) D-idose  
 (2) **D-galactose or D-galactosamine**  
 (3) D-glucose or D-glucosamine  
 (4) D-mannose  
 (5) D-pantyhose

c) The glycosidic linkage shown in the repeating unit is a(n)...

- (1)  $\alpha$ -1,2 (2)  $\beta$ -1,2 (3)  $\alpha$ -1,3 (4)  **$\beta$ -1,3** (5)  $\alpha$ -1,4

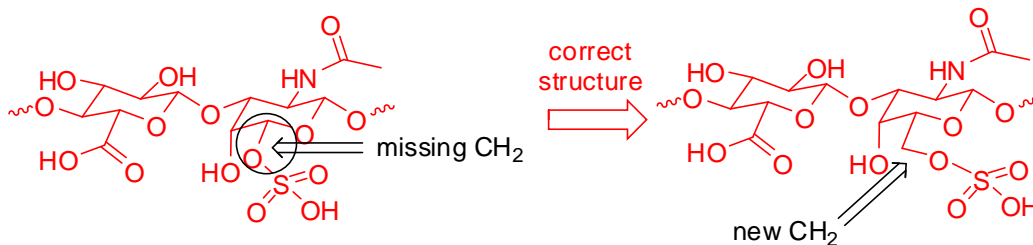
d) At physiological pH (~7), chondroitin sulfate is a negatively charged polysaccharide. What is the total negative charge on chondroitin sulfate's repeating unit?

- (1) -1 (2) **-2** (3) -3 (4) -4 (5) -5

e) The carbohydrate farthest to the left in the chondroitin sulfate structure is a(n)...

- (1) aldopentose (2) **aldohexose** (3) ketopentose (4) ketohexose (5) aldoheptose

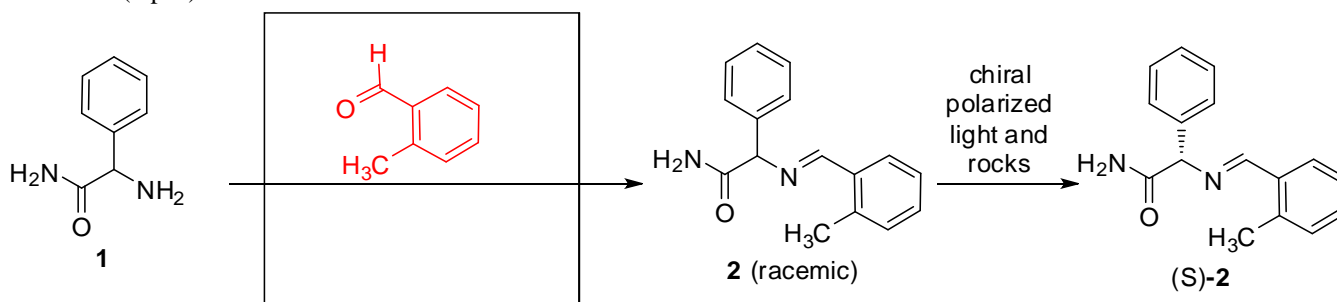
f) The Wikipedia structure is really not drawn correctly. Identify the one small error in the structure and suggest a correction.



Without the CH<sub>2</sub>, there appears to be two anomeric C's. This is not possible.

7. Dutch researchers recently reported a study of how chirality may have arisen during the earliest days on earth. In particular, they studied the transformation of racemic **2** to only one enantiomer of **2**.

a) The researchers synthesized their starting material **2** from **1**. In the box below, provide the reagent that allowed for the synthesis of racemic **2**. (3 pts.)

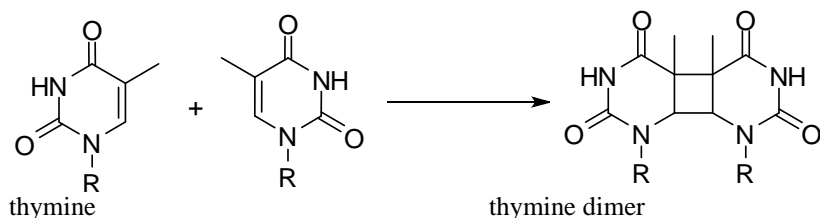


/27 pts.

b) As with all good experimentalists, the researchers made a very conscious choice in selecting compound **2** to study the evolution of chirality. This was not a random choice, rather it gave them an easy case to study the evolution of chirality. Why is the chiral center in **2** particularly good for a study of this process? What type of intermediates might form that would facilitate the transformation of (R/S)-**2** to predominantly (S)-**2**? (4 pts.)

The chiral center in **2** is a benzylic carbon center and therefore it would be capable of stabilizing a variety of reaction intermediates, such as carbanions, carbocations, and carbon radicals, all of which might lead to the formation of the single enantiomer under primordial reaction conditions. Notably, all these reaction intermediates are planar  $sp^2$ -hybridized carbon intermediates which, under the reaction conditions, might be influenced to form one particular enantiomer in preference to the opposite enantiomer. Furthermore, besides being benzylic, the chiral carbon is also adjacent to two more pi systems that might allow further resonance stabilization.

8. Skin cancer is frequently the result of UV damage to the DNA in skin cells. One important reaction that occurs to initiate carcinogenesis is the photochemical dimerization of two thymine molecules.

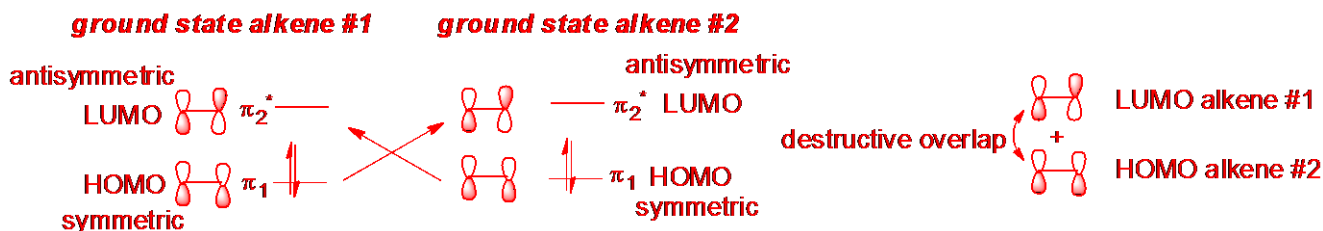


Answer the following questions based on our discussions this semester. (3 pts. each)

a) Select the answer that best explains why the thymine alkene is good at absorbing UV radiation.

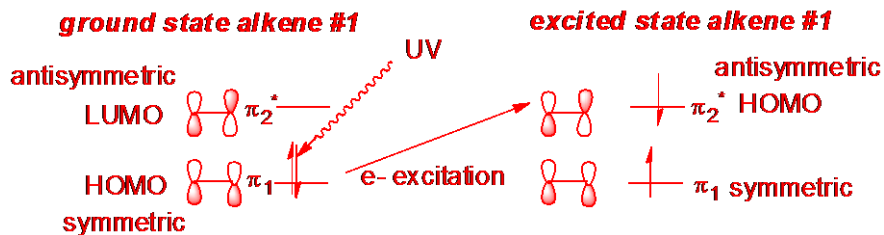
- (1) The alkene is part of the aromatic thymine system, therefore it will have especially stable highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMO's).
- (2) There is excellent orbital overlap between the two nitrogen atoms in the thymine rings.
- (3) Thymine has two carbonyls that can both absorb UV radiation through their low lying LUMO orbitals.
- (4) Thymine has a conjugated pi system, therefore it will have a smaller HOMO-LUMO gap leading to easier, lower energy absorptions.
- (5) Six member rings are lower in energy and therefore have good UV radiation absorption properties.

b) Assuming a *syn addition* like in the Diels-Alder reaction, molecular orbital analysis of the cycloaddition reaction between the two alkenes in thymine in their ground state suggests the reaction will not work. Draw the alkene (and just the alkene!) molecular orbital diagram and explain why the reaction between the two alkenes is symmetry forbidden or not likely to work.

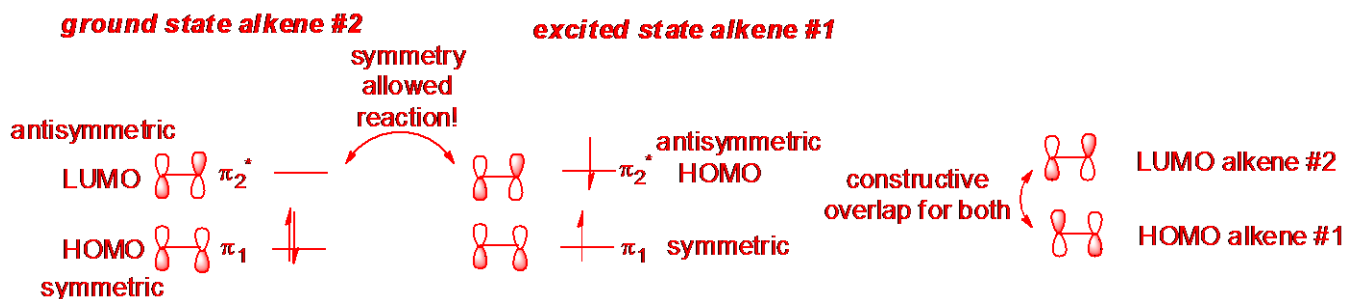


Neither combination of HOMO+LUMO yields a symmetry allowed reaction, i.e. the HOMO is symmetric and the LUMO is antisymmetric and consequently a *syn* addition yields one interaction between orbitals of opposite phases.

c) Show the molecular orbital diagram of the alkene (and just the alkene!) if UV absorption leads to electron excitation and the promotion of one electron in the alkene molecular orbitals. Label the HOMO of the resulting molecular orbital diagram.



d) This photochemical excitation from UV absorption allows the dimerization reaction to occur, i.e. the reaction is now symmetry allowed. Briefly explain.



The HOMO of the excited state alkene can react with the LUMO of the other alkene in the ground state in a symmetry allowed, i.e. constructive orbital overlap at both interactions.

/6 pts.