

Chemguide – questions

ALKENES: REACTIONS WITH SULPHURIC ACID

1. Draw the structural formulae of the following compounds. You can use CH_3CH_2 (etc) for any carbon chains and their branches, but should show the sulphur-containing group in full.
 - a) sulphuric acid
 - b) the product of the reaction between concentrated sulphuric acid and ethene
 - c) the major product of the reaction between concentrated sulphuric acid and propene
 - d) the major product of the reaction between concentrated sulphuric acid and but-2-ene
 - e) the major product of the reaction between concentrated sulphuric acid and but-1-ene
2.
 - a) Describe briefly how you would convert ethene into ethanol using sulphuric acid.
 - b) You can convert propene into propan-2-ol by the same method, but not into propan-1-ol. Why can't you make propan-1-ol in this way?

(If you are new to organic chemistry and aren't happy about the naming of alcohols, these are alcohols with three carbon atoms and no $\text{C}=\text{C}$ double bonds. The “-1-ol” has an OH group on an end carbon atom; the “-2-ol” has the OH on the middle carbon atom.)