

BOOK REVIEWS

Introduction to Modern Inorganic Chemistry ; 6th edition.

Authors: K M Mackay; R A Mackay; W Henderson

Publisher: Nelson Thornes Ltd

ISBN: 0-7487-6420-8

Price: N/A

The 6th edition of Introduction to Modern Inorganic Chemistry published in 2002 is a thoroughly revised and updated version of earlier editions. The book is excellent and can be used by a freshman undergraduate chemistry student as a starting point. Attempts have been made by the authors to cover a detailed and explicit account of both basic theoretical principles and modern concepts of inorganic chemistry needed both at undergraduate and honor's levels. The book has twenty chapters. Each chapter begins with an introduction, is divided into a number of sub sections and contains many figures, diagrams, tables, toolboxes and margin notes. At the end of each chapter, a selection of cautiously chosen problems has been included to help the readers in learning the subject. Three appendixes and a subject index are given at the end of 610 pages book.

Chapters from one to eight describe the principles of chemistry. Chapter nine and ten give the chemistry of hydrogen and 's' elements respectively. Chapters eleven and twelve cover the chemistry of scandium group, the lanthanides and the actinide elements respectively. Chapter thirteen gives the introduction of the transition metals, their general properties and complexes. Chapter fourteen describes the chemistry of the transition elements of the first series and chapter fifteen gives the chemistry of the second and third series of transition elements.

Chapter sixteen outlines the selected topics on transition metals. Chapter seventeen describes the chemistry of the elements of the 'p' block and chapter eighteen gives the selected topics in main group chemistry and bonding. Chapter nineteen gives the description of general topics, namely, electron density determination, metal polychalcogenide compounds, fullerenes, nanotubes and carbon 'ONION' – a new form of elemental carbon and dendrimeric molecules. Chapter twenty describes biological, medicinal and environmental inorganic chemistry.

Appendix A lists a number of books, reviews and journals up to 2001, bibliographies for particular sections of the text and electronic access to chemical information. Appendix B gives a list of the name, formula and mode of coordination of some common polydentate ligands. Appendix C describes molecular symmetry and points. Relative atomic masses and a periodic table of the elements are also given at the end of the book. Overall, it is an excellent

textbook of inorganic chemistry for both the beginners and advanced levels students covering in depth knowledge of inorganic chemistry in a modern, readable and concise manner. It is a very popular and highly recommended text book for the inorganic chemistry courses.

Reviewed by : Gopendra Kumar, D Phil, FAIC