Quiz (Introduction to Redox Reactions)

1. Consider the following reaction:

$$Mg(s) + H_2O(g) \longrightarrow MgO(s) + H_2(g)$$

- (a) In the reaction, which species undergoes oxidation? Explain your answer in terms of gain or loss of oxygen.
- (b) Identify the oxidizing agent and the reducing agent in the reaction.
- (c) Which species is oxidized and which species is reduced in the reaction?
- 2. Consider the displacement reaction:

$$Fe(s) + Cu^{2+}(aq) \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}(aq) + Cu(s)$$

- (a) Explain why the reaction is a redox reaction.
- (b) Which substance is being oxidized? Explain your answer.
- (c) Which substance is the oxidizing agent? Explain your answer.
- 3. Consider the following reaction:

$$H_2O(g) + C(s) \longrightarrow H_2(g) + CO(g)$$

- (a) Explain why the reaction is a redox reaction in terms of gain or loss of oxygen.
- (b) Identify the oxidizing agent and the reducing agent in the reaction.
- 4. Consider the following reaction:

$$Cu(s) + 2Ag^{+}(aq) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2Ag(s)$$

- (a) Explain why the reaction is a redox reaction in terms of gain or loss of electrons.
- (b) Identify the oxidizing agent and the reducing agent in the reaction.

Suggested Answer

- 1. (a) Magnesium undergoes oxidation because it gains oxygen to form magnesium oxide in the process.
 - (b) Steam is the oxidizing agent while magnesium is the reducing agent.
 - (c) Magnesium is oxidized while steam is reduced in the reaction.
- 2. (a) The reaction involves a transfer of electrons (from Fe(s) to $Cu^{2+}(aq)$).
 - (b) Fe(s) is being oxidized as it loses electrons to $Cu^{2+}(aq)$.
 - (c) $Cu^{2+}(aq)$ is the oxidizing agent as it gains electrons in the reaction.
- 3. (a) Carbon gains oxygen in the reaction. It undergoes oxidation. Steam loses Oxygen in the reaction. It undergoes reduction.
 - (b) $H_2O(g)$ is the oxidizing agent. C(s) is the reducing agent.
- 4. (a) During the reaction, each copper atom loses two electrons to form a copper(II) ion. Copper undergoes oxidation. Each silver ion gains one electron to form a silver atom. Silver ion undergoes reduction.
 - (b) Ag⁺(ag) is the oxidizing agent. Cu(s) is the reducing agent.