Quiz (Atom Economy)

1. Consider the following reaction for the production of aspirin:



What is the atom economy for the production of aspirin? (Relative atomic masses: H = 1.0, C = 12.0, O = 16.0)

2. Consider the following reaction: $C_6H_{12}O_6(aq) \longrightarrow 2C_2H_5OH(aq) + 2CO_2(g)$

If $CO_2(g)$ is considered as the by-product, what is the atom economy of the reaction? (Relative atomic masses: H = 1.0, C = 12.0, O = 16.0)

3. The following equations represent the reaction for the production of soap:

What is the atom economy of the production of soap? (Relative atomic masses: H = 1.0, C = 12.0, O = 16.0, Na = 23.0)

Suggested Answer

- Mass of atoms in 1 mole of C₇H₆O₃ = 12.0 × 7 + 1.0 × 6 + 16.0 × 3 = 138 g Mass of atoms in 1 mole of CH₃COOH = 12.0 × 2 + 1.0 × 4 + 16.0 × 2 = 60.0 g Mass of atoms in 1 mole of aspirin = 12.0 × 9 + 1.0 × 8 + 16.0 × 4 = 180 g Atom economy = 180 / (138 + 60.0) × 100% = 90.9%
- Mass of atoms in 1 mole of C₆H₁₂O₆ = 12.0 × 6 + 1.0 × 12 + 16.0 × 6 = 180 g Mass of atoms in 2 moles of C₂H₅OH = (12.0 × 2 + 1.0 × 6 + 16.0) × 2 = 92.0 g Atom economy of the reaction = 92.0 / 180 x 100% = 51.1%
- 3. Mass of atoms in 1 mole of the triester = 12.0 × 63 + 1.0 × 122 + 16.0 × 6 = 974 g Mass of atoms in 3 moles of NaOH = (23.0 + 16.0 + 1.0) × 3 = 120 g Mass of atoms in 3 moles of CH₃(CH₂)₁₈COO⁻Na⁺ = (12.0 × 20 + 1.0 × 39 + 16.0 × 2 + 23.0) × 3 = 1002 g Atom economy of the reaction = 1002 / (974 + 120) x 100% = 91.6%