Quiz (Detecting the Presence of Molecules)

A student performed four experiments to collect some gaseous products.

The experiments were conducted as follows:

- **Experiment 1:** Gas A was obtained by warming ammonium chloride with sodium hydroxide solution.
- **Experiment 2:** Gas B was obtained by heating calcium carbonate strongly.
- **Experiment 3:** Gas C was obtained by heating a mixture of sodium sulphite and dilute hydrochloric acid.
- **Experiment 4:** Gas D was obtained by mixing chlorine bleach and dilute hydrochloric acid.

The gases obtained were collected in four different gas jars A, B, C and D.

- (a) What are gases A, B, C and D? Write appropriate equations for their formation in the reactions.
- (b) Suggest simple chemical tests to identify each of the gases.

Suggested Answer

(a) Gas A is ammonia. $NH_4^+(aq) + OH^-(aq) \longrightarrow NH_3(g) + H_2O(I)$

Gas B is carbon dioxide. $CaCO_3(s) \longrightarrow CaO(s) + CO_2(g)$

Gas C is sulphur dioxide. $SO_3^{2-}(aq) + 2H^+(aq) \longrightarrow SO_2(g) + H_2O(I)$

Gas D is chlorine. OCI-(aq) + CI-(aq) + 2H+(aq) \longrightarrow CI₂(g) + H₂O(I)

(b) Test for ammonia:

Test the gas with moist red litmus paper. The litmus paper turns blue in the presence of ammonia.

OR Place concentrated hydrochloric acid near the gas. A dense white fume forms when ammonia reacts with hydrogen chloride.

Test for carbon dioxide:

Test the gas by bubbling it through limewater. The limewater turns milky in the presence of carbon dioxide.

Test for sulphur doxide:

Test the gas with filter paper soaked with acidified potassium dichromate solution. The filter paper changes from orange to green in the presence of sulphur dioxide.

Test for chlorine:

Test the gas with moist blue litmus paper. The litmus paper turns red and then white very quickly in the presence of chlorine.