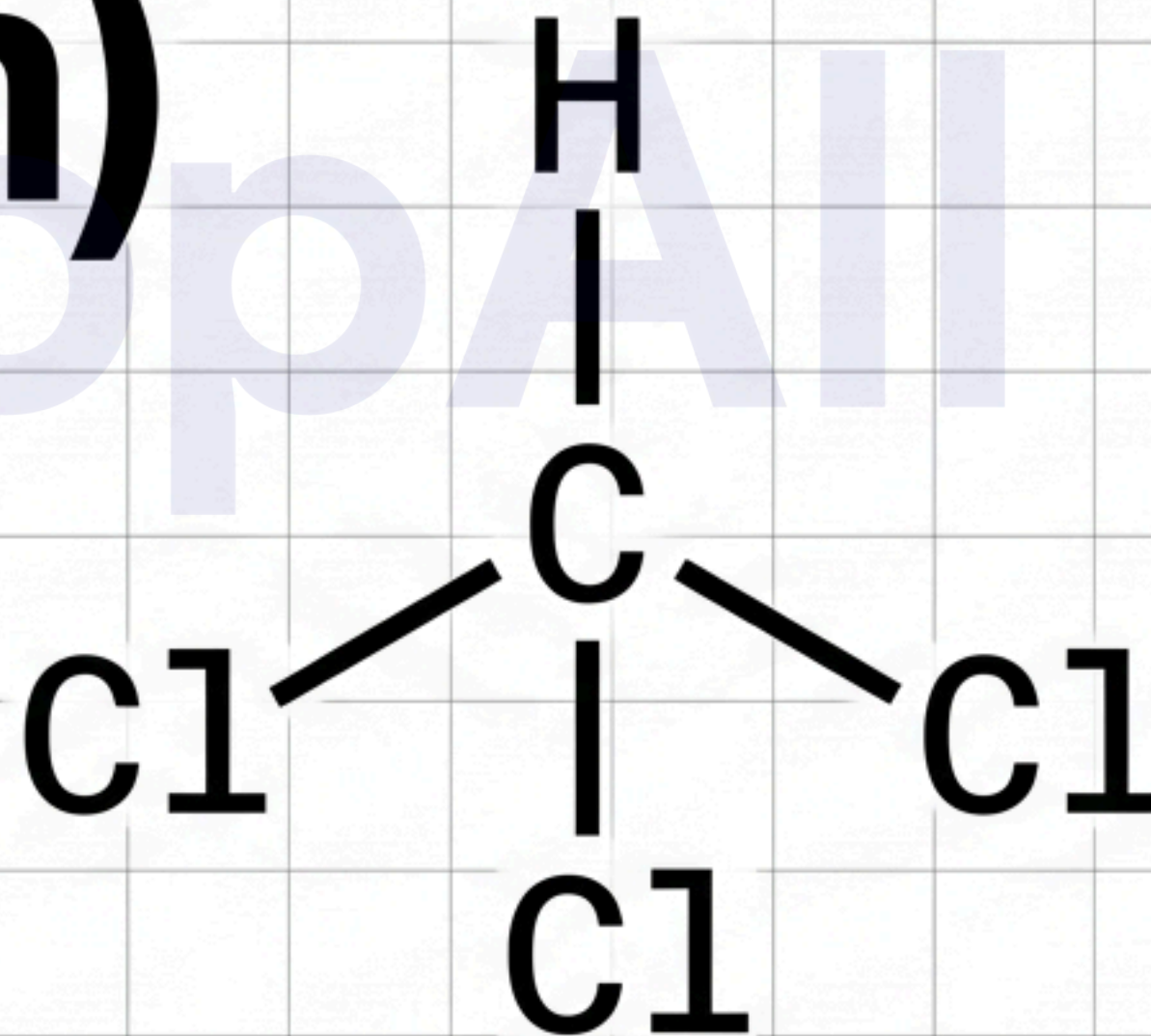


Trichloromethane (Chloroform)



Dossier Keywords

Decorative background elements including a light purple triangle and a large, faint, light purple letter 'T' behind the main text boxes.

Freon R-22

Phosgene

Chemical Utility Profile



Current Industrial: Feedstock for the production of freon refrigerant R-22.



Current Laboratory: Solvent for fats, alkaloids, iodine, and other substances.



Historical Medical: Former general anaesthetic in surgery (phased out due to toxicity, replaced by safer alternatives like ether).



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The Oxidation Threat

The Dual Triggers

Carbonyl chloride: An extremely poisonous gas.



Anatomy of a Storage Bottle

Completely-filled

- Leaves no room for air/oxygen exposure.



Closed, dark coloured glass

- Blocks light exposure.

Storage actively neutralizes both triggers required for Phosgene synthesis.

Watch for this MCQ Trap

The Trap

Exam options will often suggest that storing chloroform in a dark bottle is enough, OR that simply sealing it is enough.

The Reality

Storage must actively block BOTH triggers simultaneously. If a bottle is half-empty (contains air), or full but clear (allows light), phosgene will still form.

Dossier Summary: Trichloromethane

- **Utility:** Valuable solvent (fats, alkaloids, iodine) and Freon R-22 precursor; retired as a general anaesthetic.
- **Hazard & Handling:** Oxidizes into toxic phosgene gas (COCl_2) unless actively deprived of both air and light via dark, completely-filled bottles.



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