

Question 22 (6 marks)

A student prepared the compound methyl propanoate in a school laboratory.

- (a) Give a common use for the class of compounds to which methyl propanoate belongs. **1**

Esters such as methyl propanoate are used in perfumes.

- (b) In the preparation of this compound a few drops of concentrated sulfuric acid were added to the starting materials. The mixture was then refluxed for a period of time.

Why was it necessary to reflux the mixture?

Reflux occurred because of the use of volatile reagents in esterification. As the reagent ^{became} vapour readily, refluxing force the vapour back into the reaction mixture to allow heating to continue for a long time.

- (c) Name the TWO reactants used in preparing the methyl propanoate and draw their structural formulae. **3**

propanoic acid

