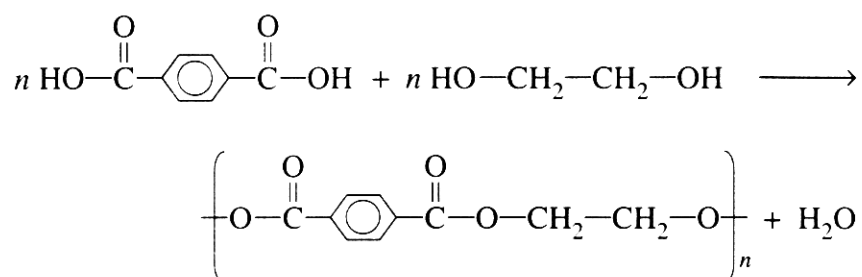


Question 18 (6 marks)

(a) Name the type of polymerisation shown in the following reaction:

1



condensation

(b) Assess current developments in the use of biopolymers.

5

biomass is wood, animal waste & urban organic refuse.

A biopolymer is a polymer of any of these natural products, such as starch and cellulose.

Both starch & cellulose are polymers of glucose. For polylactic acid, bacteria are fed starch which is then polymerised. This (PLA) however is limited to diagnostic work.

Developmental research is going into creating biodegradable starch packaging, to decrease the amount of polystyrene used, leading to a decrease in unbiodegradable waste.

These developments in the use of biopolymers are helpful to our society in the decrease in pollution.