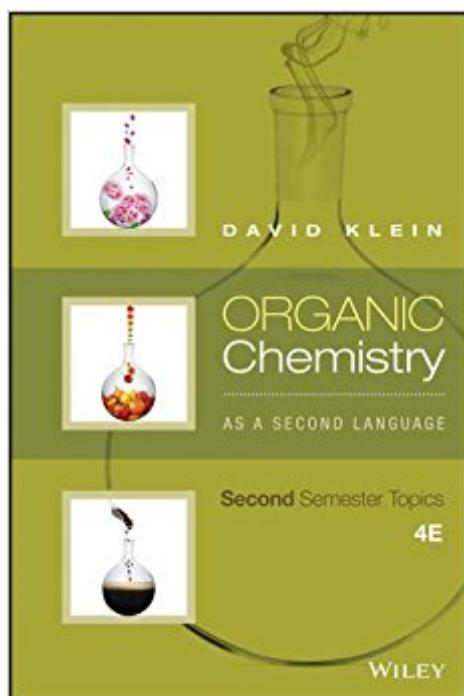


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Organic Chemistry As A Second Language: Second Semester Topics



Synopsis

Readers continue to turn to Klein's Organic Chemistry As a Second Language: Second Semester Topics, 4th Edition because it enables them to better understand fundamental principles, solve problems, and focus on what they need to know to succeed. The fourth edition explores the major principles in the field and explains why they are relevant. It is written in a way that clearly shows the patterns in organic chemistry so that readers can gain a deeper conceptual understanding of the material. Topics are presented clearly in an accessible writing style along with numerous hands-on problem solving exercises.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book makes an exceptional companion for organic chemistry students in two ways: First, it complements lecture notes fantastically. Going over reactions in lecture and taking your own notes, then reading what Mr. Klein has to say makes learning and remembering the reactions a lot easier. It is easy to highlight and read each unit, so I found myself referencing this as a cleaner version of my own hand-written notes. Secondly, the practice questions are priceless. Having a good amount of practice problems makes it easier to make the reactions and mechanisms stick in your mind. Sometimes, I found a question or two to be helpful for exam preparation. But my professor usually asked questions that were MUCH more difficult and took a deeper understanding of the material to figure out than the relatively simple examples given in this book.

This book saved my semester. Organic chemistry is hard and requires a lot of memorization. This book alone will not be enough to guarantee you an A. Instead, it tells you how to study for organic

chemistry. I really liked it because it has many exercises with the answer key in the back. It tells you how to tackle the exercises, in contrast to your regular textbook, which explains the theory. I recommend you to use this book along with your textbook, since your textbook tells you the theory (as well as chapters not covered in this book), and, after reading, do exercises with this book to reinforce your understanding. This book tells you the tricks to remember how to tackle each problem, instead of telling you to memorize all possible reactions. A true life saver. I also recommend you buying the "First semester topics" edition of this book, since you will need to refresh your memory about some reactions, such as synthesizing alcohols, which are not explained in this book.

The first semester topics honestly saved my life, but I'm finding that this is less necessary. A lot of the concepts here are just the bare bones of what I'm learning now, but once I got the basics that are covered in the first semester book I was able to do this in my textbook. However it is still a helpful tool, and like the first is very well written and clear.

The Organic Chemistry as a Second Language series as a whole is fantastic. It explains most mechanisms in clear detail, with arrow pushing as well as verbal explanations. These books (both first semester and second semester topics) are a must-have if you want to do really well in your organic chemistry courses. They are the "plain English" explanations that you simply won't get with most textbooks, which are highly technical and can be difficult to understand at times. As the author stresses, this shouldn't be used AS a textbook, but rather a supplement TO a textbook. While they do cover topics such as IR and NMR, in detail as well, you may benefit from also reading whatever assigned textbook you have, in case your professor intends to discuss such topics in a manner that differs from the way Klein explains these topics.

I'm not great at chemistry and will never be, even with these books, but they are way way waaaaay better than any of the pricey textbooks I bought/rented. I had barely been passing the class when I got this series mid-second semester, and my grade quickly jumped to a B. Really wish I had known about these all along! Clear explanations, logical layout and lots of repetition--this author clearly knows how to learn about chemistry. The practice problems were way easier than anything I saw on the tests, and so I had to consult my textbook occasionally, but there's no point in attempting difficult problems if you don't understand the concept first.

Buy this if you want to survive Ochem. I took my MCAT studying just this (and the first book), and I did super well. But that just might be luck, lol. That said, however, this is only a review of very basic materials. If you're lazy and just want to know the basics, this is pretty much all you need. If you want to know all the specific mechanisms, use a textbook. Start with this if you have 0 basics on ochem. It takes you step by step so even a person with very basic chemistry knowledge will understand how to solve out mechanisms. Some mechanisms have no pattern, though. I remember using this for my Ochem class at my university and never did any homework, never read the book, and never paid attention in lectures and I got an A+ just studying this one simple book. It's okay to be lazy. David R. Klein is one hell of an amazing chemist to make ochem this simple.

This book (as well as the 1st semester book) was a lifesaver. Not enough time to read an entire book chapter before class? Read this book. Having trouble with a specific concept and want more specific details to help you understand? Read this book. Want extra practice problems? Read this book. If you thought first semester was easy, that's because it is. The second semester takes so much more hard work than the first. This book gives you very detailed rules and methods of doing mechanisms and beyond. And trust me, there will be MANY mechanisms. SO MANY. This book will be crucial in your success, especially if you're not naturally good with chemistry. This book just has everything you need to succeed in the class, just add diligence. I didn't start using it right away, but I wish I did! I was missing out, for sure. If your textbook isn't helpful, turn to this. I'm not sure I can express any further how helpful and useful this book is for an organic chemistry student. When I go to tutor orgo I will definitely have this book on hand as a reference.

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