Polymerisation reactions (Level 1) exam tips

• Practise, practise these - particularly polypropene

• Polythene aka polyethene is used in plastic bags  
• Polypropene aka polypro's is used for thermal clothing and ropes

• When drawing a polymer you MUST show at least 2 monomers

AND

include a bracket and little n for your polymer diagrams ( )n

OR a squiggly line at either end of the polymer ~C chain~

• Conditions required for polymerisation are heat, pressure and a catalyst

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| **Type of plastic** | **Everyday uses** | **Related to chemical or physical properties** |
| polyethene  *(polythene)* | glad wrap  carrier bags  lunch boxes  plastic bottles | lightweight  low chemical reactivity  insoluble in water  during manufacture it can be moulded into many different shapes |
| polypropene *(polypropylene)* | milk crates  thermal clothing  ropes used in water  garden chairs | lightweight, strong  low chemical reactivity, insulator  lightweight & unreactive with water (but degrades in sunlight/UV)  does not react with air/water/decomposer organisms, recyclable |

Also…”don’t be daft”

Practise POLYPROPENE, ensure you can draw it correctly

Be sure to link the everyday use to a property of the polymer

Don’t bother learning/drawing/naming extras this year, stick with what is required, polyethene /polythene and polypropene /polypropylene only!

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