Polyprotic acids ionise in more than one step when reacted with water. For example, the equations below describe the two-step ionisation of sulfuric acid, a diprotic acid. One proton is transferred in each step of the ionisation process.

$$H_2SO_4 + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + HSO_4^ HSO_4^- + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + SO_4^{2-}$$

The equations below describe the three-step ionisation of phosphoric acid, a triprotic acid.

$$H_3PO_4 + H_2O \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+ + H_2PO_4^-$$

$$H_2PO_4^- + H_2O \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+ + HPO_4^{2-}$$

$$HPO_4^{2-} + H_2O \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+ + PO_4^{3-}$$

Question 131

Acids are classified as monoprotic or polyprotic.

(a) Classify the following acids as monoprotic, diprotic or triprotic.

Compound	Classification
chromic acid, H ₂ CrO ₄	
perchloric acid, HClO ₄	
arsenic acid, H ₃ AsO ₄	
hydrosulfuric acid, H2S	
benzoic acid, C ₆ H ₅ COOH	
malonic acid, CH ₂ (COOH) ₂	

(6 marks) KA1

(b)	Write an equation to show the ionisation of iodic acid, HIO ₃ .	(o marko) wii
, ,		_ (1 mark) KA4
(c)	Write equations to show the complete ionisation of oxalic acid, $H_2C_2O_4$.	
		(2 marks) KA4
(d)	Write equations to show the complete ionisation of boric acid, H_3BO_3 .	
		 (3 marks) KA4