

CHAPTER 17	Determining the pH of Buffer Solutions	BLM 17.4.4
ASSESSMENT		

Imagine you are given 50.0 mL of a 0.5 mol/L solution of HNO_2 and 50.0 mL of a 0.5 mol/L solution of KNO_2 . Using the following steps, determine the pH of the resultant solution. Write on the back of this sheet if you need additional space.

1. Determine the initial concentrations of HNO_2 and NO_2^- .

2. Write down the chemical equation for the dissociation of HNO_2 .

3. Using the ICE table below, fill in the initial, change, and equilibrium concentrations.

Equation:

Initial				
Change				
Equilibrium				

4. Write the equilibrium expression for the K_a of HNO_2 .

5. Insert your equilibrium concentrations into the expression written above and solve for x . (The K_a of HNO_2 is 5.6×10^{-4} .)

6. Using the formula, $\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$, determine the pH of the buffer solution.