Comparison of Aromatic and Aliphatic Hydrocarbons

	Ethane	Ethene	Ethyne	Benzene
Oxidation (a)	Burns in air	explosively	explosively	Burns with a sooty flame
With KmnO ₄ (b)	No reaction	Addition of OH groups Decolourisation tests for unsaturation Forms H H H-CC-H OH OH	Forms OH OH O=CC=O (Ethandioic acid; oxalic acid)	No reaction
Halogenation	Substitution (Cl ₂ /Br ₂) Free radical, UV light C ₂ H ₅ Cl, C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂ , etc. (Cl ₂ >Br ₂ >I ₂)	Addition reaction Electrophilic addition ← Test for unsaturation → Bromine decolourises Forms H H H H-CC-H Br Br Note: Cl ₂ >Br ₂ >I ₂	Electrophilic addition (2 moles Cl_2 , Br_2 , I_2) Forms $ \begin{array}{ccc} Cl & Cl \\ H-CC-Cl \\ Cl & Cl \end{array} $ (1,1,2,2,2-tetrahalogenoethane)	Both addition and substitution. With carrier substitution + HX In sunlight C ₆ H ₆ Cl ₆ (addition) Also bromine, but not iodine
Nitration	No reaction	No reaction	No reaction	Mono nitro compound With concentrated HNO3H ₂ SO ₄ as catalystElectrophilic substitution
Sulphonation	No reaction	Adds on H ₂ SO ₄ to form C ₂ H ₅ HSO ₄ (ethyl hydrogen sulphate)	Adds on H ₂ O with H ₂ SO ₄ /HgSO ₄ C ₂ H ₂ + H ₂ O → CH ₃ CHO	Electrophilic substitution Very slow - H + HOSO₃H → Benzene sulphonic acid
Halogen Hydride	No reaction	Electrophilic addition H X C - C = H HI>HBr>HCl	Electrophilic addition H X I I -C - C - I I H X (Markownikoff's Rule)	Only special reactions: Friedel-Craft's alkylation and acylation reactions