Chemguide - answers

ALKENES: HALOGENATION

1. a)
$$CH_2=CH_2 + Cl_2$$
 \longrightarrow CH_2CH_2 1,2-dichloroethane

(You could write the 1,2-dichloroethane as CH₂ClCH₂Cl, but it is always safer to show it as clearly as possible. Make sure that you have written 1,2-dichloroethane and not 1,2-dichloroethene. Your structure must NOT have a double bond between the two carbon atoms. One of the two bonds has been broken to enable the two chlorine atoms to attach.)

- b) The two molecules have added together to make a bigger one, without anything being lost during the process.
- c) Decreases.
- d) It reacts explosively to form carbon and hydrogen fluoride gas.
- e) A colourless gas passed through an orange solution would turn it colourless.

2. a)
$$CH_2=CH_2 + Br_2 + H_2O$$
 \longrightarrow $CH_2CH_2OH + HBr_2$

(You could draw the OH group hanging down like the bromine, but since the compound is named as being related to ethanol, you would more normally show it as a modified version of CH₃CH₂OH. As long as you have shown a bromine attached to one carbon, and an OH group to the other, that's fine. What isn't fine, though, would be to draw a double bond between the two carbons!)

b) The orange solution is decolourised.