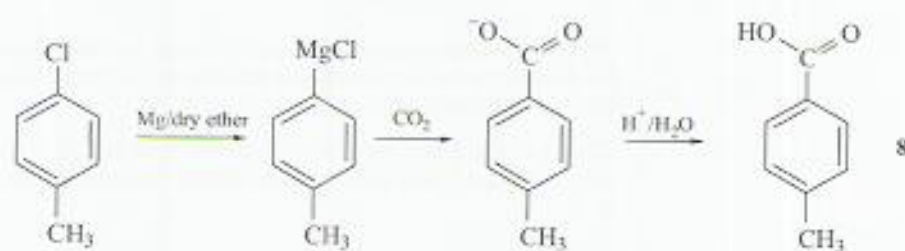


SCHEME 9

(c) The carbonyl group in Compound 9 is first converted into an acetal to protect it from reduction in the next stage of the synthesis. If it were not protected in this way it would be reduced to an alcohol under the conditions required to reduce the benzene ring to a cyclohexane in the penultimate synthetic step. The protecting group is removed in the final stage, step *a*, to give the required product, 7.

(d)



SCHEME 10