

VIA *The Oxygen Group*

In order of increasing atomic number the members of group VIA of the periodic table are:

oxygen,
sulfur,
selenium,
tellurium and
polonium.

The elements of this group are characterized by the presence of six electrons in an outer shell. The similarities of chemical behaviour among the elements of this group are less striking than hold for some of the other groups, e.g., the close parallels of the alkali metals or alkaline earths. With the exception of oxygen, all elements of the group have a valence of 4+, in addition to other valences. All of the elements with the exception of polonium also have a valence of 2±. Unlike the alkali metals or alkaline earths, for example, the elements of the oxygen group are not so similar chemically that they comprise a separate group in classical qualitative chemical analysis separations. Tellurium and selenium do appear together among the rarer metals of the second group in terms of qualitative chemical analysis.