When you are writing about:

a product from the store / shelf or a general type of phenomenon e.g., snake venom, medication, makeup, toothpaste etc…

a chemical / biological process

e.g., photosynthesis, tanning

a single type of or a specific compound e.g., amino acids, histamine

Define the term compound. If you are dealing with a specific class of compound, ALSO define the important features of that class.

You are probably dealing with a mixture.

Is it

What are the reactants and products? (See the second column to discuss each reactant and product)

Is it exothermic or endothermic (explain why)

Show an example or equation

Is it a redox reaction? (define & explain

Is it an acid/base reaction? (explain why)

Is it a polymerization reaction? (define)

Is it a combustion (a type of redox) (explain)

Does it result is solids/gases/liquids?

Is there any history to the reaction? Is it from the 1950s or the 1800s?

For each specific compound, give a formula, if possible. Consider a molecular formula, or a picture of its structure

an aqueous solution or an alloy (define term, only if appropriate)

homogeneous or heterogeneous (define term)

then ask:

Is it organic or inorganic. Explain why it is one or the other.

What are the ingredients of the mixture?

Identify the bonds as covalent, ionic or if he compound has both.

Define covalent or ionic bonding

Is there an active ingredient? Is it an element or a compound? (see second column for any / each substance)

Is it classified as a salt, an oxide, an alcohol, an acid, base, polymer (Explain why it is so classified .. define acid, base, oxide, salt…)

Does pH play a role? (define pH and explain)

What are the uses of the compound?

Is it water or fat soluble?

How is it produced?

How does it react in the body or other substrate?

(does it corrode, oxidize, reduce, burn, explain what is meant)

What are some physical properties (density, melting point etc)

What does the compound do? Are there dangers?

then ask:

What does the product do? (see third column)