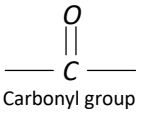
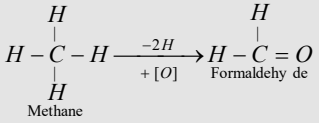
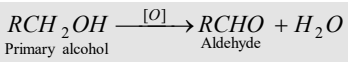
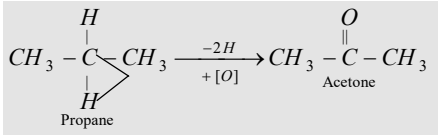
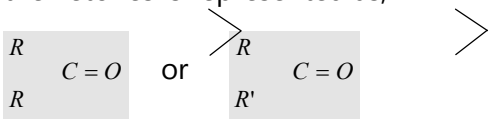
Introduction.

Carbonyl compounds are of two types, aldehydes and ketones. Both have a carbon-oxygen double bond often called as carbonyl group.



Carbonyl group

Both aldehyde and ketones possess the same general formula $C_nH_{2n}O$.

Aldehyde	**Ketone**
Aldehydes may be considered as derivatives of hydrocarbons in which two hydrogen atoms of the end carbon atom have been replaced by a bivalent oxygen atom.  Aldehydes contain the monovalent group $-C(H)=O$ (aldehydic group) linked to a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group. Hence, the general formula of the aldehydes is represented as, $R-C(H)=O$ (R may be H or alkyl group). Aldehydes can also be regarded as the first oxidation products of primary alcohols.  	Ketones may be considered as derivatives of hydrocarbons in which the two hydrogen atoms of a carbon atom present in the middle of carbon chain have been replaced by a bivalent oxygen atom.  Ketones contain the divalent group $C=O$ (ketonic group) linked to two alkyl groups, same or different. Hence, the general formula of the ketones is represented as,  Ketones can also be regarded as the first oxidation products of secondary alcohols.