Which of the following ions are responsible for hardening of water? A.  $Ca^{2+}$  B.  $Mg^{2+}$  C.  $Cl^-$  D.  $Na^+$  Answers:  $Ca^{2+}$  &  $Mg^{2+}$  Reason: Presence of salts of  $Ca^{2+}$  &  $Mg^{2+}$  is responsible for hardness of water.