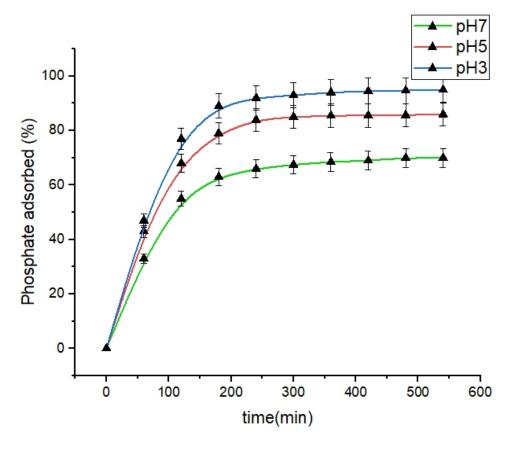
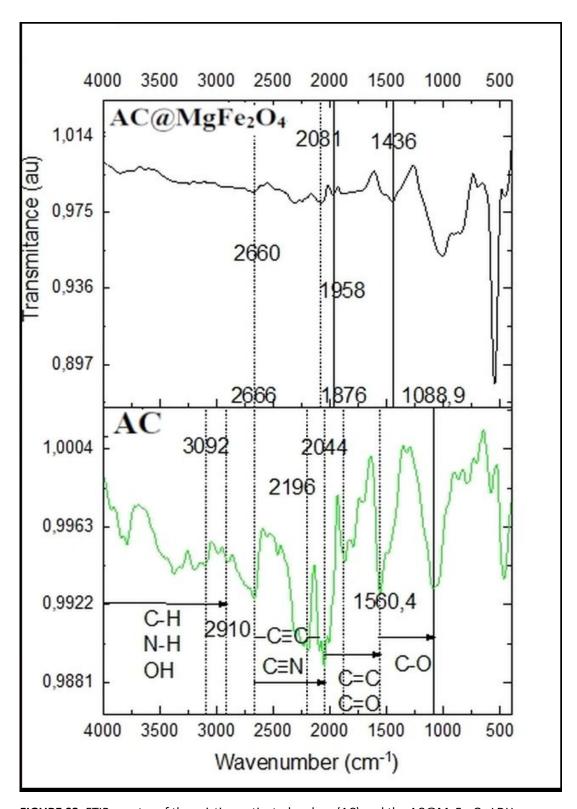
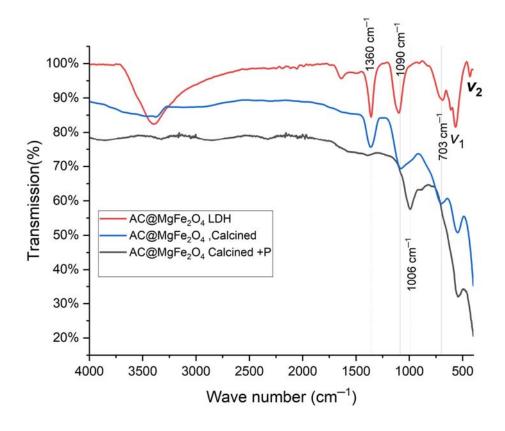
## **Supplementary material**



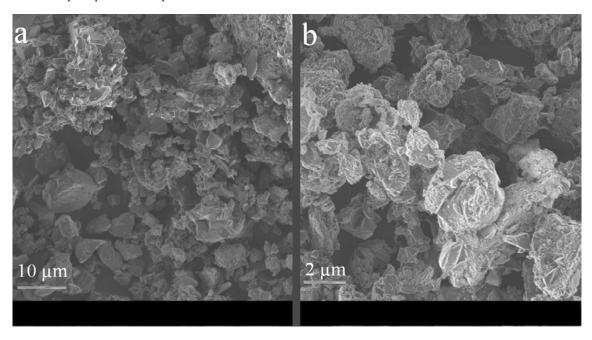
**FIGURE S1.** Effect of pH on the adsorptive removal of phosphate at an initial concentration of 120 mg/L by pristine activated carbon at a 4 g/L adsorbent dose at 30°C.



**FIGURE S2.** FTIR spectra of the pristine activated carbon (AC) and the AC@MgFe $_2$ O $_4$ -LDH nanocomposite adsorbent.



**FIGURE S3.** FTIR spectra of AC@MgFe $_2$ O $_4$ -LDH adsorbent and the calcined AC@MgFe $_2$ O $_4$  LDO before and after phosphate adsorption.



**FIGURE S4.** SEM morphological study of the AC@MgFe $_2$ O $_4$ -LDO nanocomposite adsorbent after adsorption, regeneration, and calcination at 600°C at different magnifications.