AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.4.3.2

Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**16**
Available paper years	**2008–2025**

Using this booklet

1. Answer the questions in order and show your working.
2. Original question numbers and marks are retained.
3. Print at actual size (100%) for measuring questions.
4. Use the companion answer booklet to check your work.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 01

January 2008 | CHY2F | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 The electrolysis of sodium chloride solution produces useful substances.

(a) (i) Choose a word from the box to complete the sentence.

covalent	**ionic**	**non-metallic**

Electrolysis takes place when electricity passes through ..... compounds when they are molten or in solution.

(1 mark)

(ii) Choose a word from the box to complete the sentence.

alkenes	**elements**	**salts**

During electrolysis the compound is broken down to form ..... .

(1 mark)

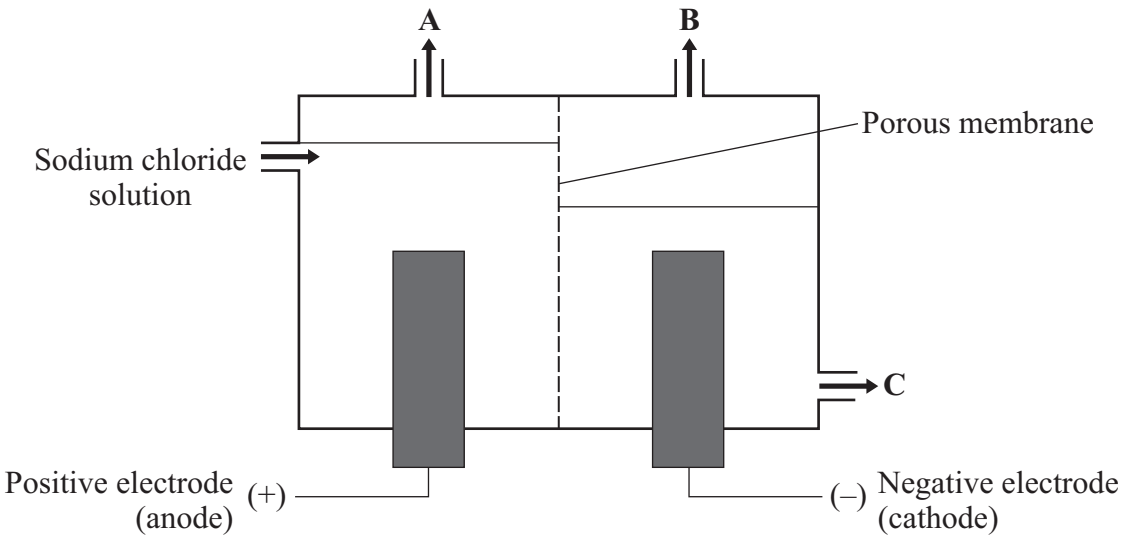
4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 01 · continued

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(b) The table of ions on the Data Sheet may help you to answer this question.

The diagram shows an apparatus used for the electrolysis of sodium chloride solution.



Identify the products **A**, **B** and **C** on the diagram using substances from the box.

chlorine gas	**hydrogen gas**	**oxygen gas**
sodium hydroxide solution		**sodium metal**

(i) **A** is ..... .
(1 mark)

(ii) **B** is ..... .
(1 mark)

(iii) **C** is ..... .
(1 mark)

5

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

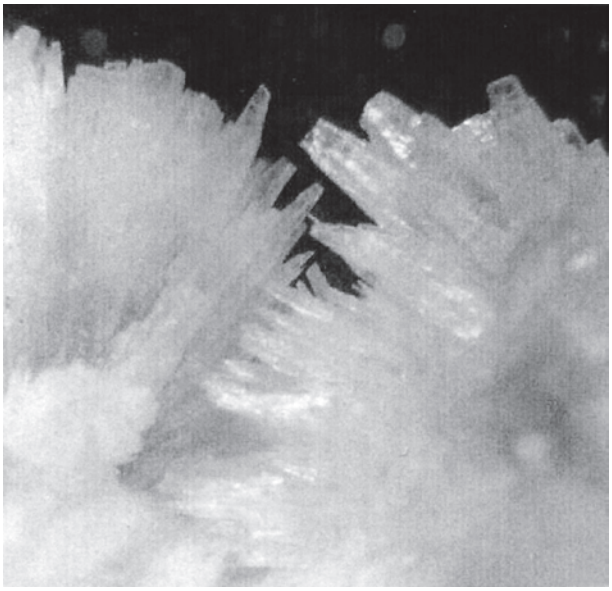
Question 02

June 2010 | CHY2F | Original Q7 | Legacy

7 (a) Read the article about the mineral strontianite.

Strontianite is a mineral that was discovered near the village of Strontian in Scotland. At first some scientists thought that strontianite was barium carbonate.

Strontianite



In 1790, Professor Adair Crawford and William Cruikshank were both lecturers in chemistry and doctors of medicine. They investigated the properties of strontianite. They found that strontianite had different properties from barium carbonate. They concluded that strontianite contained a new element.

After this, other scientists also showed that strontianite and barium carbonate had different properties. Strontianite is now known to be strontium carbonate.

7 (a) (i) What evidence did Crawford and Cruikshank use to prove that strontianite was **not** barium carbonate?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (a) (ii) Crawford and Cruikshank's conclusion was immediately accepted by other scientists. Suggest why.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (a) (iii) How was the reliability of the work of Crawford and Cruikshank confirmed?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 02 · continued

7 (b) One of Crawford and Cruikshank's experiments was repeated in a school laboratory. Samples of strontianite and barium carbonate were reacted with hydrochloric acid to produce strontium chloride and barium chloride.

Solid strontium chloride and solid barium chloride were separately added to water. The change in temperature of the water was measured.

The results of the experiments are shown below.

	Experiment 1 Strontium chloride dissolved in water	**Experiment 2** Barium chloride dissolved in water
Temperature of water before adding the chloride in ºC	19.5	19.6
Temperature of water after adding the chloride in ºC	21.2	17.5

7 (b) (i) State **one** variable that should be controlled to make it a fair test.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (b) (ii) Which experiment, **1** or **2**, is endothermic?

Explain how you know.

Experiment ☐ because .....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (b) (iii) The results prove that strontium chloride and barium chloride must be different even if all of the variables had not been controlled when they were dissolved. Explain why.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (c) In 1808, Humphry Davy was the first person to extract strontium. He did this by the electrolysis of molten strontium chloride. Strontium formed at the negative electrode.

Suggest why strontium ions are attracted to the negative electrode.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 03

November 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q5 | Legacy

QUESTION FIVE

This question is about how we obtain some metals.

Match statements, **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, with the numbers **1–4** in the table.

A uses another metal

B does **not** use a chemical reaction

C could be done in a blast furnace

D is called electrolysis

1	Aluminium is made when an electric current passes through a molten aluminium compound.
2	Gold can be found at the bottom of some streams.
3	Titanium is made by reacting titanium chloride with magnesium.
4	Zinc is made when a mixture of zinc oxide and carbon is heated.

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 04

6 The flow diagram shows the main stages used to extract a metal from its ore.

mining the ore → purifying the ore → extracting the metal

The table shows some information about three metals.

Metal	Metal ore	Purified ore	% of metal in the ore	% of metal in the Earth's crust
aluminium	bauxite	aluminium oxide, Al_2O_3	28.0	8.0
copper	chalcocite	copper sulfide, Cu_2S	0.5	0.001
iron	haematite	iron oxide, Fe_2O_3	29.0	5.0

6 (a) Use the information in the table and your knowledge and understanding to help you to answer the questions.

6 (a) (i) Suggest why purifying the copper ore produces large quantities of waste.

.....

.....

.....

(1 mark)

6 (a) (ii) Suggest why the annual world production of iron is forty times greater than that of aluminium.

.....

.....

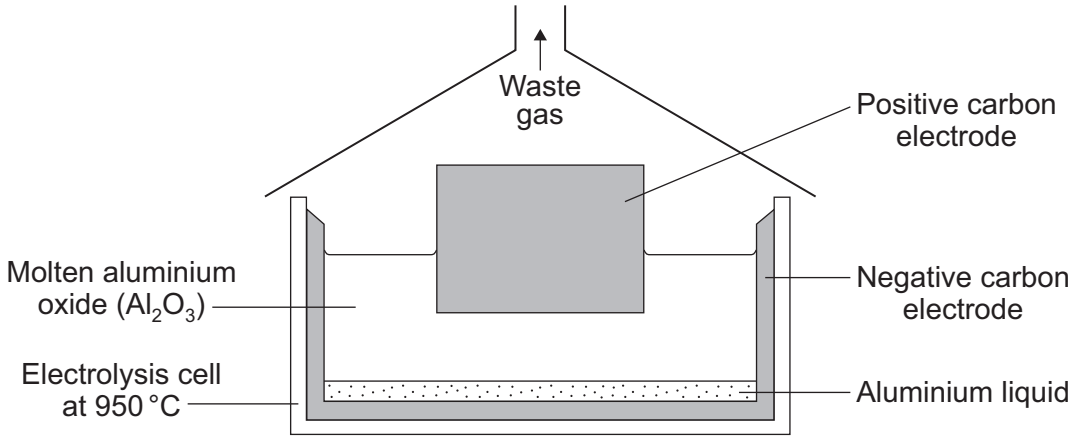
.....

(1 mark)

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 04 · continued

6 (b) Aluminium is used for drinks cans.
Aluminium is extracted from its purified ore by electrolysis.



6 (b) (i) Suggest why the aluminium produced in the electrolysis cell is a liquid.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

6 (b) (ii) In this electrolysis, aluminium and oxygen gas are produced from the aluminium oxide.

Use the information in the diagram to suggest why most of the waste gas is carbon dioxide and not oxygen.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

6 (b) (iii) Aluminium is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust.

Suggest **two** reasons why we should recycle aluminium drinks cans.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

(2 marks)

7

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 05

January 2012 | CH1FP | Original Q2 | Legacy

2 Cans for food and drinks are made from steel or aluminium.
The main metal in steel is iron.

2 (a) Reacting iron oxide with carbon produces iron.

Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete the sentence.

The reaction to produce iron from iron oxide is

- decomposition.
- oxidation.
- reduction.

(1 mark)

2 (b) Aluminium cannot be produced by reacting aluminium oxide with carbon.

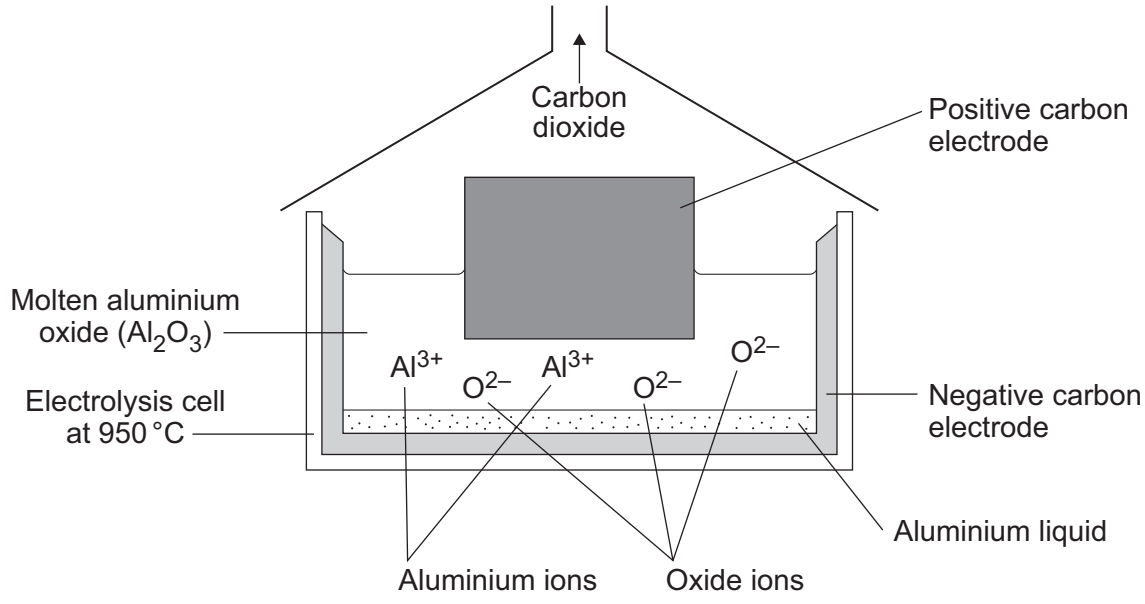
Why does aluminium oxide **not** react with carbon?

Tick (✓) the correct answer.

Answer	Tick (✓)
aluminium is less reactive than carbon	
carbon is less reactive than aluminium	
oxygen is more reactive than carbon	

(1 mark)

2 (c) Aluminium can be produced by electrolysis.



4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 05 · continued

Why do the aluminium ions collect at the negative electrode?

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

2 (d) Some statements about aluminium are given below.

Tick (✓) **two** statements that are correct reasons why aluminium is used to make cans.

Statement	Tick (✓)
aluminium conducts electricity	
aluminium is not a transition metal	
aluminium has a low density	
aluminium is resistant to corrosion	

(2 marks)

2 (e) Recycling aluminium cans uses less fossil fuels than producing aluminium from its ore.

Tick (✓) **one** advantage and tick (✓) **one** disadvantage of recycling aluminium to make aluminium cans.

Statement	Advantage Tick (✓)	Disadvantage Tick (✓)
aluminium is the most common metal in the Earth's crust		
less carbon dioxide is produced		
more aluminium ore needs to be mined		
used aluminium cans have to be collected and transported		

(2 marks)

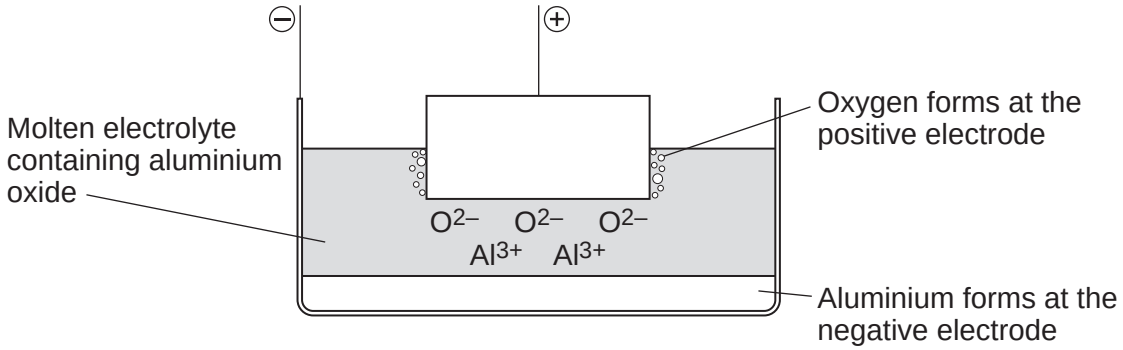
8

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 06

June 2012 | CH2FP | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 The diagram represents an electrolysis cell for extracting aluminium.
The current will only flow when the electrolyte is molten.



4 (a) The electrolyte is aluminium oxide mixed with another substance.

4 (a) (i) What is the name of the other substance in the electrolyte?

Draw a ring around the correct answer.

cryolite **rock salt** **limestone**

(1 mark)

4 (a) (ii) Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete the sentence.

This other substance is added to

condense the aluminium oxide.
lower the melting point of the aluminium oxide.
raise the boiling point of the aluminium oxide.

(1 mark)

4 (b) (i) Oxide ions (O^{2-}) move to the positive electrode.

Explain why.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 06 · continued

4 (b) (ii) Oxygen is formed at the positive electrode. The oxygen then forms carbon dioxide.

The equation for the reaction is shown below.

$$C + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$$

Complete the sentence.

The name of the element which reacts with oxygen is ..... .

(1 mark)

4 (b) (iii) The positive electrode gets smaller.

Suggest why.

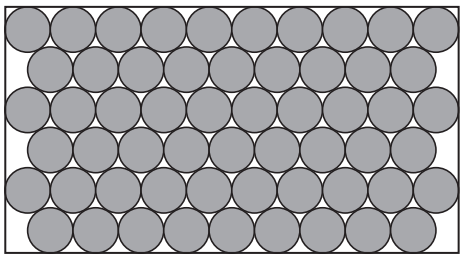
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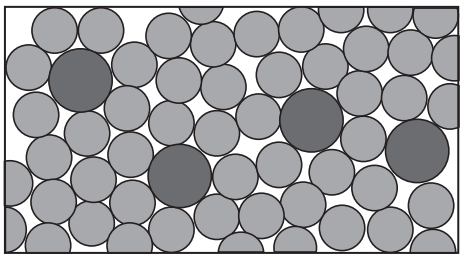
(1 mark)

4 (c) Aluminium is used in an alloy with magnesium to make drinks cans.

The diagrams show the arrangement of atoms in pure aluminium and in the alloy.



Pure aluminium



Alloy

The alloy is harder than pure aluminium.

Explain why. Use the diagrams to help you.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

8

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

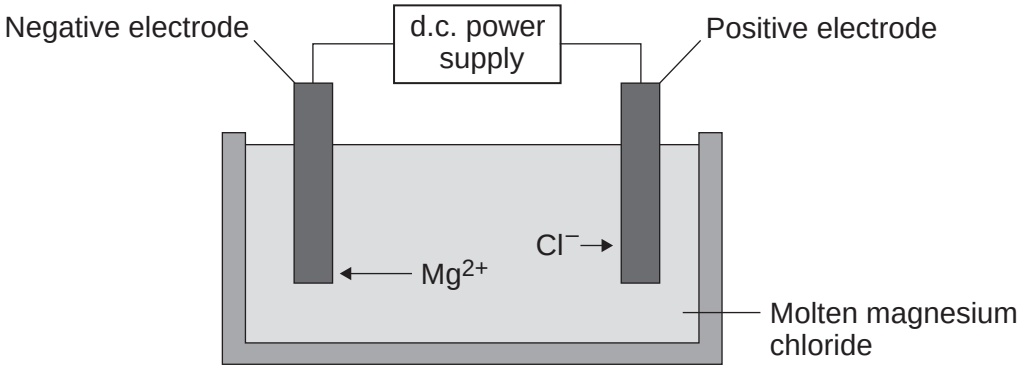
Question 07

June 2014 | CH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 Some students investigated reactions to produce magnesium.

5 (a) The students used electrolysis to produce magnesium from magnesium chloride, as shown in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7



5 (a) (i) Magnesium chloride contains magnesium ions and chloride ions.

Why does solid magnesium chloride **not** conduct electricity?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

5 (a) (ii) One of the products of the electrolysis of molten magnesium chloride is magnesium.

Name the other product.

[1 mark]

.....

5 (a) (iii) Why do magnesium ions (Mg^{2+}) move to the negative electrode?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 07 · continued

5 (a) (iv) At the negative electrode, the magnesium ions (Mg^{2+}) gain electrons to become magnesium atoms.

How many electrons does each magnesium ion gain?

[1 mark]

.....

5 (b) The students did the experiment four times and weighed the magnesium produced.

Table 1 shows their results.

Table 1

Experiment	Mass of magnesium produced in grams
1	1.13
2	0.63
3	1.11
4	1.09

5 (b) (i) There is an anomalous result.

Suggest **one** possible reason for the anomalous result.

[1 mark]

.....

.....

5 (b) (ii) Calculate the mean mass of magnesium produced, taking account of the anomalous result.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

Mean mass = ... g

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

5 (c) The formula of magnesium chloride is $MgCl_2$

The relative formula mass of magnesium chloride is 95.

The relative atomic mass of magnesium is 24.

5 (c) (i) Use the equation to calculate the percentage mass of magnesium in magnesium chloride.

$$\text{Percentage mass of magnesium} = \frac{\text{mass of magnesium}}{\text{mass of magnesium chloride}} \times 100\%$$

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

Percentage mass of magnesium in magnesium chloride = ... %

5 (c) (ii) Draw a ring around the relative mass of chlorine in $MgCl_2$

[1 mark]

71 **95** **119**

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 07 · continued June 2014 | CH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 (d) Magnesium is also produced from the reaction of magnesium oxide with silicon.

5 (d) (i) The equation for the reaction is:

$$2\ MgO(s) + Si(s) \rightleftharpoons SiO_2(s) + 2\ Mg(s)$$

What is the meaning of this symbol $\rightleftharpoons$?

Draw a ring around the correct answer.

[1 mark]

neutralisation reaction **precipitation reaction** **reversible reaction**

5 (d) (ii) The forward reaction is endothermic.

Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

In an endothermic reaction the temperature of the surroundings

- decreases.
- increases.
- stays the same.

12

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 08

June 2015 | CH2FP | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 This question is about electrolysis.

4 (a) Metal spoons can be coated with silver.
This is called electroplating.

Suggest **one** reason why spoons are electroplated.

[1 mark]

.....

.....

4 (b) When sodium chloride solution is electrolysed the products are hydrogen and chlorine.

4 (b) (i) What is made from chlorine?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Bleach ☐

Fertiliser ☐

Soap ☐

4 (b) (ii) Sodium chloride solution contains two types of positive ions, hydrogen ions (H^+) and sodium ions (Na^+).

Why is hydrogen produced at the negative electrode and **not** sodium?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrogen is a gas. ☐

Hydrogen is less reactive than sodium. ☐

Hydrogen ions move faster than sodium ions. ☐

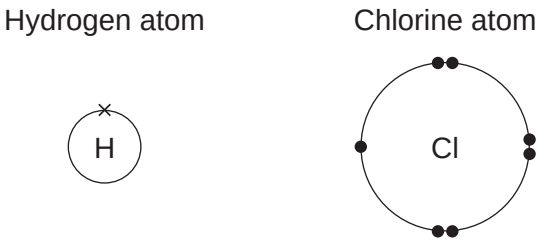
4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 08 · continued

4 (b) (iii) Hydrogen and chlorine can be used to produce hydrogen chloride.

The diagrams in **Figure 4** show how the outer electrons are arranged in an atom of hydrogen and an atom of chlorine.

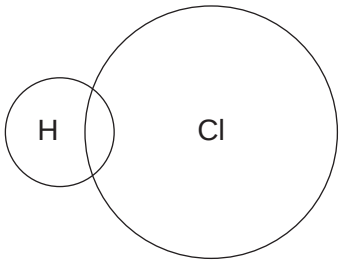
Figure 4



Complete **Figure 5** to show how the outer electrons are arranged in a molecule of hydrogen chloride (HCl).

[1 mark]

Figure 5



4 (b) (iv) What is the type of bond in a molecule of hydrogen chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Covalent ☐

Ionic ☐

Metallic ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 08 · continued

4 (b) (v) Why is hydrogen chloride a gas at room temperature (20 °C)?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

Hydrogen chloride has a low boiling point. ☐

Hydrogen chloride has a high melting point. ☐

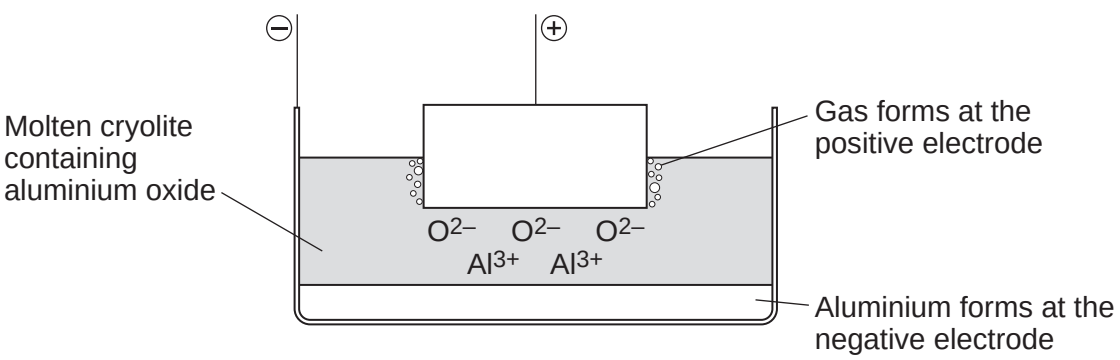
Hydrogen chloride is made of simple molecules. ☐

Hydrogen chloride does not conduct electricity. ☐

Hydrogen chloride has a giant structure. ☐

4 (c) Aluminium is produced by electrolysis of a molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite.
This is shown in **Figure 6**.

Figure 6



4 (c) (i) Name a gas produced at the positive electrode.

[1 mark]

.....

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 08 · continued

4 (c) (ii) Aluminium ions move to the negative electrode.

Explain why.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

4 (c) (iii) At the negative electrode, the aluminium ions gain electrons to produce aluminium.

What is this type of reaction called?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

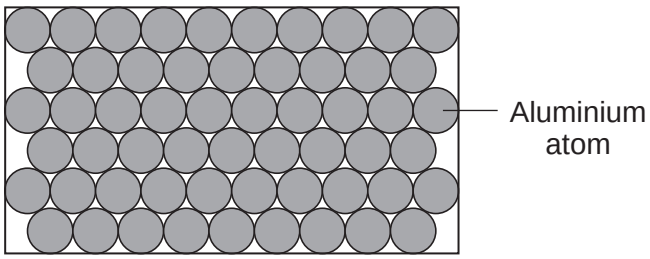
Combustion ☐

Oxidation ☐

Reduction ☐

4 (c) (iv) Aluminium has layers of atoms, as shown in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7



Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

Metals can be bent and shaped because the layers of atoms can ..... .

Question 4 continues on the next page

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

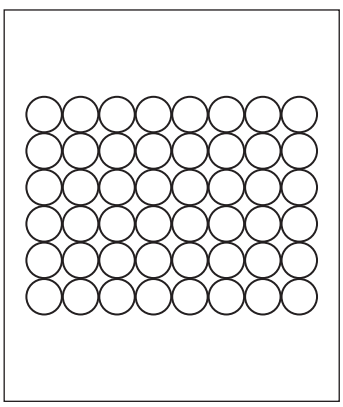
Question 08 · continued

4 (d) Electrodes used in the production of aluminium are made from graphite.

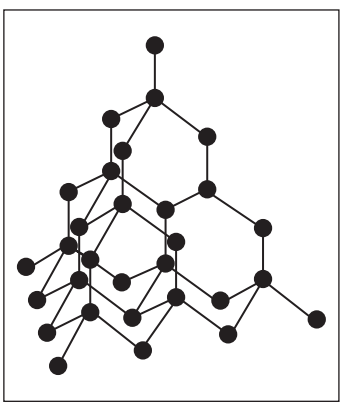
4 (d) (i) Which diagram, **A**, **B** or **C**, shows the structure of graphite?

[1 mark]

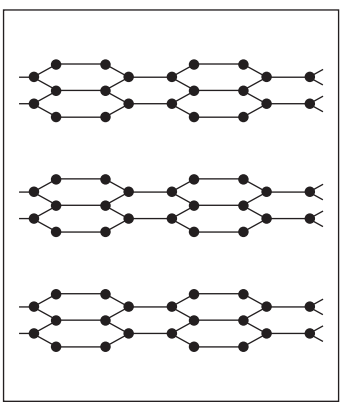
A



B



C



The structure of graphite is shown in diagram ☐.

4 (d) (ii) The temperature for the electrolysis is 950 °C.

Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

cross links	**a giant ionic lattice**	**strong covalent bonds**

The graphite does not melt at 950 °C because

graphite has ..... .

14

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

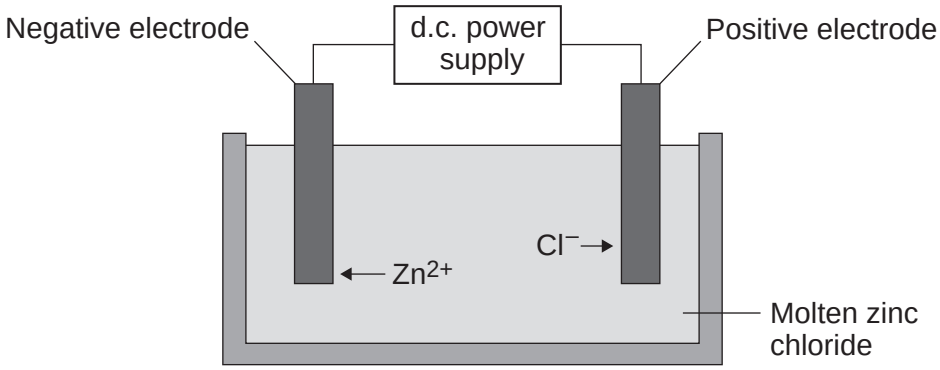
Question 09

June 2016 | CH2FP | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 This question is about zinc.

Figure 7 shows the electrolysis of molten zinc chloride.

Figure 7



3 (a) Zinc chloride is an ionic substance.
Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

When zinc chloride is molten, it will conduct _____ .

3 (b) Zinc ions move towards the negative electrode where they gain electrons to produce zinc.

3 (b) (i) Name the product formed at the positive electrode.

[1 mark]

_____

3 (b) (ii) Explain why zinc ions move towards the negative electrode.

[2 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

3 (b) (iii) What type of reaction occurs when the zinc ions gain electrons?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Neutralisation ☐

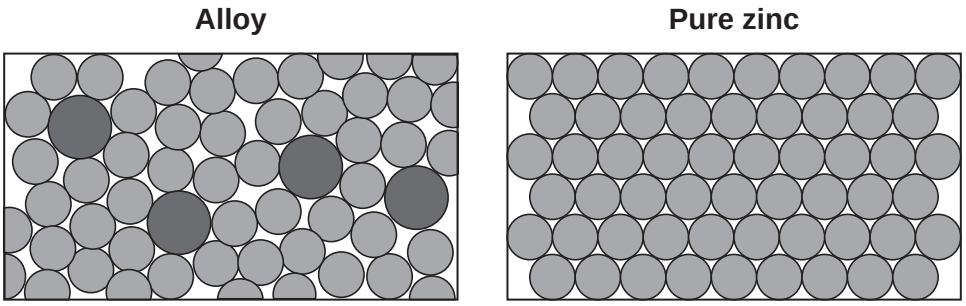
Oxidation ☐

Reduction ☐

3 (c) Zinc is mixed with copper to make an alloy.

3 (c) (i) **Figure 8** shows the particles in the alloy and in pure zinc.

Figure 8



Use **Figure 8** to explain why the alloy is harder than pure zinc.

[2 marks]

3 (c) (ii) Alloys can be bent. Some alloys return to their original shape when heated.

What name is used for these alloys?

[1 mark]

8

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

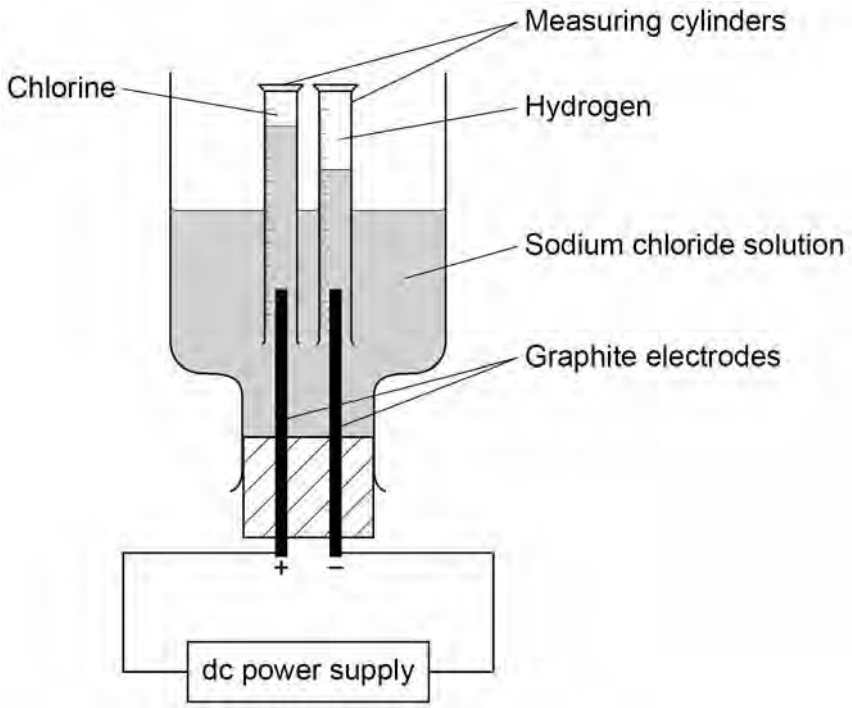
Question 10

June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q4

0 4 A student investigated the electrolysis of sodium chloride solution.

Figure 4 shows the apparatus.

Figure 4



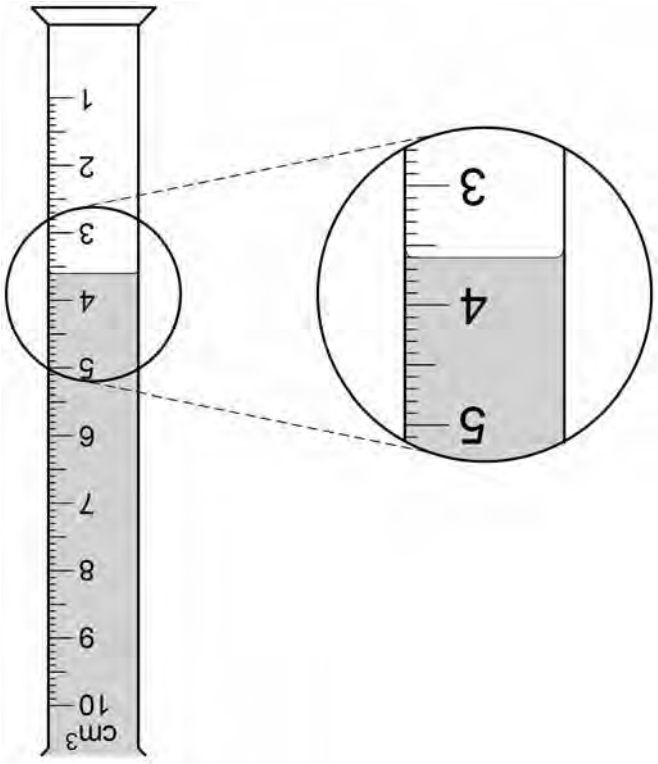
The student measured the volume of gas collected in each measuring cylinder every minute for 20 minutes.

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 10 · continued

0 4 . 1 **Figure 5** shows the volume of hydrogen gas collected in the measuring cylinder after 8 minutes.

Figure 5



What is the volume of hydrogen gas collected?

[1 mark]

Volume = _____ cm^3

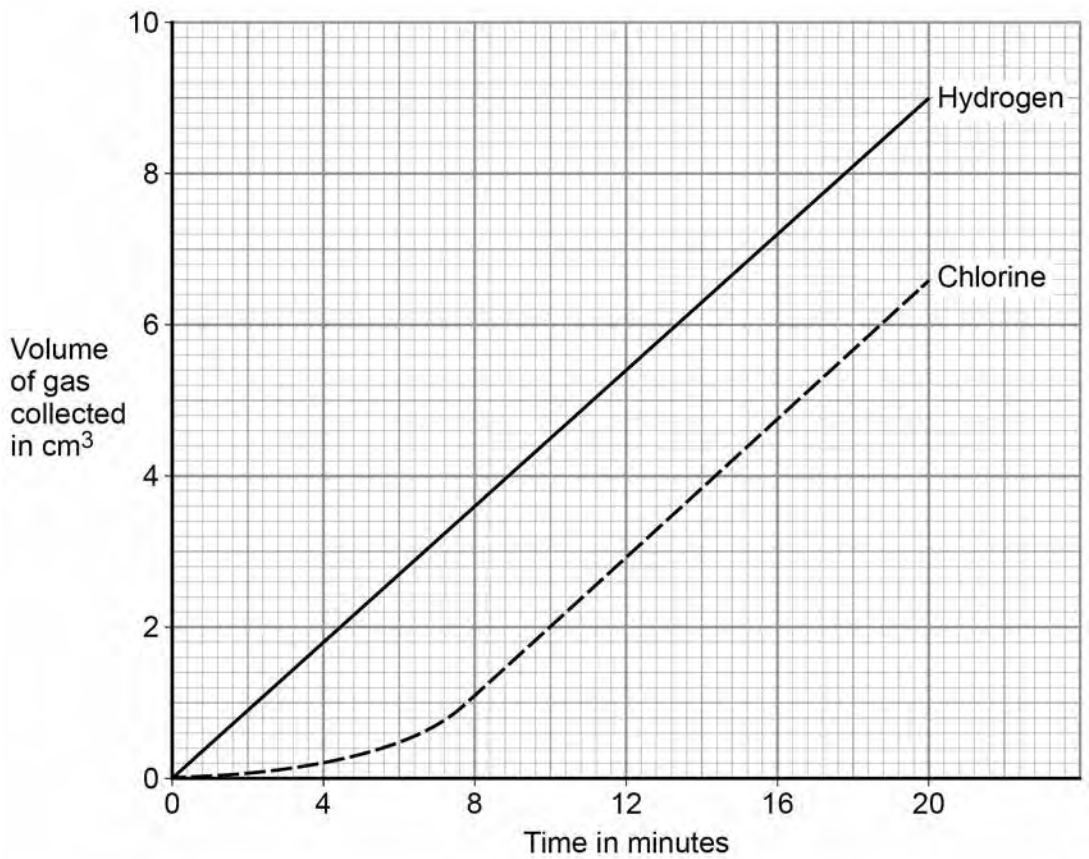
Question 4 continues on the next page

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 10 · continued

Figure 6 shows the results of the investigation.

Figure 6



0 4 . 2 Which of the lines on **Figure 6** show that the volume of gas collected is directly proportional to the time?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

- Both lines ☐
- Chlorine line only ☐
- Hydrogen line only ☐
- Neither line ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 10 · continued

0 4 . 3 Which of the lines on **Figure 6** show a positive correlation between the volume of gas collected and time?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

- Both lines ☐
- Chlorine line only ☐
- Hydrogen line only ☐
- Neither line ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

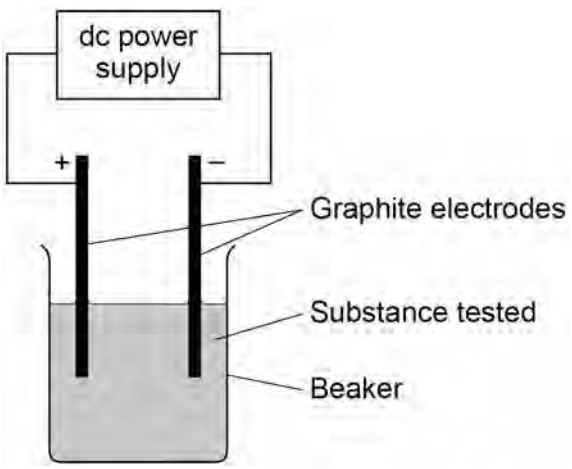
4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 10 · continued

A teacher demonstrates the electrolysis of different substances using graphite electrodes.

Figure 7 shows the apparatus used.

Figure 7



0 4 . 4 Why can graphite conduct electricity?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

Graphite exists in layers of atoms. ☐

Graphite has a giant structure. ☐

Graphite has a high melting point. ☐

Graphite has delocalised electrons. ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 10 · continued

0 4 . 5 The teacher demonstrates the electrolysis of:

- molten zinc chloride
- potassium bromide solution.

Complete **Table 3** to predict the products.

Choose answers from the box.

[4 marks]

chlorine	**bromine**	**hydrogen**	**oxygen**	**potassium**	**zinc**

Table 3

Substance electrolysed	Product at cathode (negative electrode)	Product at anode (positive electrode)
Molten zinc chloride		
Potassium bromide solution		

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 11

November 2020 | 8462/1F | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about aluminium.

0 5 . 1 Aluminium is a metal.

Draw **one** line from each property of aluminium to the correct reason for that property.

[2 marks]

Property	Reason
	Aluminium has delocalised electrons
Conducts electricity	Aluminium has layers of atoms which can slide
	Aluminium has strong metallic bonds
High melting point	Aluminium has weak intermolecular forces
	Aluminium has a random arrangement of atoms

0 5 . 2 Aluminium can be used to make alloys.

What is meant by an 'alloy'?

[1 mark]

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

Aluminium is extracted from bauxite.

Bauxite is a mixture which contains aluminium oxide.

0 5 . 3 Bauxite contains between 15% and 25% aluminium.

Aluminium oxide always contains 53% aluminium.

How does this show that bauxite is a mixture and **not** a compound?

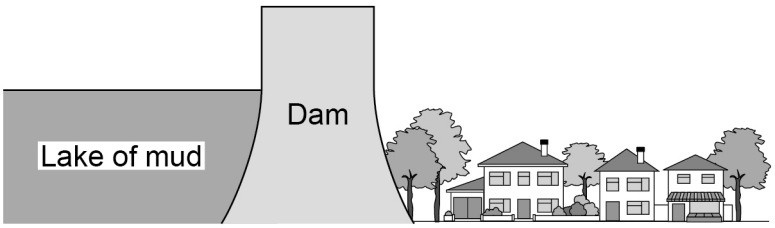
[1 mark]

0 5 . 4 The waste material from the bauxite is stored in lakes of mud.

The lakes of mud are held in place by dams.

Figure 6 shows one of these lakes.

Figure 6



Suggest **two** possible problems with storing the waste material in lakes of mud.

[2 marks]

1

2

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

Aluminium is extracted by electrolysis.

The aluminium oxide is mixed with cryolite and melted.

The mixture is then electrolysed.

0 5 . 5 The formula of cryolite is Na_3AlF_6

Give the total number of atoms in the formula.

[1 mark]

Number of atoms = _____

0 5 . 6 What is the reason for adding cryolite to the aluminium oxide?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

To increase the amount of aluminium extracted ☐

To lower the melting point of the mixture ☐

To reduce the amount of aluminium oxide needed ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

0 5 . 7 Complete the sentences.

Choose answers from the box.

[2 marks]

aluminium	**carbon**	**fluorine**
oxygen	**sodium**	

When the molten aluminium oxide and cryolite mixture is electrolysed the product at the positive electrode is _____.

This product reacts with the positive electrode because the positive electrode is made of _____.

0 5 . 8 A sample of bauxite contains 25% aluminium.

Calculate the maximum mass of aluminium that can be extracted from 300 000 kg of the sample of bauxite.

Give your answer in standard form.

[3 marks]

Maximum mass (in standard form) = _____ kg

13

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 12

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

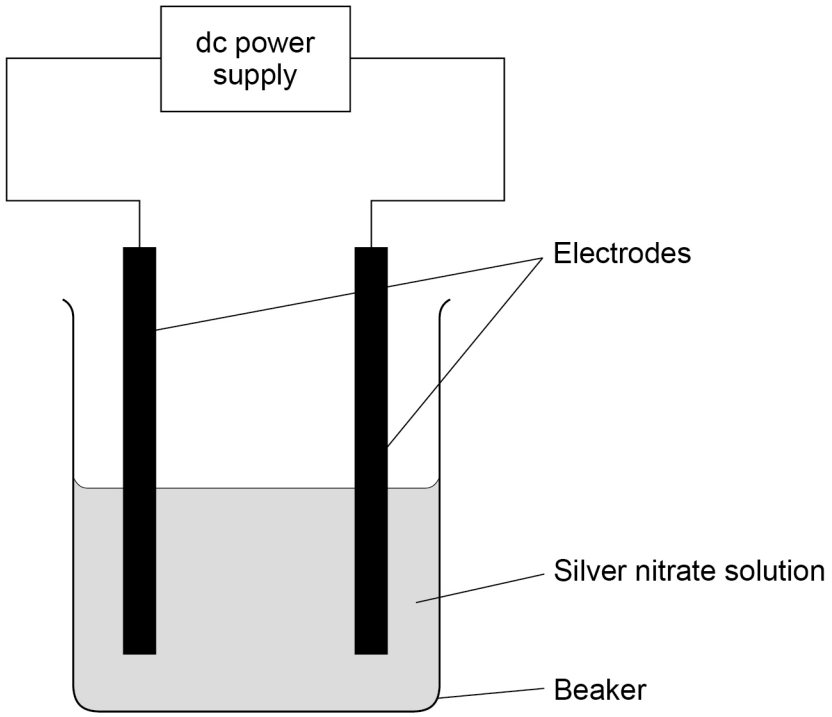
0 7 This question is about electrolysis.

Some students investigated the electrolysis of silver nitrate solution.

This electrolysis produces silver at the negative electrode.

Figure 11 shows the apparatus.

Figure 11



This is the method used.

1. Weigh the negative electrode.
2. Set up the apparatus shown in **Figure 11**.
3. Switch on the power supply.
4. Switch off the power supply after five minutes.
5. Rinse the negative electrode with water and allow to dry.
6. Reweigh the negative electrode.
7. Repeat steps 1 to 6 for different times.

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 12 · continued

0 7 . 1 Some silver did not stick to the negative electrode but fell to the bottom of the beaker.

The students needed to weigh this silver.

How could the students separate the silver from the silver nitrate solution?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

By chromatography ☐

By crystallisation ☐

By distillation ☐

By filtration ☐

Table 5 shows the students' results.

Table 5

Time in minutes	Mass of silver in g
0	0.00
5	0.06
10	0.12
15	0.18
20	0.24
25	0.30

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 12 · continued

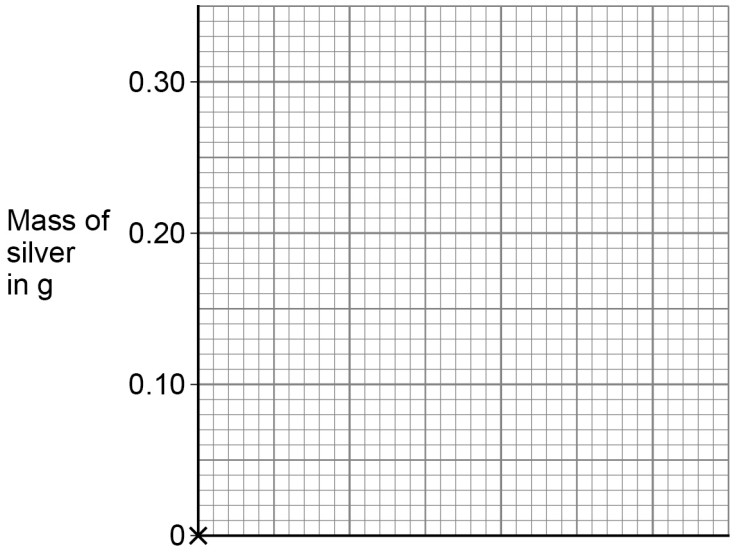
0 7 . 2 Draw a graph on **Figure 12**.

You should:

- use a suitable scale for the x-axis
- plot the data from **Table 5**
- draw a line of best fit.

[4 marks]

Figure 12



0 7 . 3 Determine the mass of silver that would be produced after 12 minutes.

Use **Figure 12**.

[1 mark]

Mass of silver = _____ g

Question 7 continues on the next page

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 12 · continued

0 7 . 4 A student investigated the electrolysis of two aqueous salt solutions.

Hydrogen is produced at the negative electrode when the metal in the salt solution is more reactive than hydrogen.

Complete **Table 6** to show what the student would **observe** at the negative electrode for each salt solution.

[2 marks]

Table 6

Salt solution	Observation at negative electrode
Copper sulfate	
Sodium chloride	

0 7 . 5 A teacher demonstrates the electrolysis of molten lead bromide.

The products at the electrodes are lead and bromine.

Why should the teacher do the demonstration in a fume cupboard?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

0 7 . 6 Two other molten compounds are electrolysed.

Complete **Table 7** to show the molten compounds and the products.

[3 marks]

Table 7

Molten compound electrolysed	Product at the negative electrode	Product at the positive electrode
Zinc chloride		
	Potassium	Iodine

12

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 13

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

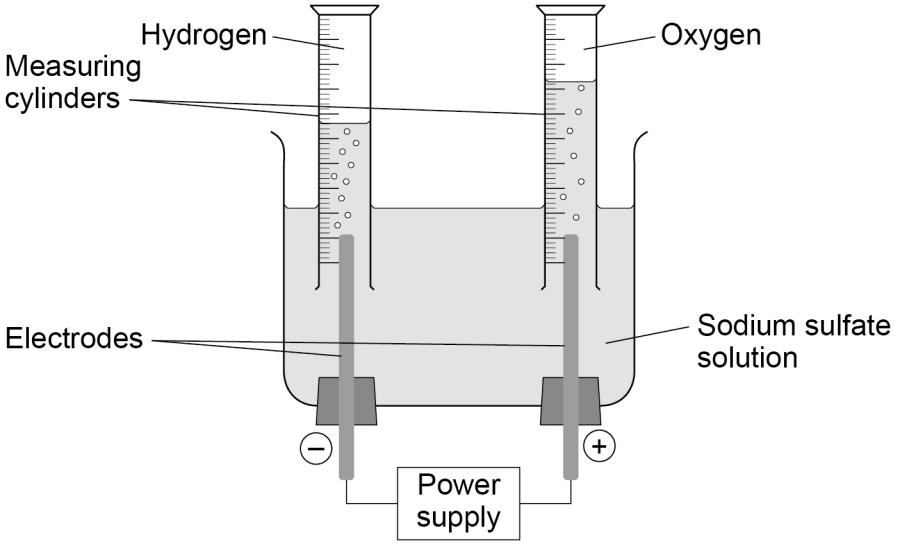
0 8 This question is about electrolysis.

Ionic compounds decompose when they are electrolysed.

A student electrolyses sodium sulfate solution.

Figure 13 shows the apparatus used.

Figure 13



0 8 . 1 Sodium sulfate solution contains:

- hydrogen ions
- hydroxide ions
- sodium ions
- sulfate ions.

Oxygen is produced at the positive electrode.

Which ions are discharged at the positive electrode to produce oxygen?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrogen ions ☐

Hydroxide ions ☐

Sodium ions ☐

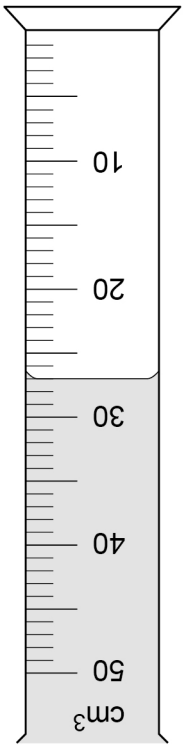
Sulfate ions ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 13 · continued

0 8 . 2 **Figure 14** shows one of the measuring cylinders during the electrolysis.

Figure 14



What is the volume of gas in the measuring cylinder?

[1 mark]

Volume of gas = _____ cm^3

0 8 . 3 Ionic compounds can be electrolysed when molten or dissolved in water.

Why can ionic compounds **not** be electrolysed when solid?

You should answer in terms of ions.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 13 · continued

0 8 . 4 **Table 7** shows the products of electrolysis of two molten compounds.

Table 7

Molten compound	Product at negative electrode	Product at positive electrode
Potassium iodide	Potassium	_____
Zinc bromide	_____	Bromine

Complete **Table 7**.

[2 marks]

0 8 . 5 The electrolysis of molten sodium chloride is used to extract sodium metal.

Why is sodium metal extracted by electrolysis instead of by reduction with carbon?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Carbon conducts electricity. ☐

Carbon is less reactive than sodium. ☐

Carbon reduction uses more energy. ☐

0 8 . 6 What is the state symbol for molten sodium chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

(aq) ☐ (g) ☐ (l) ☐ (s) ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 13 · continued

0 8 . 7 Titanium can be produced from titanium oxide by electrolysis.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$TiO_2 \rightarrow Ti + O_2$$

Calculate the percentage atom economy for the production of titanium from titanium oxide by electrolysis.

Use the equation:

$$\text{Percentage atom economy} = \frac{\text{Relative atomic mass of desired product}}{\text{Relative formula mass of reactant}} \times 100$$

Relative atomic mass (A_r): Ti = 48

Relative formula mass (M_r): TiO_2 = 80

[2 marks]

Percentage atom economy = _____ %

9

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 14

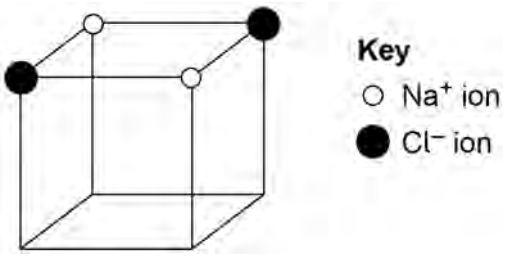
June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

0 7 This question is about ionic compounds and electrolysis.

Sodium chloride is an ionic compound.

0 7 . 1 **Figure 8** represents part of the structure of solid sodium chloride.

Figure 8



Complete **Figure 8**.

[2 marks]

0 7 . 2 Give **one** reason why molten sodium chloride conducts electricity.

Refer to ions in your answer.

[1 mark]

0 7 . 3 **Table 3** shows products of the electrolysis of two molten ionic compounds.

Complete **Table 3**.

[2 marks]

Table 3

Molten compound	Product at the negative electrode	Product at the positive electrode
Magnesium bromide	Magnesium	
Potassium chloride		Chlorine

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 14 · continued

0 7 . 4 Aluminium is extracted by electrolysis.

The electrolyte is a molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite.

Why is a mixture used instead of pure aluminium oxide as the electrolyte?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The mixture has a lower melting point than pure aluminium oxide. ☐
- The mixture has the same melting point as pure aluminium oxide. ☐
- The mixture has a higher melting point than pure aluminium oxide. ☐

0 7 . 5 Electrolysis of an aqueous solution of sodium sulfate produces hydrogen and oxygen.

What is the source of the hydrogen and the oxygen produced during the electrolysis of aqueous sodium sulfate solution?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Air ☐
- Sulfate ions ☐
- Water ☐

Question 7 continues on the next page

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 14 · continued

Electrolysis of an aqueous solution of sodium sulfate produces hydrogen and oxygen.

0 7 . 6 Why is hydrogen produced instead of sodium in the electrolysis of aqueous sodium sulfate solution?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

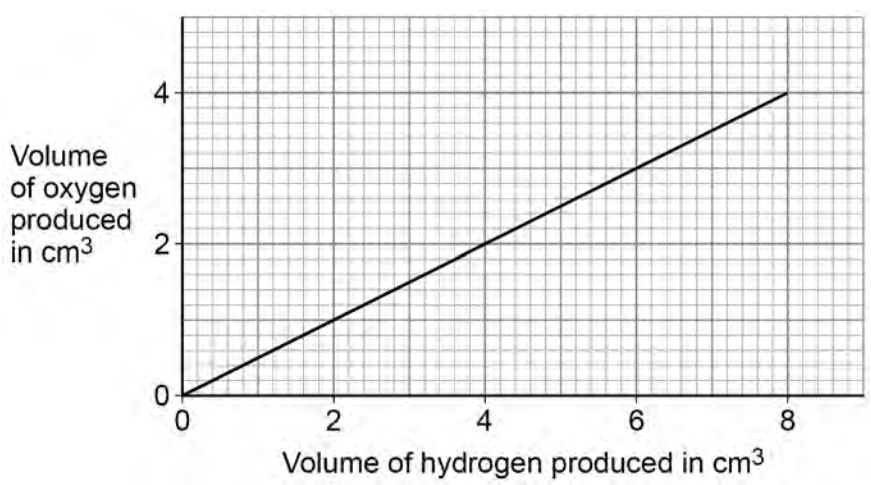
Hydrogen is less reactive than sodium. ☐

Hydrogen has the same reactivity as sodium. ☐

Hydrogen is more reactive than sodium. ☐

0 7 . 7 **Figure 9** shows the relationship between the volume of hydrogen and the volume of oxygen produced during the electrolysis.

Figure 9



Give **one** conclusion that can be made about the volume of hydrogen produced compared to the volume of oxygen produced.

[1 mark]

9

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 15

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

0 6 This question is about electrolysis and the extraction of metals.

0 6 . 1 Why can some molten substances be electrolysed?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Electrons can move through the molten substance to the electrodes. ☐
- Ions can move through the molten substance to the electrodes. ☐
- Protons can move through the molten substance to the electrodes. ☐

0 6 . 2 **Table 3** shows the products of the electrolysis of some molten compounds.

Complete **Table 3**.

[3 marks]

Table 3

Molten compound	Product at negative electrode	Product at positive electrode
Lead chloride	_____	Chlorine
Potassium iodide	Potassium	_____
_____	Zinc	Bromine

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 15 · continued

Aluminium is extracted by electrolysing molten aluminium oxide.

0 6 . 3 Balance the equation for the reaction.

Choose numbers from the box.

[2 marks]

2	**3**	**4**	**5**

$$2Al_2O_3 \rightarrow __ Al + __ O_2$$

0 6 . 4 Calculate the relative formula mass (M_r) of aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3).

Relative atomic masses (A_r): O = 16 Al = 27

[2 marks]

Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

Question 6 continues on the next page

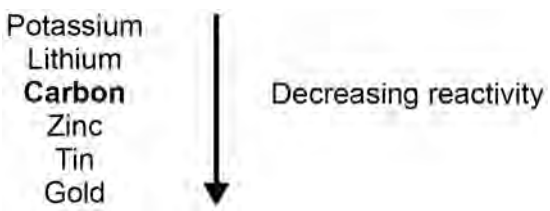
4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 15 · continued

0 6 . 5 **Figure 13** shows part of the reactivity series of metals.

The non-metal carbon has been included.

Figure 13



Metals can be extracted from their compounds by:

- electrolysis
- reduction with carbon.

Electrolysis is more expensive than reduction with carbon.

Predict one metal that would be extracted by each method.

Use Figure 13.

[2 marks]

Extracted by electrolysis _____

Extracted by carbon reduction _____

10

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 16

0 5 This question is about electrolysis.

0 5 . 1 **Table 4** shows some of the products of electrolysis of two molten compounds.

Complete **Table 4**.

[2 marks]

Table 4

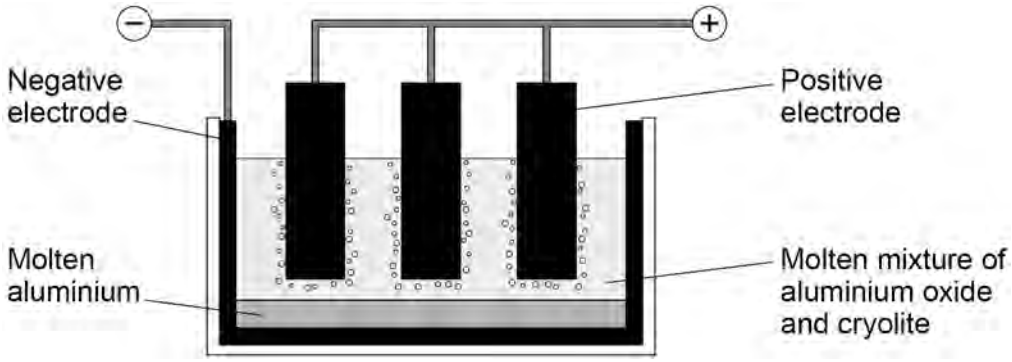
Molten compound	Product at the negative electrode	Product at the positive electrode
Copper chloride		Chlorine
Potassium bromide	Potassium	

Aluminium is extracted by electrolysis of a molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite.

The products are molten aluminium and oxygen gas.

Figure 4 shows the electrolysis cell.

Figure 4



0 5 . 2 What is the formula of oxygen gas?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

O ☐ O_2 ☐ O^2 ☐ 2O ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 16 · continued

0 5 . 3 Aluminium oxide contains the ions Al^{3+} and O^{2-}

Explain why aluminium is produced at the **negative** electrode.

[2 marks]

0 5 . 4 The melting point of aluminium oxide is 2045 °C.

The melting point of the mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite is 950 °C.

Explain why the electrolysis uses the mixture instead of pure aluminium oxide.

[2 marks]

0 5 . 5 The positive electrodes in the electrolysis cell are made of carbon.

Why do the positive electrodes need to be continually replaced?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Carbon reacts with the aluminium oxide. ☐

Carbon reacts with the aluminium produced. ☐

Carbon reacts with the oxygen produced. ☐

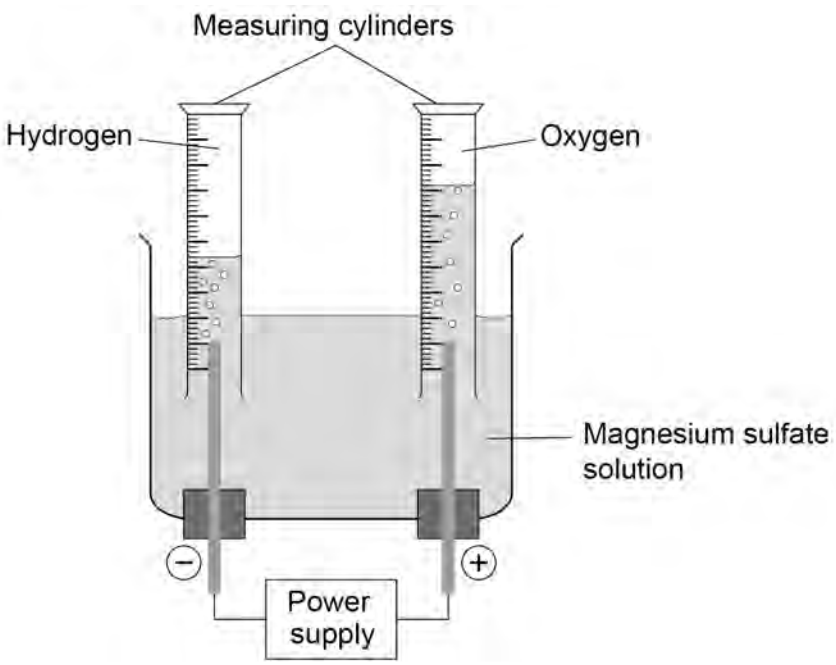
4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 16 · continued

A student investigated the electrolysis of magnesium sulfate solution.

Figure 5 shows the apparatus.

Figure 5



This is the method used.

1. Set the power supply to give a current of 0.05 A.

2. Measure the volume of each gas every minute for 5 minutes.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 using a current of 0.10 A in step 1.

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 16 · continued

0 5 . 6 **Figure 6** shows a measuring cylinder during the electrolysis.

Figure 6



What is the volume of gas in the measuring cylinder?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

2.7 cm^3 ☐ 3.4 cm^3 ☐ 4.6 cm^3 ☐

0 5 . 7 Hydrogen is produced instead of magnesium at the negative electrode.

Why is hydrogen produced at the negative electrode?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

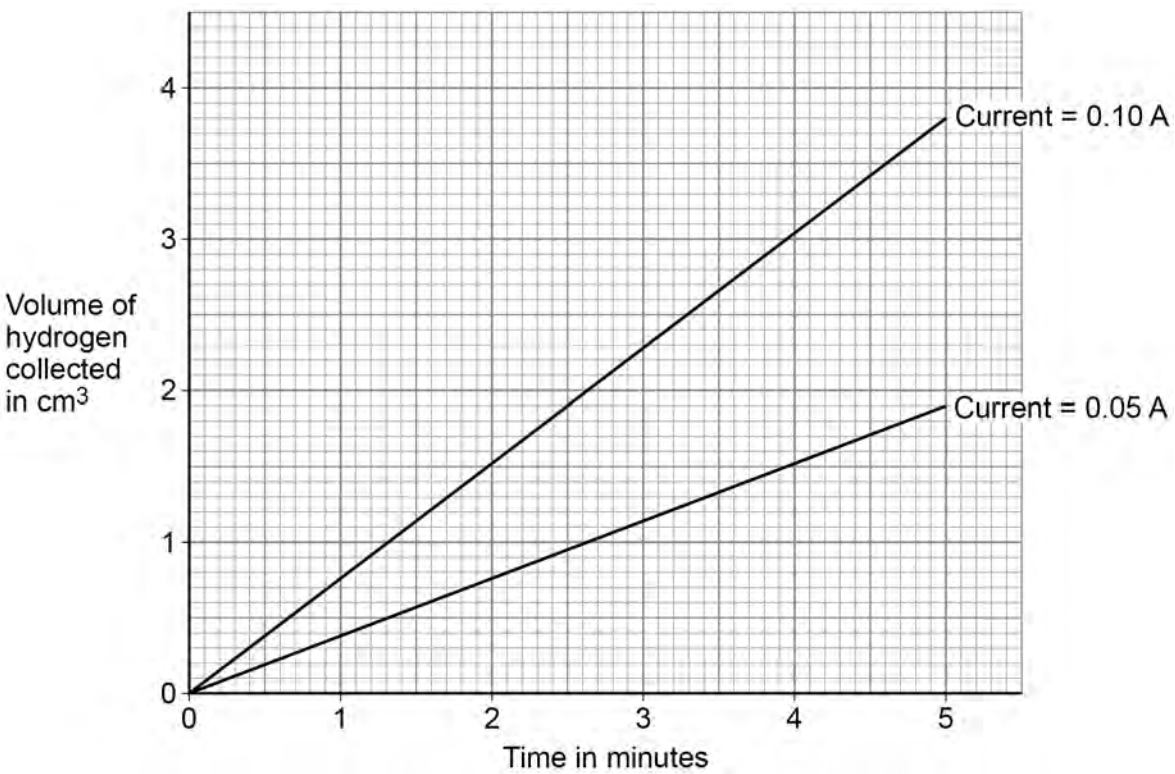
Hydrogen is less reactive than magnesium. ☐

Hydrogen has the same reactivity as magnesium. ☐

Hydrogen is more reactive than magnesium. ☐

0 5 . 8 **Figure 7** shows the results for the volume of hydrogen collected.

Figure 7



Which hypothesis explains the results in **Figure 7**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The volume of hydrogen collected depends on **both** the current and the time. ☐

The volume of hydrogen collected depends on the current but **not** the time. ☐

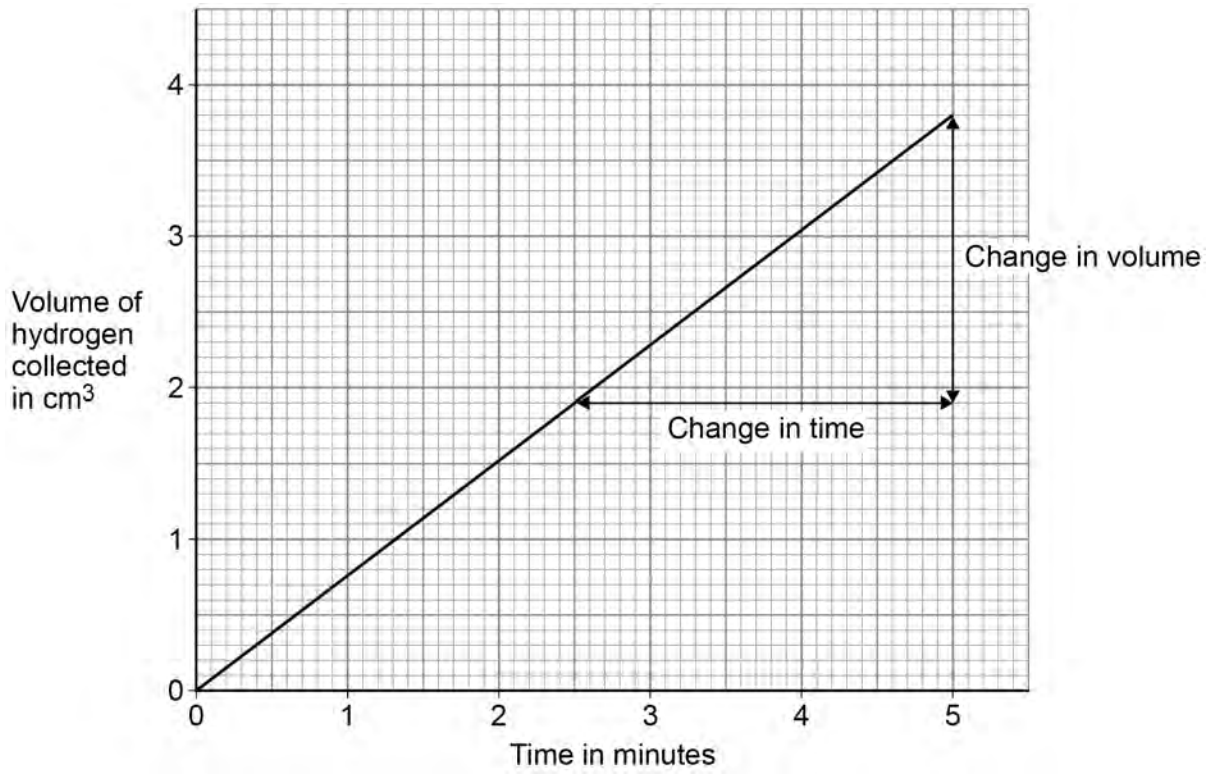
The volume of hydrogen collected depends on the time but **not** the current. ☐

4.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds

Question 16 · continued

0 5 . 9 **Figure 8** is a repeat of part of the graph for current = 0.10 A in **Figure 7**.

Figure 8



Determine the gradient of the graph in **Figure 8**.

Use the equation

$$\text{gradient} = \frac{\text{change in volume}}{\text{change in time}}$$

[4 marks]

Change in volume = _____ cm^3

Change in time = _____ min

Gradient = _____ cm^3/min

15