AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.4.3.3

Using electrolysis to extract metals

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**29**
Available paper years	**2007–2025**

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.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 01

March 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q9 | Legacy

QUESTION NINE

Aluminium can be obtained by extracting it from aluminium ore, and by recycling used objects made from aluminium.

9A One disadvantage of extracting aluminium from aluminium ore is that . . .

1 aluminium ore contains very small amounts of aluminium.

2 aluminium ore is a limited resource.

3 the aluminium obtained corrodes easily.

4 the aluminium obtained has a high density.

9B It is better to recycle aluminium than to extract it from aluminium ore because . . .

1 aluminium ore contains few impurities.

2 aluminium ore produces low grade aluminium.

3 digging up aluminium ore destroys the local environment.

4 recycling produces ‘smart’ aluminium alloys.

9C It makes economic sense to recycle aluminium because extracting it from its ore . . .

1 is a cheap process.

2 takes too long.

3 employs more people.

4 uses large amounts of energy.

9D If aluminium cans are not recycled, they can affect the environment by . . .

1 causing acid rain.

2 filling up landfill rubbish tips.

3 producing poisonous gases.

4 rapidly corroding in lakes and rivers.

END OF TEST

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 02

June 2007 | CHY1F | Original Q7 | Legacy

7 Copper is a widely used metal. The main ore of copper contains copper sulfide. Copper can be extracted from copper sulfide in a three stage process.

(a) In the first stage of extraction the copper sulfide is heated in air.

(i) Balance the symbol equation for the reaction.

$$Cu_2S + ...O_2 \rightarrow .....CuO + SO_2$$

(1 mark)

(ii) Explain why there would be an environmental problem if the gas from this reaction were allowed to escape into the atmosphere.

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(2 marks)

(b) In the second stage copper oxide, CuO, is reduced using carbon.

Describe and explain what happens during this reaction.

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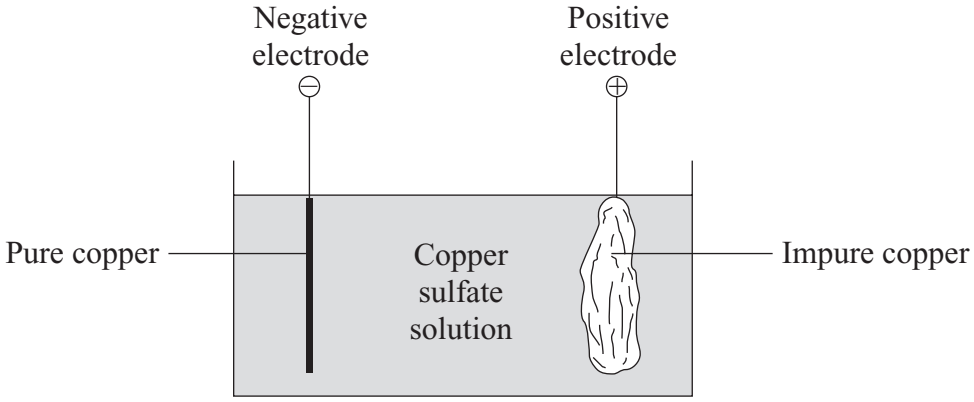
(2 marks)

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 02 · continued

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(c) During the third stage the copper can be purified as shown in the diagram.



(i) What is the name of the type of process used for this purification?

.....

(1 mark)

(ii) Give **one** use of purified copper.

.....

(1 mark)

(d) Copper-rich ores are running out.

New ways of extracting copper from low grade ores are being researched.

Recycling of copper may be better than extracting copper from its ores.

Explain why.

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(3 marks)

10

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 03

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)

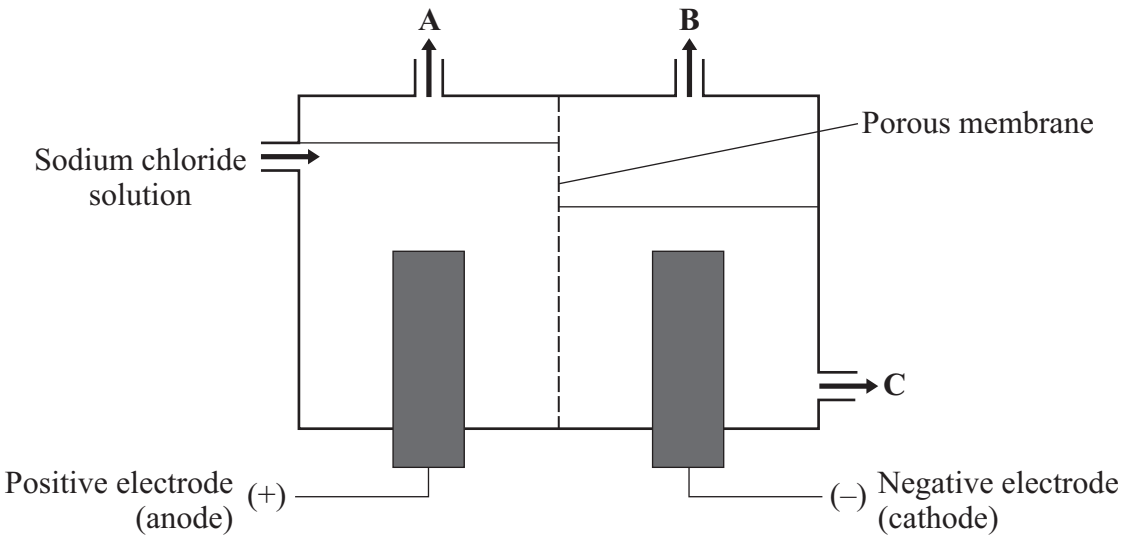
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 03 · 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

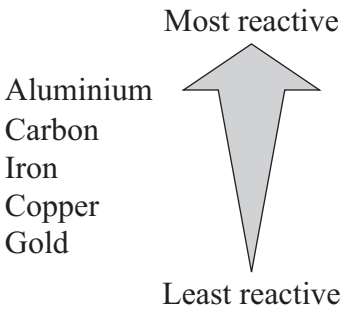
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 04

March 2008 | CHY1AP | Original Q5 | Legacy

QUESTION FIVE

This is the order of reactivity for five elements.



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

A iron

B aluminium

C copper

D gold

	What we can say about the metal
1	It will **not** react with oxygen or water even at high temperatures.
2	It is made in the blast furnace by the reduction of its oxide with carbon.
3	It can be extracted from its molten ore with electricity but **not** with carbon.
4	It can be extracted from its ore with carbon and is purified by electrolysis.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 05

June 2008 | CHY1AP | Original Q8 | Legacy

QUESTION EIGHT

- Iron is obtained by reducing its oxide ore with carbon.
- Aluminium **cannot** be obtained by reducing its oxide ore with carbon.
- Gold occurs as the metal itself.

8A From the information above, which row in the table shows the order of reactivity of the four elements?

	most reactive → least reactive			
1	aluminium	carbon	iron	gold
2	iron	aluminium	carbon	gold
3	iron	aluminium	gold	carbon
4	aluminium	iron	gold	carbon

8B Iron obtained directly from the blast furnace was used to build the Iron Bridge in Shropshire.

This bridge is unsuitable for use by modern lorries because . . .

1 it **cannot** be stopped from rusting.

2 it will easily bend out of shape.

3 it is too heavy to support its own weight.

4 it is too brittle and so it will break.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 05 · continued

- Aluminium waste of high purity can be recycled.
- Any iron and other impurities are removed.
- The aluminium is then melted and processed in the same way as aluminium that has been extracted from its ore.
- Recycling aluminium in this way creates only 5% of the carbon dioxide produced by extracting aluminium from its ore.

8C Which of the following benefits an aluminium recycling company financially?

1 a fall in the price of aluminium

2 the high melting point of aluminium

3 the high purity of the aluminium waste arriving at the recycling plant

4 the metal can be purified by electrolysis

8D An environmental disadvantage of recycling aluminium is that . . .

1 the aluminium waste has to be transported for recycling.

2 land fill sites would **not** be filled so quickly.

3 the process creates only 5% of the carbon dioxide produced by extracting aluminium from its ore.

4 the price of aluminium will fall.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

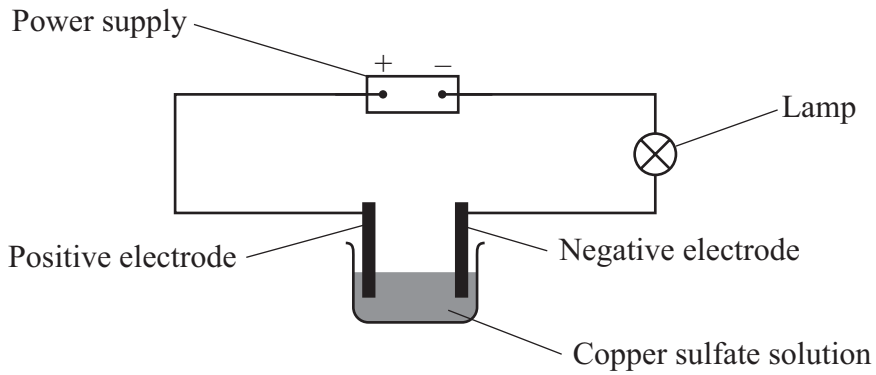
Question 06

June 2008 | CHY2F | Original Q8 | Legacy

8 A student investigated the electrolysis of copper sulfate solution.
The student's method is shown in the box.

Two clean pieces of copper were weighed. One piece was used as the positive electrode and the other piece was used as the negative electrode.

The circuit was set up as shown in the diagram.



After the electrolysis, the pieces of copper were:

- washed with distilled water
- washed with propanone (a liquid with a lower boiling point than water)
- allowed to dry
- weighed.

8 (a) Explain why the electrode would dry faster when washed with propanone instead of water.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

8 (b) The student's results are given in the table.

	Positive electrode	**Negative electrode**
mass of electrode before electrolysis, in grams	16.41	15.46
mass of electrode after electrolysis, in grams	16.10	15.75

The mass of the positive electrode decreased by 0.31 g.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 06 · continued

for mark

8 (b) (i) What is the change in mass of the negative electrode? ..... g

(1 mark)

8 (b) (ii) The mass lost by the positive electrode should equal the mass gained by the negative electrode.

Suggest **two** reasons why the results were **not** as expected.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

(2 marks)

8 (c) Describe and explain how electrolysis is used to make pure copper from a lump of impure copper.

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(4 marks)

8

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07

November 2009 | CHY1AP | Original Q9 | Legacy

QUESTION NINE

Duralumin is an alloy which contains copper and magnesium mixed with aluminium.

Aluminium is a low density metal but duralumin is used more often in making aeroplanes.

9A Aluminium, copper and magnesium are extracted from their naturally occurring compounds.

The method used for the extraction depends on . . .

1 the density of the metal.

2 the abundance of the metal compound in the Earth's crust.

3 the melting point of the metal compound.

4 the reactivity of the metal.

9B Copper can be extracted by strongly heating a mixture of the copper compound and carbon.

In this reaction, the copper compound is . . .

1 oxidised.

2 electrolysed.

3 reduced.

4 distilled.

9C Aluminium and magnesium are extracted by electrolysis.

One reason why this method is expensive is that . . .

1 the metals are resistant to corrosion.

2 the process requires a large amount of energy.

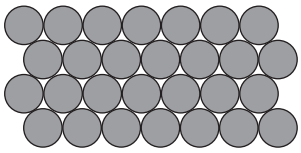
3 the metals are less reactive than carbon.

4 the metal ores are very abundant.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07 · continued

9D The diagram shows the arrangement of the atoms in pure aluminium.



Which row in the table correctly shows how the structure and properties are different in duralumin?

	Structure	Properties
1	The layers of atoms are distorted.	The alloy is harder.
2	The copper atoms attach strongly to the aluminium atoms.	The alloy is softer.
3	The layers of atoms are distorted.	The alloy is softer.
4	The magnesium atoms attach strongly to the aluminium atoms.	The alloy is harder.

END OF TEST

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

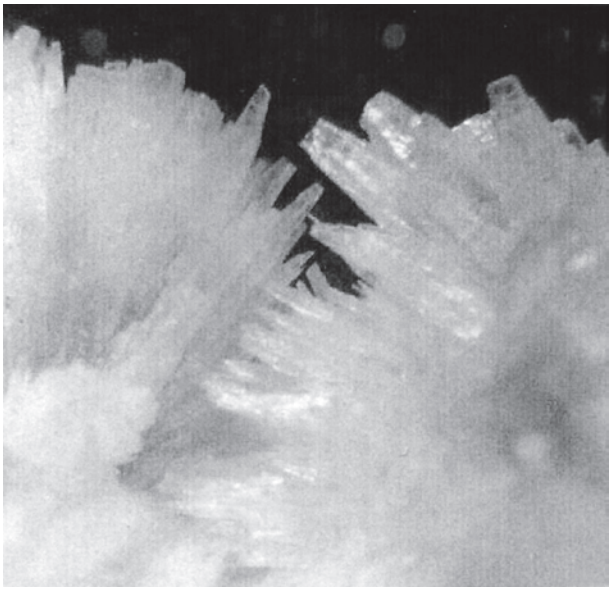
Question 08

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.

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(1 mark)

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

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 08 · 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.

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.....

(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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 09

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.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 10

November 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q9 | Legacy

QUESTION NINE

Aluminium is extracted from a substance called bauxite. Bauxite contains aluminium oxide and impurities such as sand. Bauxite is first purified to make pure aluminium oxide. Then electricity is passed through the molten aluminium oxide. The molten aluminium oxide splits to make aluminium and oxygen.

9A Bauxite is an example of . . .

1 an element.

2 a compound.

3 an ore.

4 a solution.

9B The process used to extract aluminium is . . .

1 thermal decomposition.

2 reduction.

3 corrosion.

4 distillation.

9C Aluminium **cannot** be extracted from aluminium oxide using carbon because . . .

1 aluminium is more reactive than carbon.

2 the density of aluminium is too low.

3 carbon is higher in the reactivity series than aluminium.

4 aluminium is covered in a layer of aluminium oxide.

9D Aluminium is often recycled.

Which one of the following is **not** a good reason to recycle aluminium?

1 Recycling is cheaper than extracting aluminium from bauxite.

2 Drinks cans must be made from aluminium.

3 Recycling reduces the amount of energy used to make aluminium.

4 Bauxite reserves will last longer.

END OF TEST

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 11

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.

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(1 mark)

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

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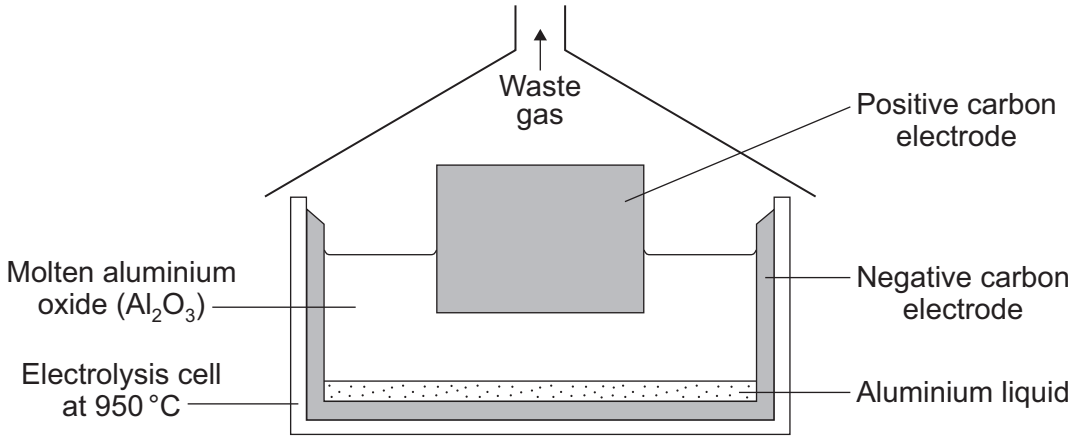
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(1 mark)

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 11 · 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.

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(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 .....

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2 .....

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(2 marks)

7

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 12

January 2011 | CHY2F | Original Q6 | Legacy

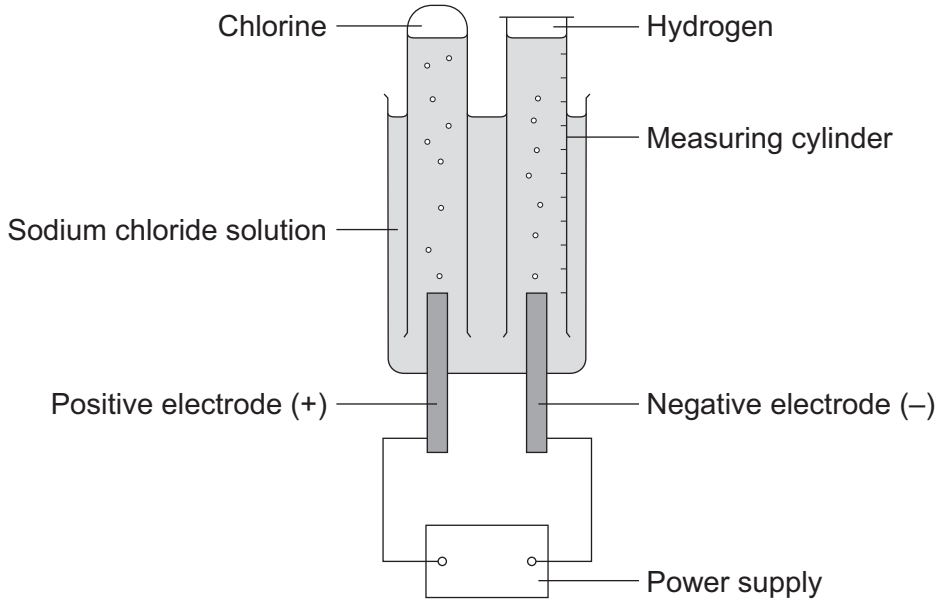
6 A student investigated the electrolysis of sodium chloride solution.

Five sodium chloride solutions were made. Each solution had a different concentration.

To make each solution the student:

- weighed the amount of sodium chloride needed
- dissolved it in water
- added more water until the total volume was one cubic decimetre (1 dm^3).

The solutions were placed one at a time in the apparatus shown below.



The student measured the volume of hydrogen gas produced in ten minutes.

The results are shown on the graph on the next page.

6 (a) Sodium chloride does not conduct electricity when it is solid.

Explain, in terms of ions, why sodium chloride solution conducts electricity.

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(1 mark)

6 (b) Chlorine is produced at the positive electrode.

Why are chloride ions attracted to the positive electrode?

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(1 mark)

Question 6 continues on the next page

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 12 · continued

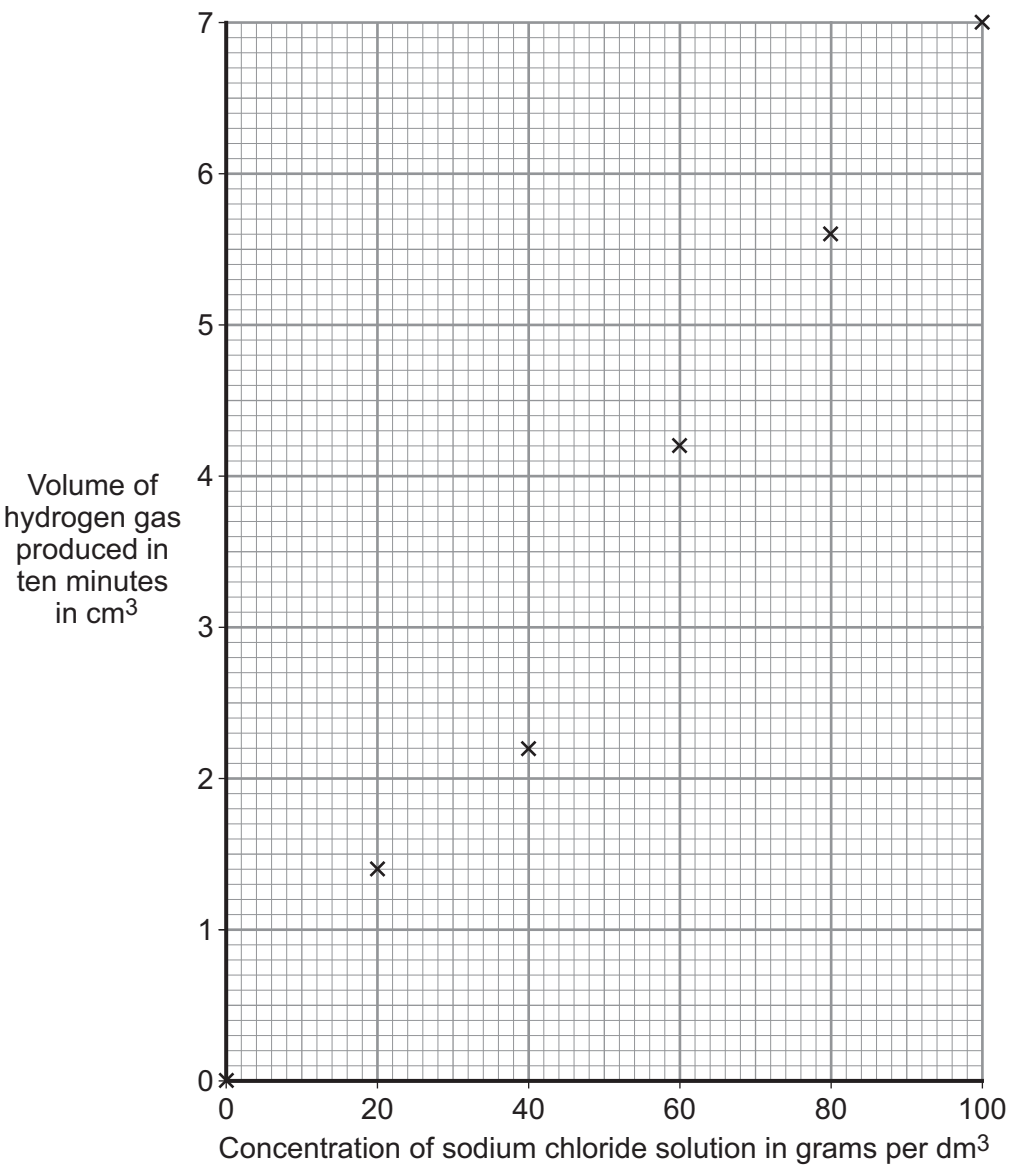
6 (c) The solution left at the end of each experiment contains sodium hydroxide.

Draw a ring around **one** number which could be the pH of this solution.

2 **5** **7** **13**

(1 mark)

6 (d) The results for the experiment on the previous page are shown on the graph.



4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 12 · continued

6 (d) (i) Draw a line of best fit on the graph.

(1 mark)

6 (d) (ii) The result for one concentration is anomalous.
Which result is anomalous?

The result at concentration ..... grams per dm^3

(1 mark)

6 (d) (iii) Suggest **two** possible causes of this anomalous result.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

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(2 marks)

6 (d) (iv) Suggest how the student could check the reliability of the results.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

6 (d) (v) How did an increase in the concentration of the sodium chloride solution affect the volume of hydrogen gas produced in ten minutes?

.....

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(1 mark)

9

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 13

November 2011 | CHY1AP | Original Q9 | Legacy

QUESTION NINE

Iron oxide can be reduced to iron by mixing the oxide with carbon and heating strongly.

Aluminium oxide cannot be reduced to aluminium in this way. Aluminium is obtained from aluminium oxide by electrolysis.

9A Why is it possible to obtain iron but not aluminium by carbon reduction?

1 Iron is more reactive than aluminium.

2 Carbon is more reactive than aluminium but less reactive than iron.

3 Carbon is more reactive than iron but less reactive than aluminium.

4 Aluminium and iron are both more reactive than carbon.

9B The extraction of aluminium by electrolysis is an expensive process because . . .

1 aluminium easily corrodes in air.

2 a large amount of energy is needed.

3 aluminium oxide is difficult to mine.

4 aluminium reacts with carbon.

9C As electrolysis is expensive, an increasing amount of aluminium is being recycled.

Another important reason to recycle aluminium is that . . .

1 it saves limited aluminium oxide reserves.

2 the recycled aluminium is purer.

3 aluminium scrap does not corrode easily.

4 recycling aluminium does not use energy.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 13 · continued

9D Which two of the following statements could explain why aluminium is preferred to iron for making cans for drinks?

W Aluminium has a lower density than iron.

X Aluminium is a better conductor than iron.

Y Aluminium corrodes less easily than iron.

Z Aluminium is not as strong as iron.

1 **W** and **X**

2 **W** and **Y**

3 **X** and **Y**

4 **Y** and **Z**

END OF TEST

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 14

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.

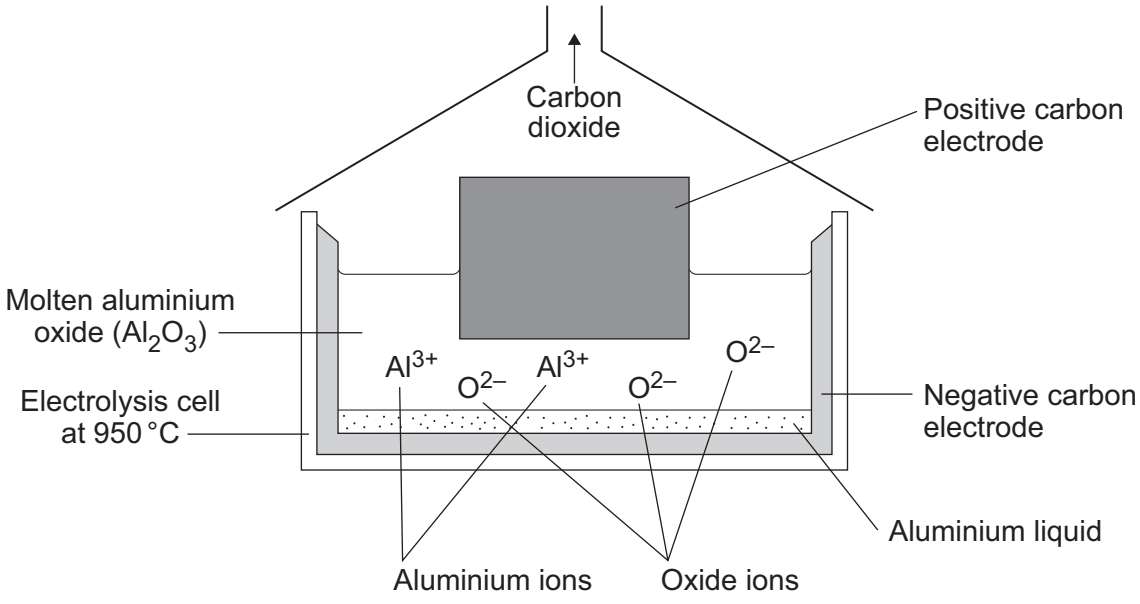
Why does aluminium oxide **not** react with carbon?

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.



4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 14 · continued

Why do the aluminium ions collect at the negative electrode?

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(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)

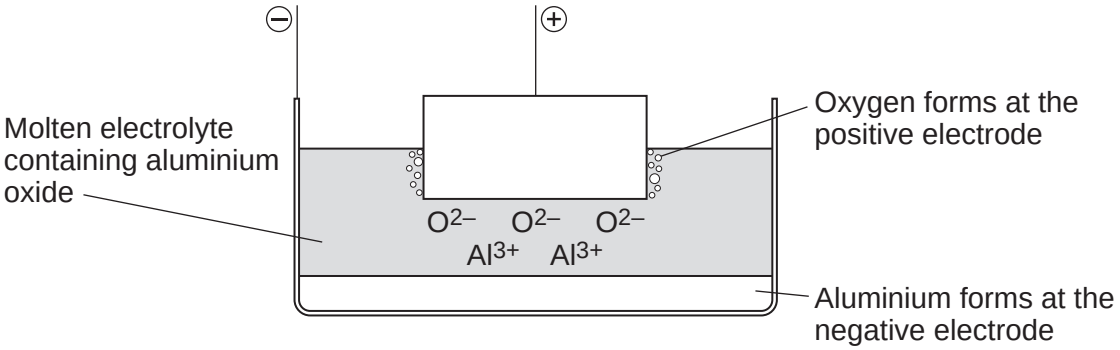
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4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 15

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.

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.....

(2 marks)

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 15 · 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.

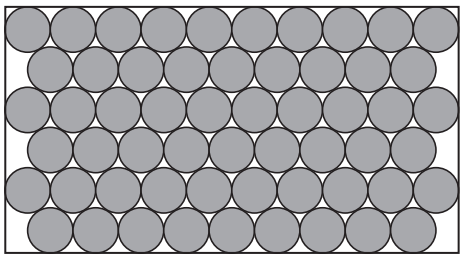
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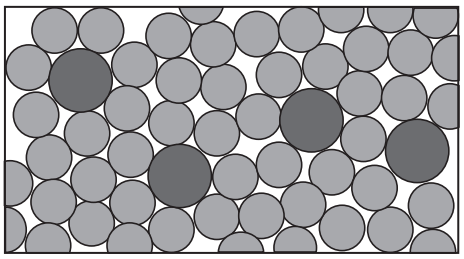
(1 mark)

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.

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.....

.....

(2 marks)

8

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 16

June 2013 | CH1FP | Original Q7 | Legacy

7 Metals are extracted from their ores.

Many copper ores contain only 2% of copper compounds.

7 (a) Copper is now extracted from ores containing a low percentage of copper compounds.

Suggest **two** reasons why.

.....

.....

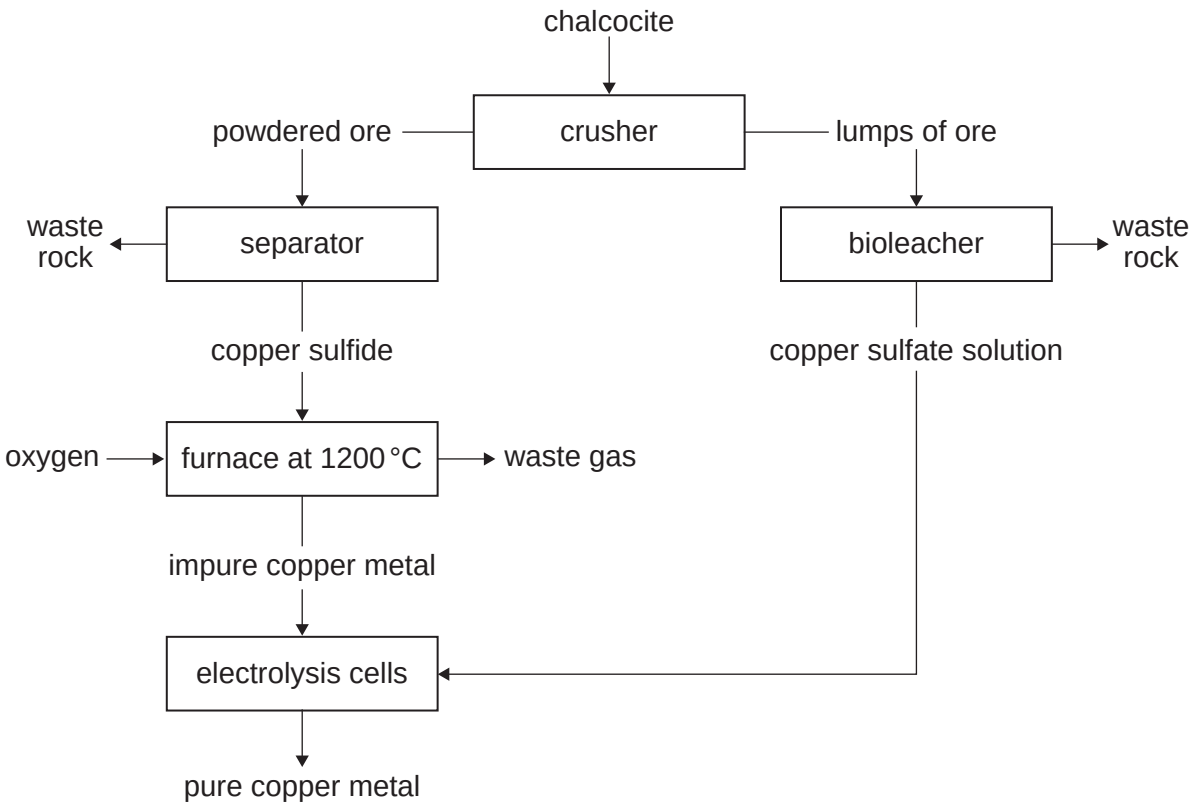
.....

.....

(2 marks)

7 (b) Chalcocite, an ore of copper, contains copper sulfide.

The flow diagram shows how copper metal is extracted from chalcocite.



4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 16 · continued

7 (b) (i) Suggest **one** reason why it is difficult to dispose of the waste rock.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (b) (ii) The reaction in the furnace could cause environmental pollution.
Explain how.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

7 (b) (iii) The extraction of pure copper is expensive.
Give **one** reason why.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (b) (iv) Pure copper is produced by electrolysis of copper sulfate solution.

Which electrode do the copper ions move towards?
Give a reason for your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

7 (b) (v) Large areas of land are contaminated with copper compounds.
Phytomining can be used to remove these copper compounds from the land.

What is used in phytomining to remove copper compounds from the land?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

9

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 17

June 2014 | CH1FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 Where copper ore has been mined there are areas of land that contain very low percentages of copper compounds.

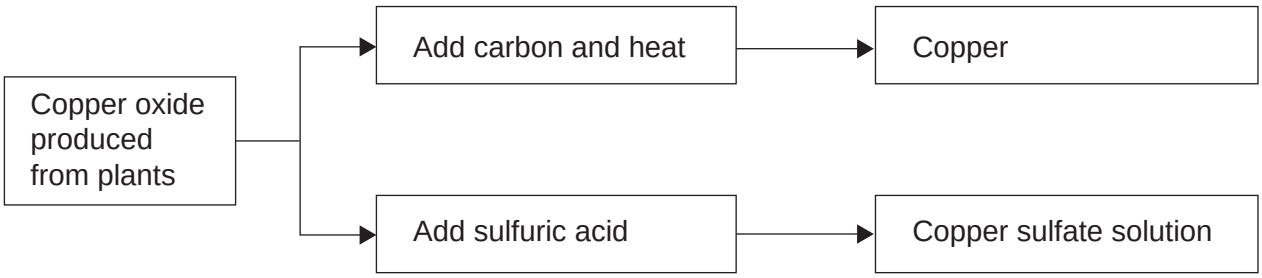
One way to extract the copper is to grow plants on the land.

The plants absorb copper compounds through their roots.

The plants are burned to produce copper oxide.

The copper oxide produced from plants can be reacted to produce copper or copper sulfate solution, as shown in **Figure 6**.

Figure 6



5 (a) Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete each sentence.

5 (a) (i) Copper ores contain enough copper to make extraction of the metal

carbon neutral.
economical.
reversible.

[1 mark]

5 (a) (ii) Using plants to extract metals is called

photosynthesis.
phytomining.
polymerisation.

[1 mark]

5 (a) (iii) Copper oxide reacts with carbon to produce copper and

carbon dioxide.
oxygen.
sulfur dioxide.

[1 mark]

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 17 · continued

5 (b) Copper is produced from copper sulfate solution by displacement using iron or by electrolysis.

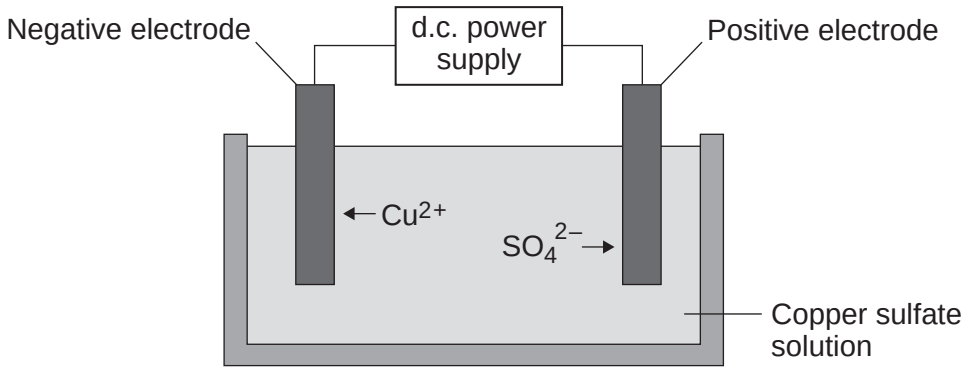
5 (b) (i) Complete the word equation.

[2 marks]

copper sulfate + iron ⟶ ..... + ...

5 (b) (ii) **Figure 7** shows the electrolysis of copper sulfate solution.

Figure 7



Why do copper ions go to the negative electrode?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

5 (c) Suggest **two** reasons why copper should **not** be disposed of in landfill sites.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

8

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

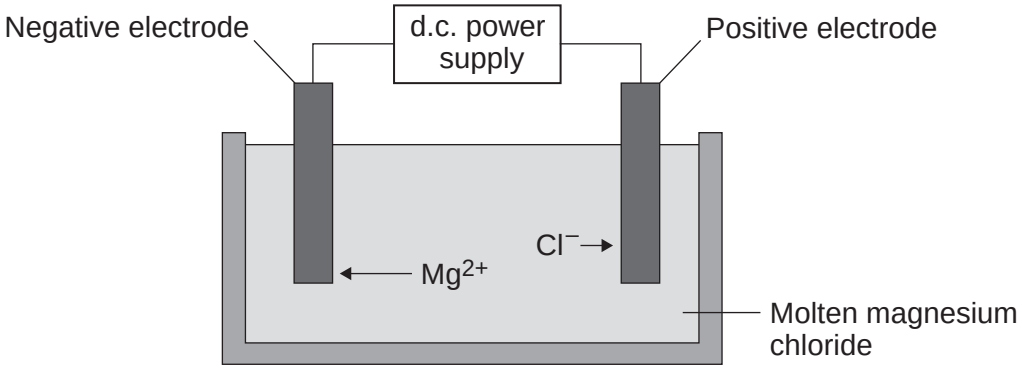
Question 18

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]

.....

.....

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 18 · 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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 18 · continued

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**

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 18 · continued

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 19

June 2015 | CH1FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

1 This question is about metals.

1 (a) Which unreactive metal is found in the Earth as the metal itself?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

aluminium ☐

gold ☐

magnesium ☐

1 (b) Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

Aluminium is an element because aluminium is made of

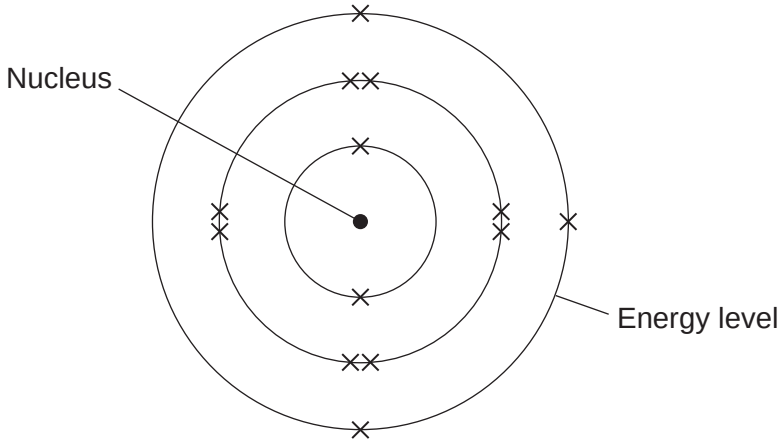
only one type of ..... .

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 19 · continued

1 (c) **Figure 1** shows the electronic structure of an aluminium atom.

Figure 1



1 (c) (i) Use the correct words from the box to complete the sentence.

[2 marks]

electrons	**ions**	**protons**	**neutrons**	**shells**

The nucleus of an aluminium atom contains ..... and ..... .

1 (c) (ii) Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

In the periodic table, aluminium is in Group ..... .

Question 1 continues on the next page

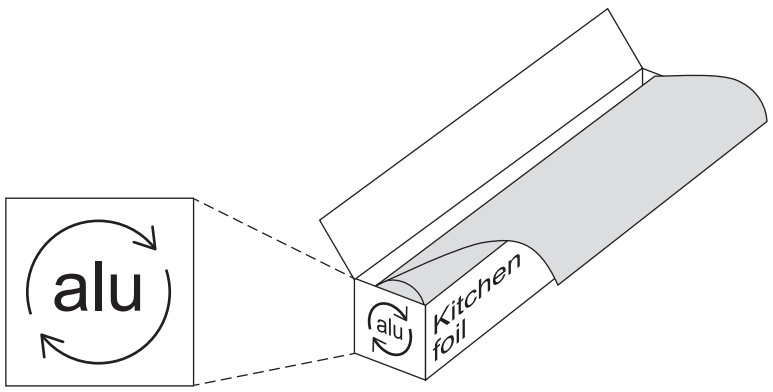
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 19 · continued

1 (d) Aluminium is used for kitchen foil.

Figure 2 shows a symbol on a box of kitchen foil.

Figure 2



The symbol means that aluminium can be recycled. It does not show the correct chemical symbol for aluminium.

1 (d) (i) What is the correct chemical symbol for aluminium? ..... .

[1 mark]

1 (d) (ii) Give **two** reasons why aluminium should be recycled.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

1 (e) Aluminium has a low density, conducts electricity and is resistant to corrosion.

Which **one** of these properties makes aluminium suitable to use as kitchen foil? Give a reason for your answer.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

10

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 20

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. ☐

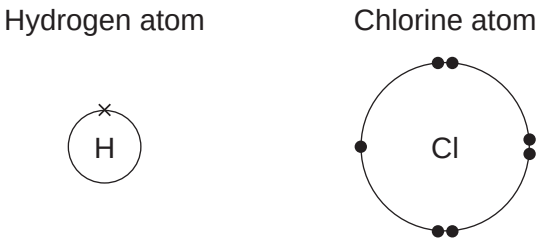
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 20 · 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.

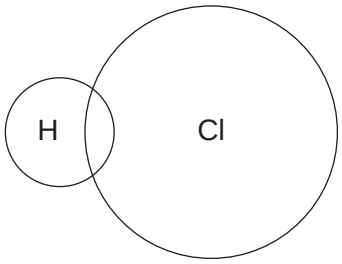
Figure 4



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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 20 · 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. ☐

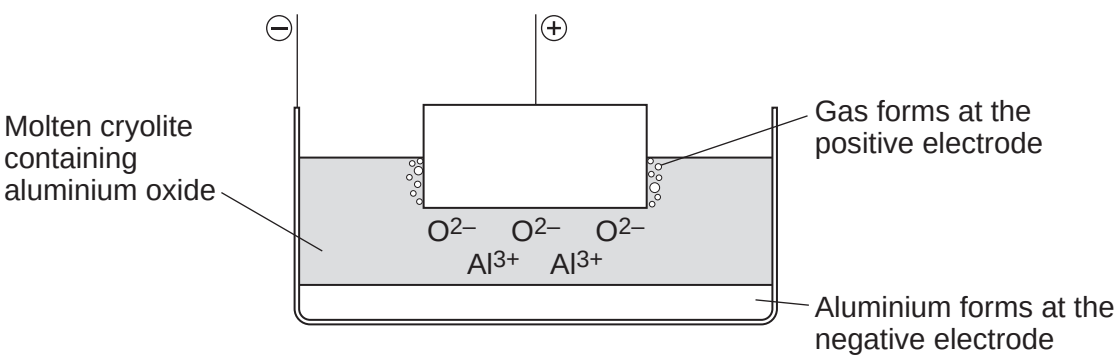
Hydrogen chloride is made of simple molecules. ☐

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]

.....

Question 20 · 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.

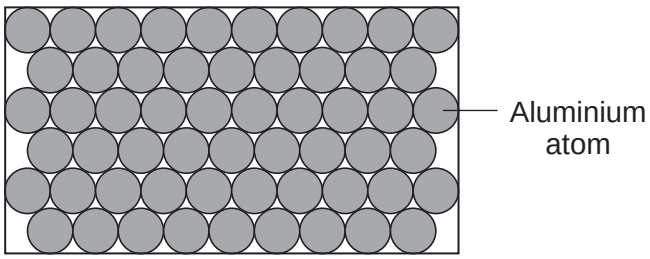
Combustion ☐

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

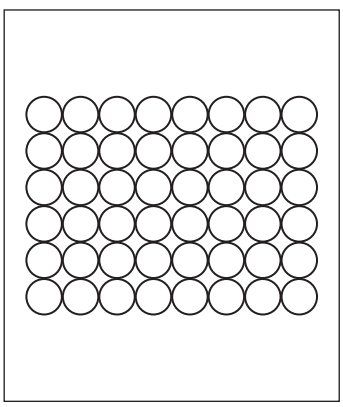
Question 20 · continued

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

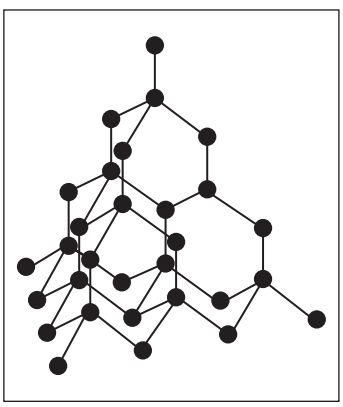
4 (d) (i) Which diagram, **A**, **B** or **C**, shows the structure of graphite?

[1 mark]

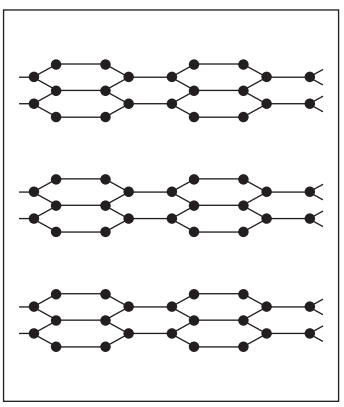
A



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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

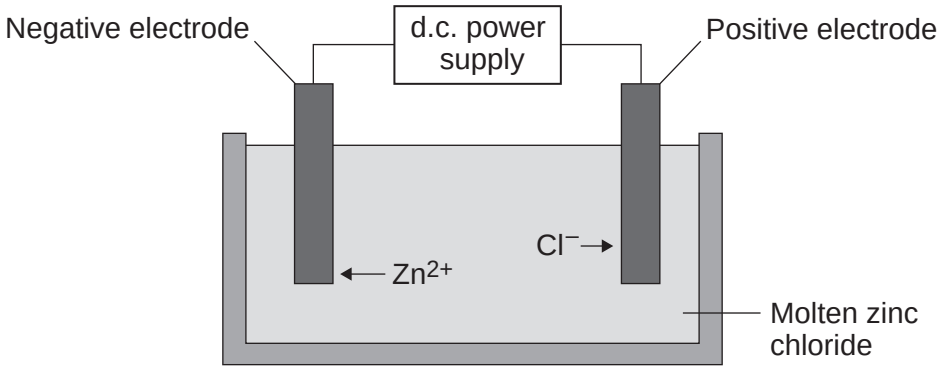
Question 21

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]

_____

_____

_____

_____

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 21 · continued

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

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Neutralisation ☐

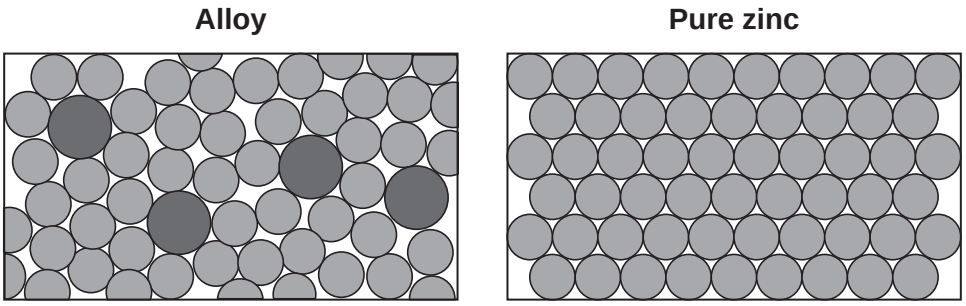
Oxidation ☐

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

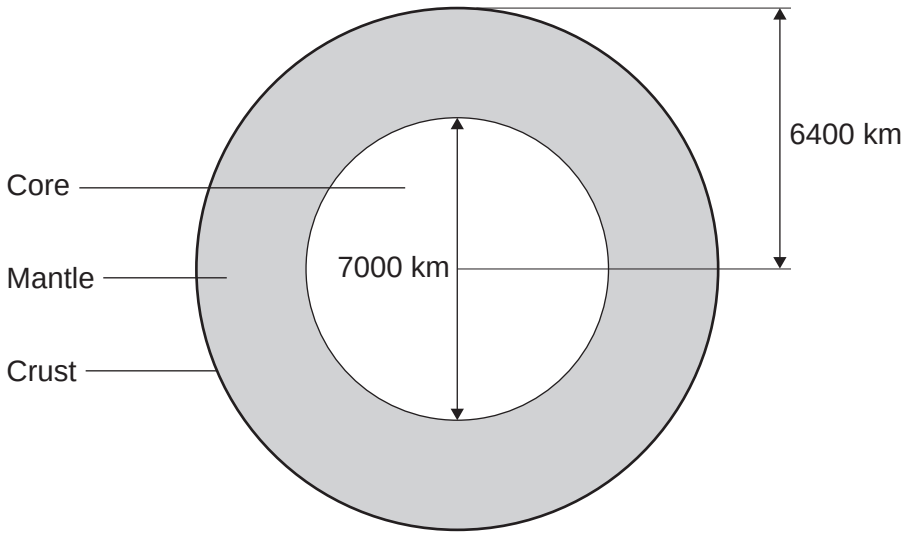
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 22

June 2017 | CH1FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 (a) **Figure 4** shows the layered structure of the Earth.

Figure 4



5 (a) (i) The radius of the Earth is 6400 km.

Calculate the distance from the surface of the crust to the surface of the core.

[2 marks]

_____

_____

Distance = _____ km

5 (a) (ii) Use the correct answers from the box to complete the sentences.

Each word can be used only once.

[4 marks]

currents	**concentrations**	**distances**
plates	**processes**	**speeds**

Tectonic _____ move at _____ of a few centimetres per year.

This movement is caused by convection _____ within the Earth's mantle

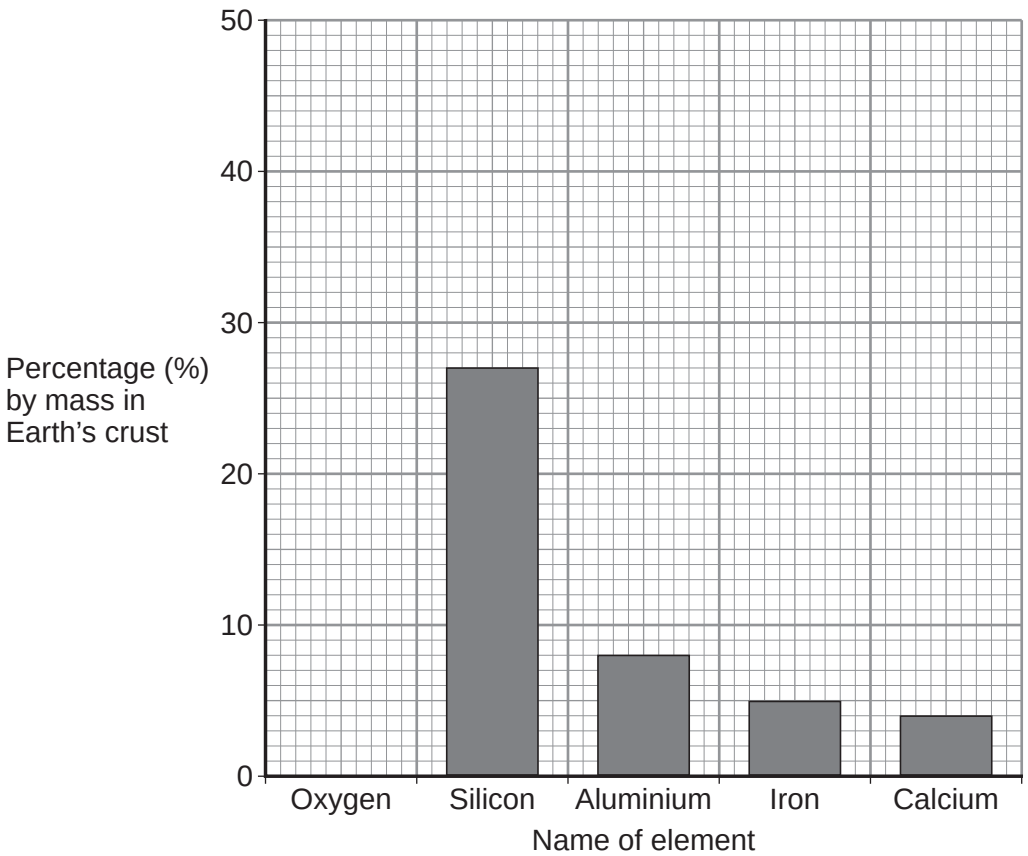
driven by heat released by natural radioactive _____ .

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 22 · continued

5 (b) **Figure 5** shows the percentage by mass of some elements in the Earth's crust.

Figure 5



5 (b) (i) The percentage by mass of oxygen is 47%.

Draw the bar for oxygen on **Figure 5**.

[1 mark]

5 (b) (ii) Look at your completed bar chart.

What is the percentage by mass of all the other elements not shown on the chart in the Earth's crust?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

1% ☐

9% ☐

20% ☐

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 22 · continued

5 (b) (iii) There is about 0.007% by mass of copper in the Earth's crust.

Suggest why copper should be recycled.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

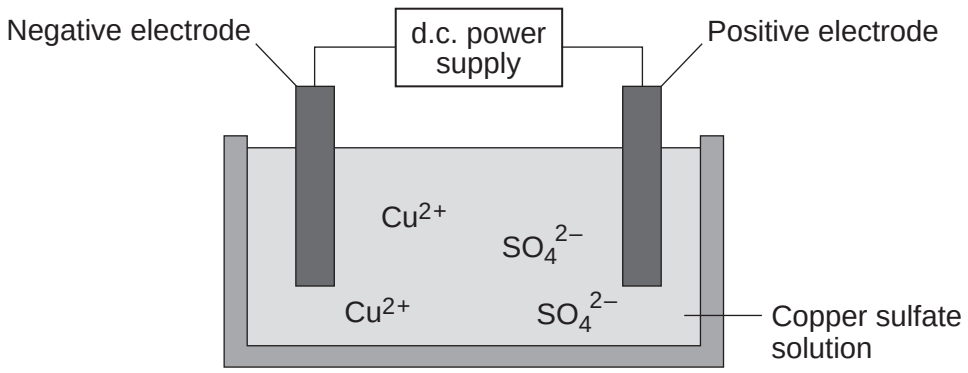
Question 5 continues on the next page

Question 22 · continued

5 (b) (iv) Bioleaching of low-grade copper ores produces a solution of copper sulfate.

Figure 6 shows apparatus used to obtain copper from copper sulfate solution.

Figure 6



What is the name of the process shown in **Figure 6**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Combustion ☐

Cracking ☐

Electrolysis ☐

Hydration ☐

5 (b) (v) Explain why copper ions move towards the negative electrode in **Figure 6**.

[2 marks]

12

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 23

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

0 6 This question is about the extraction of metals.

0 6 . 1 Tungsten is a metal.

The symbol of tungsten is W

Tungsten is produced from tungsten oxide by reaction with hydrogen.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$WO_3 + 3H_2 \rightarrow W + 3H_2O$$

Calculate the percentage atom economy when tungsten is produced in this reaction.

Use the equation:

$$\text{percentage atom economy} = \frac{184}{(M_r\ WO_3) + (3 \times M_r\ H_2)} \times 100$$

Relative formula masses (M_r): $WO_3 = 232$ $H_2 = 2$

[2 marks]

Percentage atom economy = _____ %

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 23 · continued

Aluminium is extracted from aluminium oxide.

0 6 . 2 38% of a rock sample is aluminium oxide.

Calculate the mass of aluminium oxide in 40 kg of the rock sample.

[2 marks]

Mass of aluminium oxide = _____ kg

0 6 . 3 The formula of aluminium oxide is Al_2O_3

Calculate the relative formula mass (M_r) of aluminium oxide.

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

[2 marks]

Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

Question 6 continues on the next page

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 23 · continued

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

0 6 . 4 60.0 kg of aluminium oxide produces a maximum of 31.8 kg of aluminium.

In an extraction process only 28.4 kg of aluminium is produced from 60.0 kg of aluminium oxide.

Calculate the percentage yield.

Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

Use the equation:

$$\text{percentage yield} = \frac{\text{mass of product actually made}}{\text{maximum theoretical mass of product}} \times 100$$

[3 marks]

Percentage yield = _____ %

0 6 . 5 Extracting metals by electrolysis is a very expensive process.

Explain why aluminium is extracted using electrolysis and not by reduction with carbon.

[2 marks]

11

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 24

November 2020 | 8462/1F | Original Q4

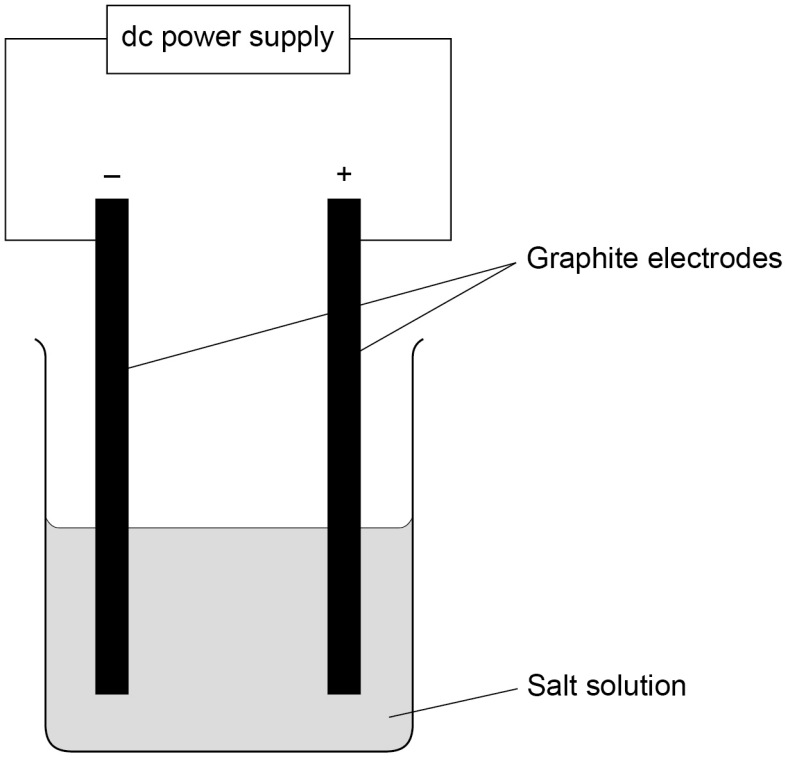
0 4 This question is about electrolysis.

A student investigated the hypothesis:

'The electrolysis of a salt solution produces a metal at the negative electrode and a gas at the positive electrode.'

Figure 4 shows the apparatus used.

Figure 4



0 4 . 1 What observation would be made at each electrode if the hypothesis is correct?

[2 marks]

Observation if metal produced at the negative electrode _____

_____

Observation if gas produced at the positive electrode _____

_____

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 24 · continued

Table 3 shows the student's results.

Table 3

Salt solution	Product at the negative electrode	Product at the positive electrode
Copper chloride	Copper	Chlorine
Potassium nitrate	Hydrogen	Oxygen
Silver nitrate	Silver	Oxygen

0 4 . 2 Which salt solution in **Table 3** does **not** match the student's hypothesis?

Give **one** reason why.

[2 marks]

Salt solution _____

Reason _____

_____

0 4 . 3 Give **two** reasons why graphite is used for the electrodes.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

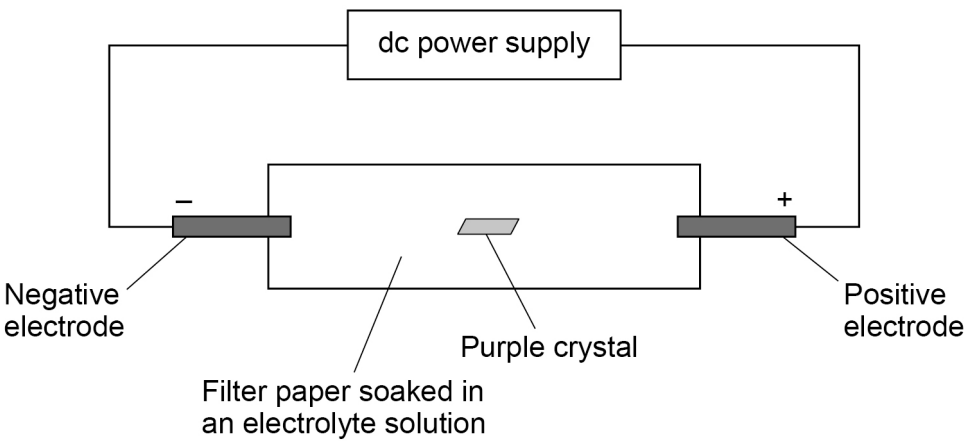
_____

Question 24 · continued

A different student investigated what happens during electrolysis.

Figure 5 shows the apparatus.

Figure 5



The purple crystal contained:

- colourless positive ions
- purple coloured negative ions.

The purple crystal dissolved in the electrolyte solution.

0 4 . 4 What happens to the purple coloured ions?

Give **one** reason for your answer.

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The ions do not move. ☐

The ions move towards the negative electrode. ☐

The ions move towards the positive electrode. ☐

Reason _____

_____

8

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 25

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]

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 25 · 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?

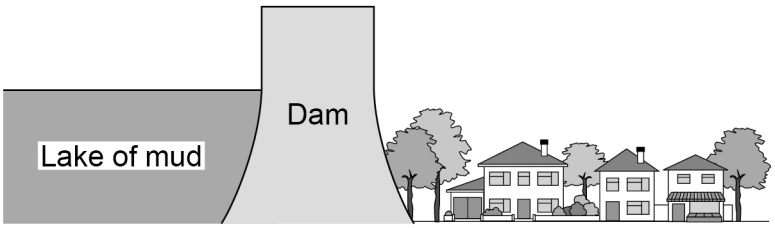
[1 mark]

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 25 · 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 ☐

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 25 · 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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 26

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

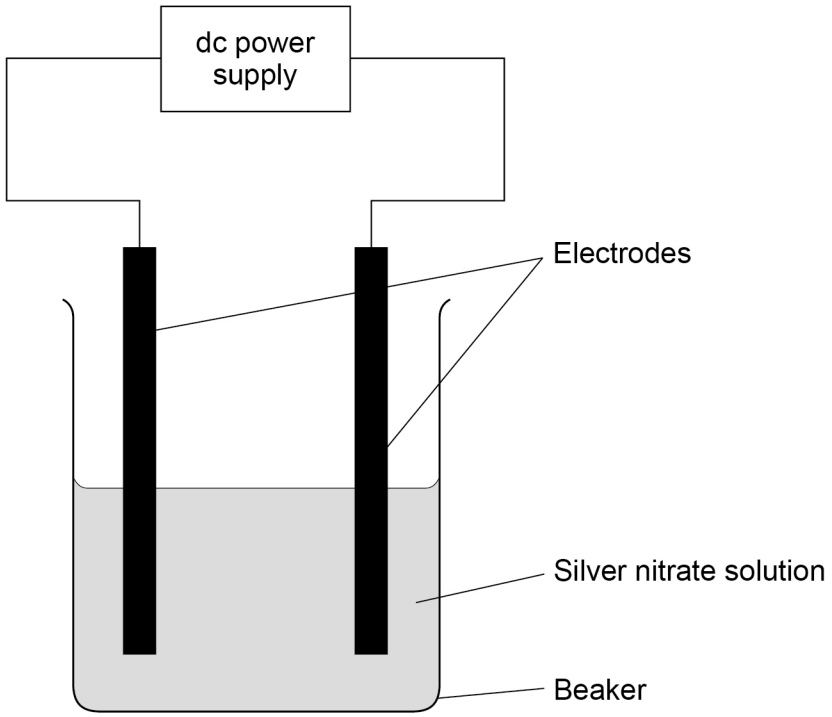
0 7 This question is about electrolysis.

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.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 26 · 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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 26 · continued

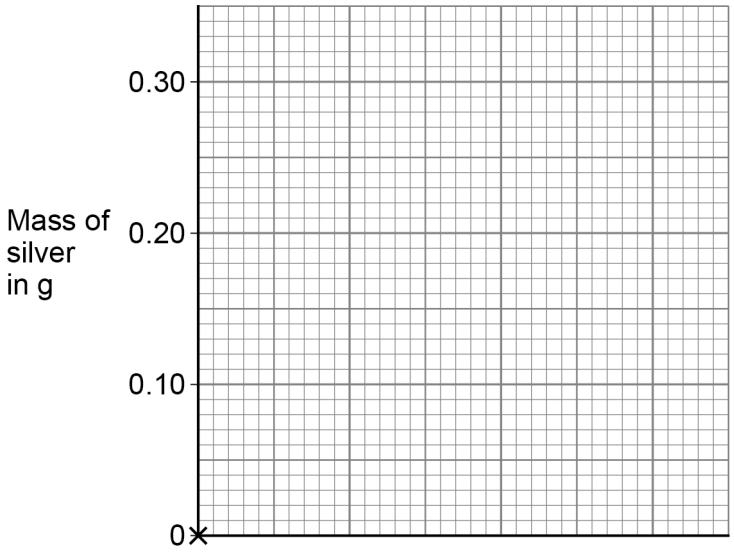
0 7 . 2 Draw a graph on **Figure 12**.

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 26 · 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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 27

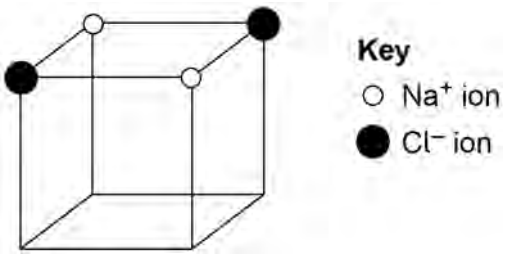
June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 27 · 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

Question 27 · 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.

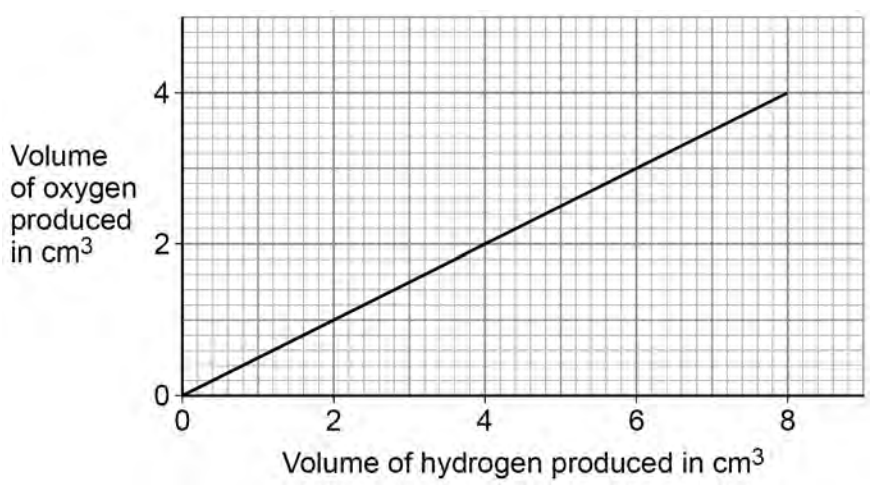
Hydrogen is less reactive than sodium. ☐

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 28

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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 28 · continued June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

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

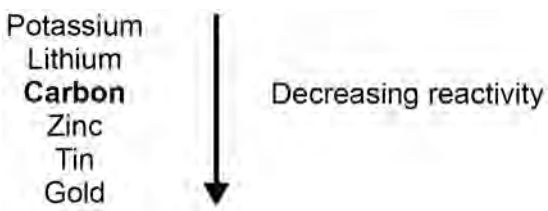
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 28 · 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

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 29

June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q5

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

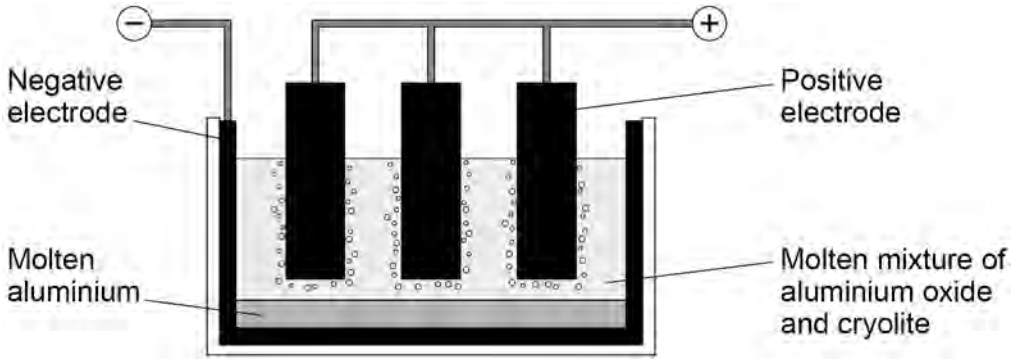
Molten compound	Product at the negative electrode	Product at the positive electrode
Copper chloride		Chlorine
Potassium bromide	Potassium	

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 ☐

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 29 · 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. ☐

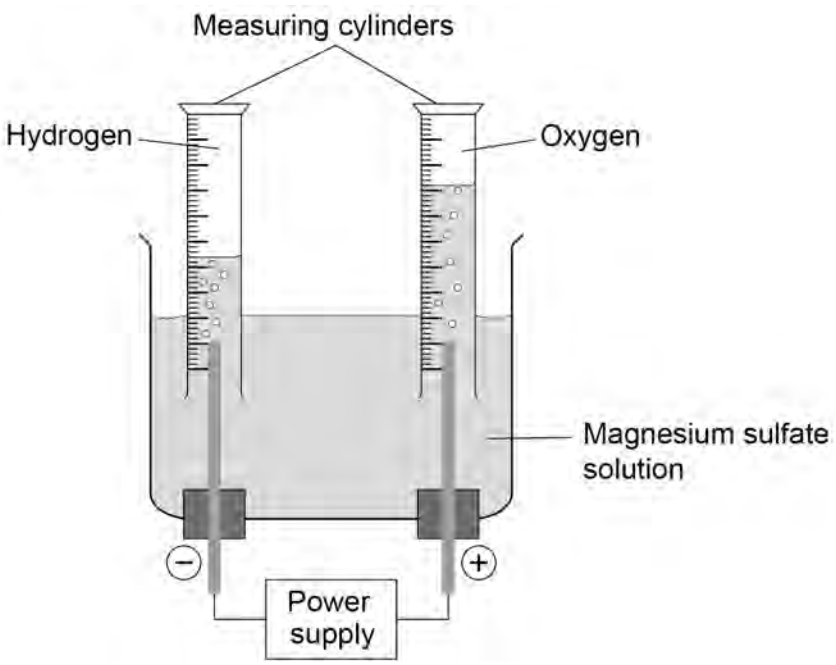
4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 29 · 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.

4.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 29 · 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. ☐

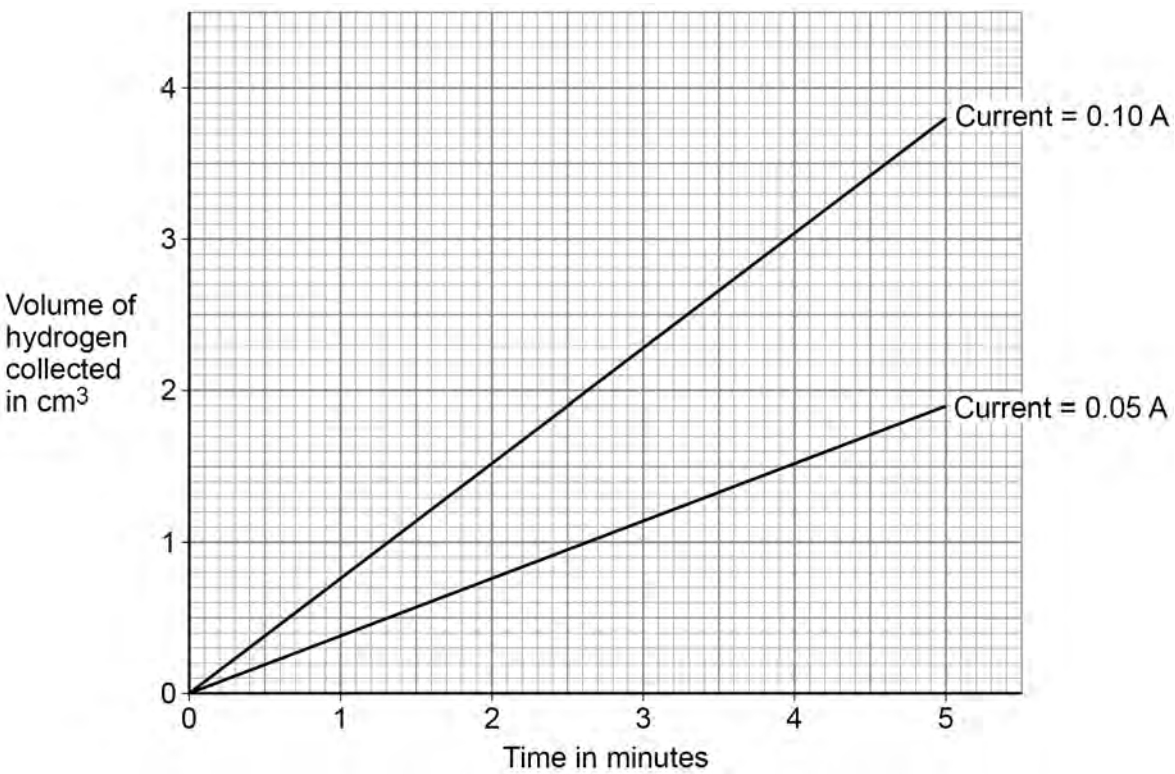
Hydrogen has the same reactivity as magnesium. ☐

Hydrogen is more reactive than magnesium. ☐

Question 29 · continued

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. ☐

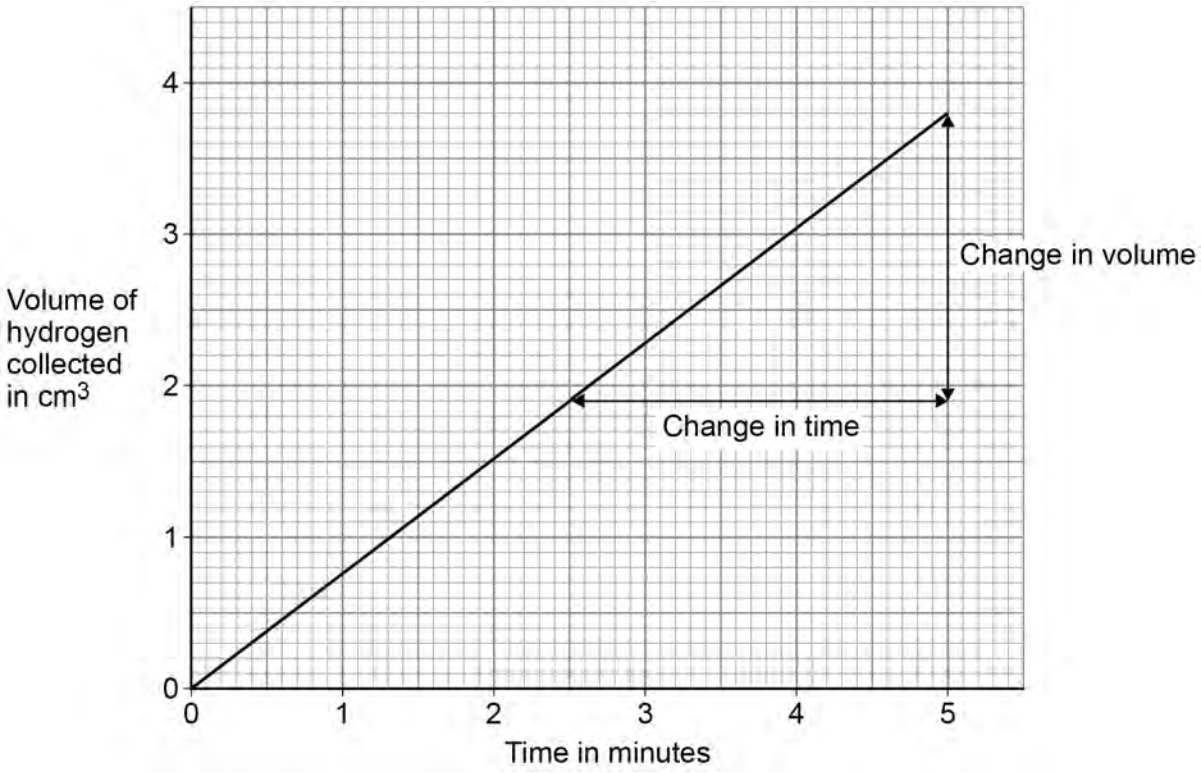
The volume of hydrogen collected depends on the current but **not** the time. ☐

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

Question 29 · 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