AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.4.3.3

Using electrolysis to extract metals

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**7**
Available paper years	**2018–2025**

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.

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 01

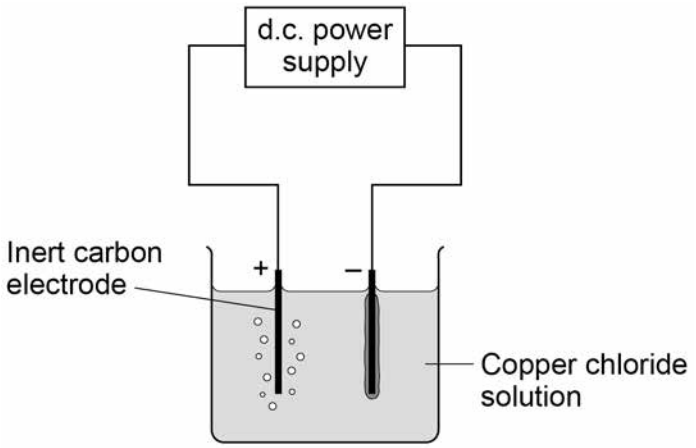
June 2018 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about electrolysis.

A student investigates the mass of copper produced during electrolysis of copper chloride solution.

Figure 12 shows the apparatus.

Figure 12



0 5 . 1 Which gas is produced at the positive electrode (anode)?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

- carbon dioxide ☐
- chlorine ☐
- hydrogen ☐
- oxygen ☐

Question 01 · continued

0 5 . 2 Copper is produced at the negative electrode (cathode).

What does this tell you about the reactivity of copper?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

Copper is less reactive than hydrogen ☐

Copper is less reactive than oxygen ☐

Copper is more reactive than carbon ☐

Copper is more reactive than chlorine ☐

Table 4 shows the student's results.

Table 4

	Total mass of copper produced in mg			
Time in mins	**Experiment 1**	**Experiment 2**	**Experiment 3**	**Mean**
1	0.60	0.58	0.62	0.60
2	1.17	1.22	1.21	1.20
4	2.40	2.41	2.39	2.40
5	3.02	**X**	3.01	3.06

0 5 . 3 Determine the **mean** mass of copper produced after 3 minutes.

[1 mark]

Mass = _____ mg

Question 5 continues on the next page

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 01 · continued

0 5 . 4 Calculate the mass **X** of copper produced in **Experiment 2** after 5 minutes.

Use **Table 4** on page 19

[2 marks]

Mass **X** = _____ mg

0 5 . 5 The copper chloride solution used in the investigation contained 300 grams per dm^3 of solid $CuCl_2$ dissolved in 1 dm^3 of water.

The students used 50 cm^3 of copper chloride solution in each experiment.

Calculate the mass of solid copper chloride used in each experiment.

[3 marks]

Mass = _____ g

8

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about salts and electrolysis.

A student wants to make copper chloride crystals.

The student adds excess copper oxide to some hot acid.

The student stirs the mixture.

0 2 . 1 Which acid should the student use?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrochloric acid ☐

Nitric acid ☐

Sulfuric acid ☐

0 2 . 2 Suggest how the student would know that excess copper oxide has been added.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

Question 2 continues on the next page

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 3 There are four more stages, **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, to make copper chloride crystals.

The stages **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** are not in the correct order.

Stage **A**	Partially evaporate by heating with a water bath
Stage **B**	Filter the mixture into an evaporating basin
Stage **C**	Leave to crystallise
Stage **D**	Remove and dry the crystals

Put stages **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** in the correct order.

[2 marks]

First stage _____

Second stage _____

Third stage _____

Fourth stage _____

0 2 . 4 Molten copper chloride can be electrolysed.

State the product at each electrode when molten copper chloride is electrolysed.

[2 marks]

Negative electrode _____

Positive electrode _____

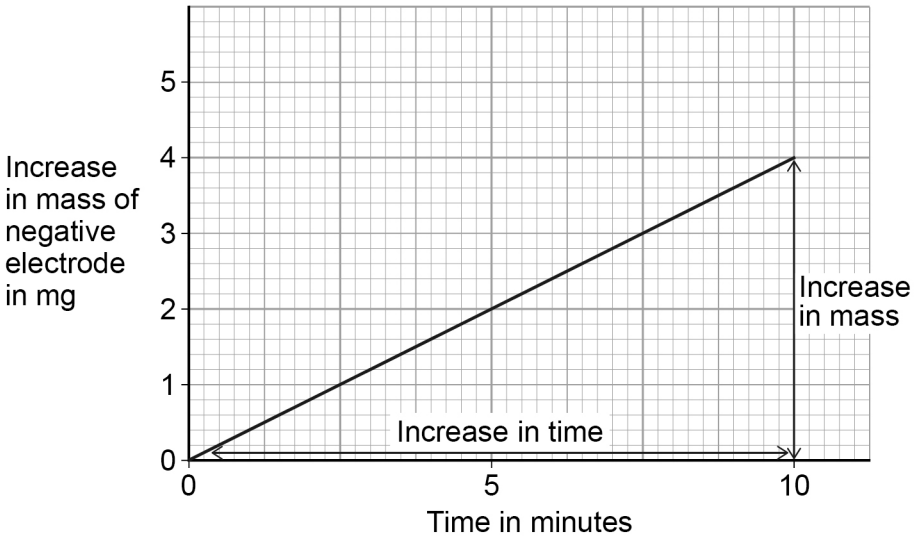
Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 5 A solution of copper chloride is electrolysed.

Figure 3 shows a graph of the increase in mass of the negative electrode.

This increase is shown over a time of 10 minutes.

Figure 3



Calculate the gradient of the line in **Figure 3**.

Use the equation:

$$\text{Gradient} = \frac{\text{increase in mass in mg}}{\text{increase in time in minutes}}$$

[3 marks]

Increase in mass _____

_____

Increase in time _____

_____

Gradient _____

_____

_____

_____

Gradient = _____ mg per minute

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 6 Aluminium is produced by electrolysis of a molten mixture.

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answers from the box.

[2 marks]

carbon	**chloride**	**cryolite**	**oxide**	**sulfate**	**water**

The molten mixture contains _____ and

aluminium _____ .

11

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 03

November 2020 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q6

0 6 This question is about the extraction of aluminium.

0 6 . 1 An aluminium atom is represented as:

$$^{27}_{13}Al$$

Give the number of electrons and neutrons in the aluminium atom.

[2 marks]

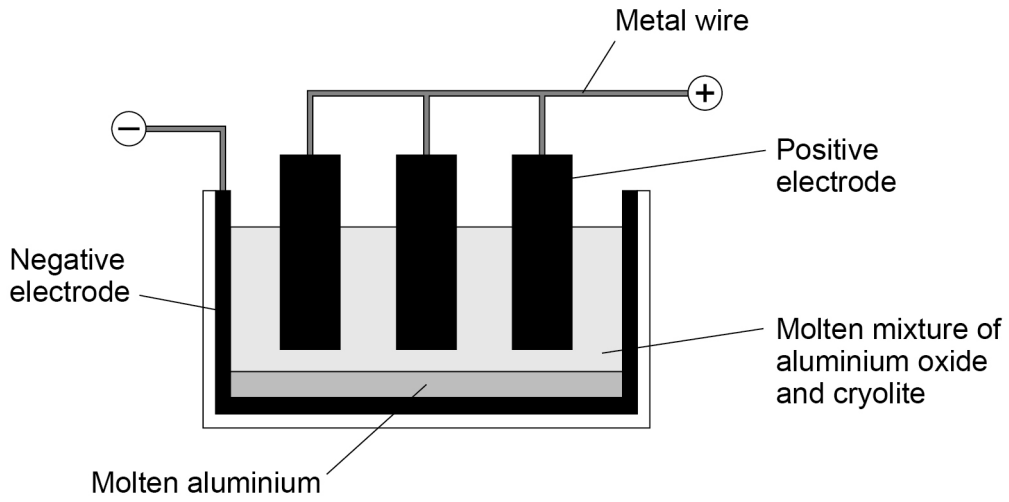
Number of electrons _____

Number of neutrons _____

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

Figure 11 shows the cell used for the electrolysis.

Figure 11



0 6 . 2 Aluminium is produced by the reduction of aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3).

What is meant by the term reduction?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 03 · continued

0 6 . 3 Oxygen is formed at the positive carbon electrodes.

Explain why the positive carbon electrodes must be continually replaced.

[3 marks]

0 6 . 4 A substance conducts electricity because of free moving, charged particles.

What are the free moving, charged particles in a:

- carbon electrode (made from graphite)
- molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite
- metal wire?

[3 marks]

Carbon electrode (made from graphite) _____

Molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite _____

Metal wire _____

9

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 04

November 2021 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about electrolysis.

0 2 . 1 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

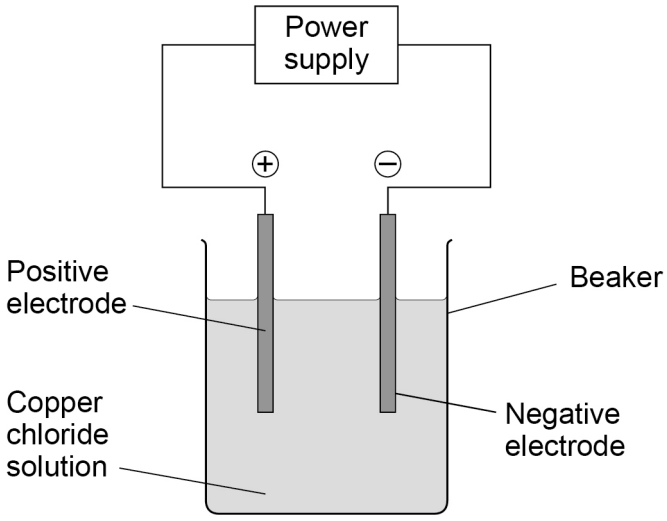
gaseous	**molten**	**solid**

Copper chloride can conduct electricity when in solution or

when _____ .

Figure 1 shows the apparatus used for the electrolysis of copper chloride solution.

Figure 1



There are four ions in copper chloride solution:

- Cu^{2+}
- Cl^{-}
- H^{+}
- OH^{-}

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 04 · continued

0 2 . 2 Why do Cl^- ions and OH^- ions move to the positive electrode?

[1 mark]

0 2 . 3 Where do the H^+ and OH^- ions come from in the electrolysis of copper chloride solution?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Air ☐
- Copper chloride ☐
- Water ☐

0 2 . 4 Which ion produces a metal?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

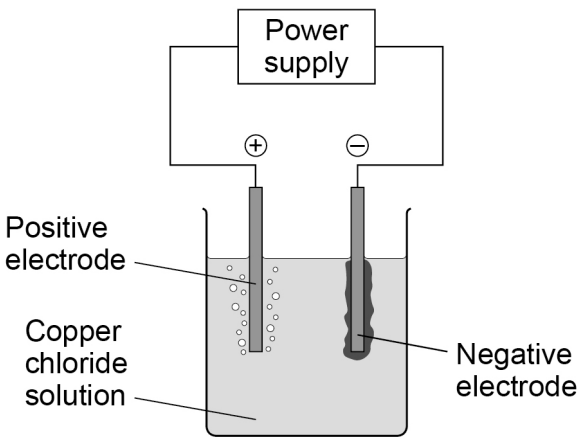
- Cu^{2+} ☐
- Cl^- ☐
- H^+ ☐
- OH^- ☐

Question 2 continues on the next page

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

0 2 . 5 **Figure 2** shows the apparatus during the electrolysis of copper chloride solution.

Figure 2



Describe what is seen at each electrode during the electrolysis of copper chloride solution.

[2 marks]

Positive electrode _____

_____

Negative electrode _____

_____

0 2 . 6 500 cm^3 of copper chloride solution contains 6.50 g of copper chloride.

Calculate the mass of copper chloride in 40.0 cm^3 of this copper chloride solution.

[2 marks]

_____

_____

_____

Mass = _____ g

8

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 05

June 2022 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about elements and compounds.

0 4 . 1 Magnesium and oxygen react to produce magnesium oxide.

Balance the equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

$$_____ Mg + O_2 \rightarrow 2\,MgO$$

0 4 . 2 Suggest **one** safety precaution that should be taken when heating magnesium and oxygen.

[1 mark]

0 4 . 3 Calculate the relative formula mass (M_r) of magnesium fluoride (MgF_2).

Relative atomic masses (A_r): F = 19 Mg = 24

[2 marks]

Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

0 4 . 4 Argon is a noble gas.

Explain why **no** product is formed when magnesium and argon are heated together.

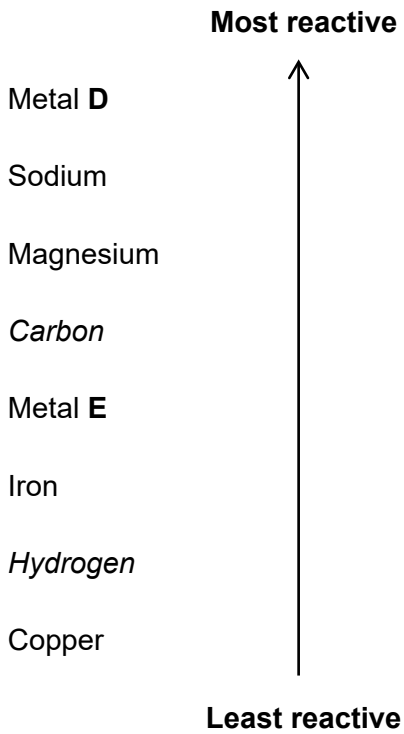
[2 marks]

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 5 **Figure 10** shows a reactivity series.

Figure 10



5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 05 · continued

Draw **one** line from each metal to the method used to extract that metal.

Use **Figure 10**.

[2 marks]

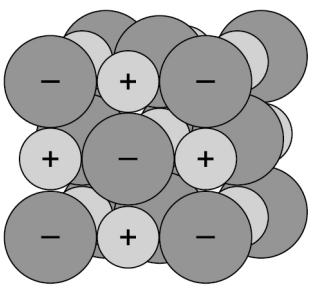
Metal	Method used to extract that metal
	Extracted by electrolysis of a molten ionic compound.
Metal **D**	Extracted from its oxide by reduction with carbon.
	Extracted from its oxide by reduction with hydrogen.
Metal **E**	
	Removed from the Earth as the metal itself.

Question 4 continues on the next page

A substance conducts electricity when it has charged particles that are free to move.

0 4 . 6 **Figure 11** represents the structure of sodium chloride.

Figure 11



Sodium chloride

Explain why sodium chloride conducts electricity when molten but **not** when solid.

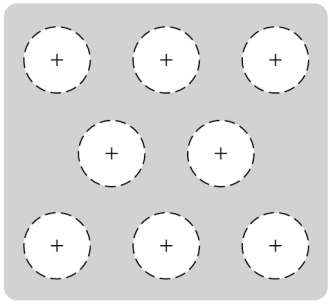
[3 marks]

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 7 **Figure 12** represents the structure of sodium metal.

Figure 12



Sodium metal

Explain why sodium metal conducts electricity when solid.

[2 marks]

13

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

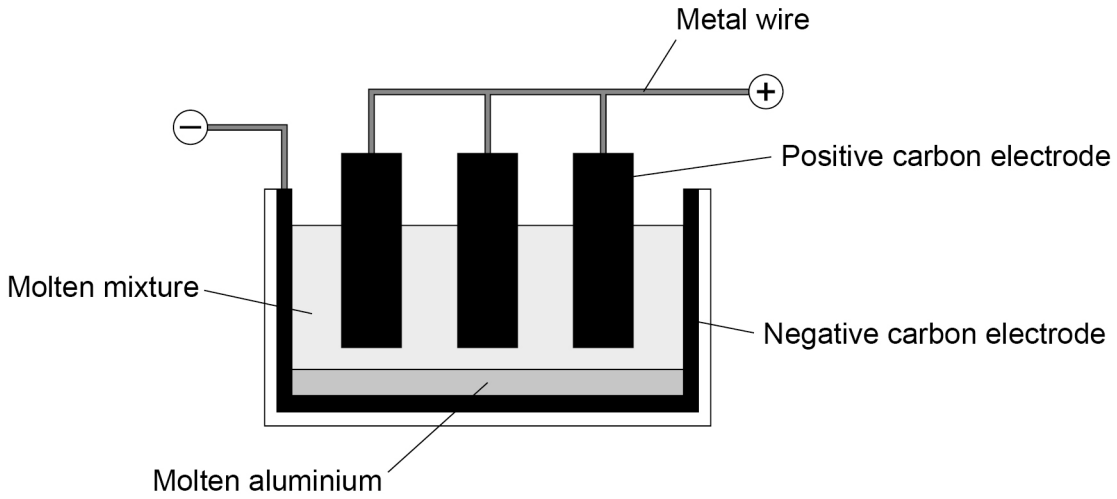
Question 06

0 5 This question is about extraction of metals.

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

Figure 12 shows the electrolysis cell.

Figure 12



0 5 . 1 Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

The extraction of aluminium is expensive because the process uses large amounts of _____ .

0 5 . 2 Oxygen is produced at the positive carbon electrodes.

The oxygen reacts with the carbon electrodes.

Which gas is produced when oxygen reacts with the positive carbon electrodes?

[1 mark]

_____

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 06 · continued June 2023 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

Titanium is extracted from titanium chloride by reacting titanium chloride with sodium.

The reaction between titanium chloride and sodium is carried out in an inert atmosphere.

0 5 . 3 Suggest why the reaction is carried out in an inert atmosphere.

[1 mark]

0 5 . 4 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

argon	**chlorine**	**hydrogen**

The gas used for the inert atmosphere is _____ .

0 5 . 5 Balance the equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

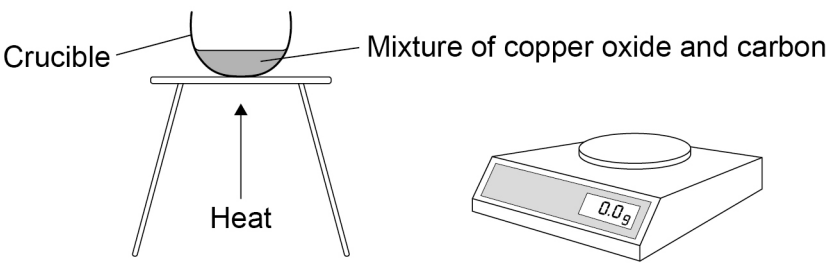
$$TiCl_4 + 4\,Na \rightarrow Ti + ____\ NaCl$$

Question 06 · continued

Copper is extracted from copper oxide by reacting copper oxide with carbon.

Figure 13 shows the apparatus.

Figure 13



The equation for the reaction is:

$$2\,CuO(s) + C(s) \rightarrow 2\,Cu(s) + CO_2(g)$$

In an experiment 15.9 g of copper oxide and 1.2 g of carbon reacted.

12.7 g of copper was produced in the reaction.

0 5 . 6 Calculate the mass of carbon dioxide produced in this experiment.

[1 mark]

Mass of carbon dioxide = _____ g

0 5 . 7 Explain why the mass of the contents in the crucible changed during the experiment.

[2 marks]

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 06 · continued

0 5 . 8 What happens to copper oxide in the reaction?

Give **one** reason for your answer.

Use the equation for the reaction.

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The copper oxide is dissolved ☐

The copper oxide is oxidised ☐

The copper oxide is reduced ☐

Reason _____

_____

10

Turn over for the next question

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07

June 2025 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about metals.

0 4 . 1 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

compounds	**elements**	**polymers**

Most metals are found in the Earth as _____.

0 4 . 2 Iron is extracted from iron oxide by reduction with carbon.

Why is iron extracted by reduction with carbon?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Iron is less reactive than carbon. ☐

Iron has the same reactivity as carbon. ☐

Iron is more reactive than carbon. ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

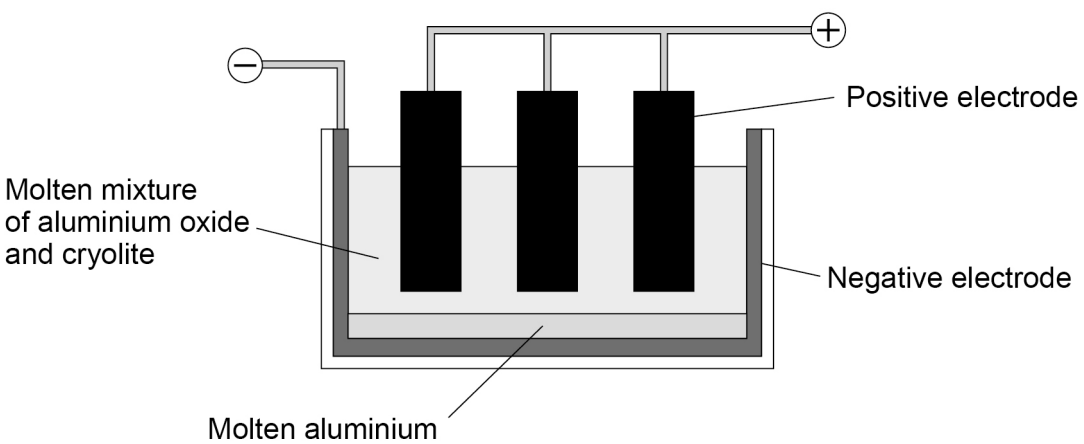
5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07 · continued

Aluminium is extracted by the electrolysis of aluminium oxide.

Figure 8 shows the apparatus used to extract aluminium.

Figure 8



0 4 . 3 The mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite has a lower melting point than aluminium oxide alone.

Why is the melting point lowered?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

To reduce the amount of energy used ☐

To reduce the purity of the aluminium formed ☐

To reduce the rate of reaction ☐

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07 · continued

0 4 . 4 After some time, the positive electrodes need to be replaced.

Why must the positive electrodes be replaced?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The electrodes dissolve in the molten mixture. ☐
- The electrodes melt in the molten mixture. ☐
- The electrodes react with aluminium. ☐
- The electrodes react with oxygen gas. ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07 · continued

Aluminium can be mixed with other metals to form alloys.

0 4 . 5 How does the hardness of an alloy of aluminium compare with the hardness of pure aluminium?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The alloy is harder than the pure metal. ☐

The alloy and the pure metal have the same hardness. ☐

The alloy is less hard than the pure metal. ☐

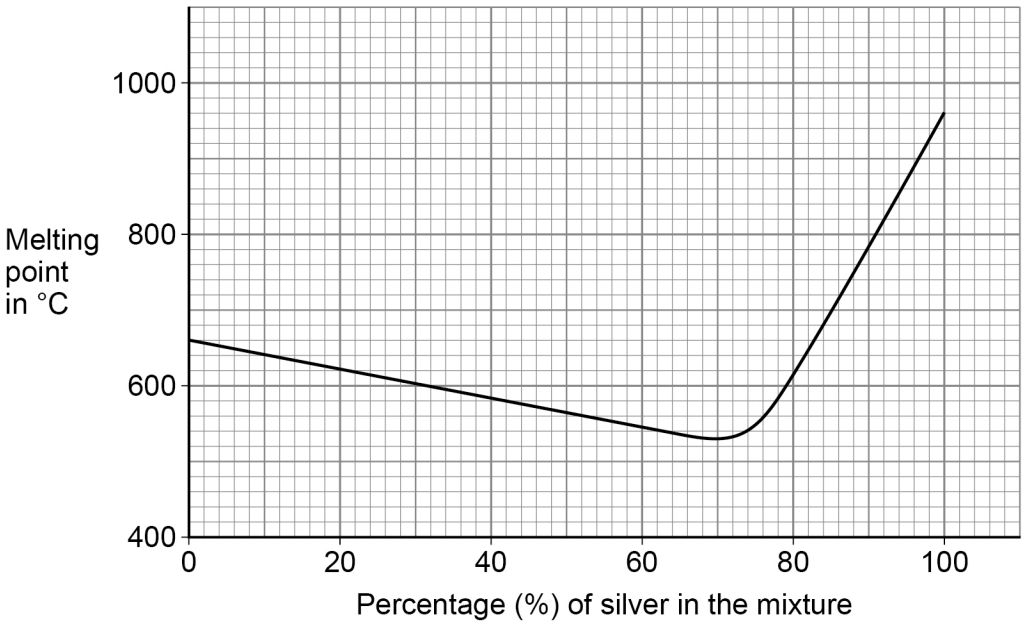
5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals

Question 07 · continued

0 4 . 6 Aluminium can form an alloy with silver.

Figure 9 shows how the melting point of the alloy changes with the percentage (%) of silver in the mixture.

Figure 9



Describe how the melting point of the alloy changes as the percentage of silver in the mixture increases.

Use data from **Figure 9**.

[3 marks]

8