AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.4.1.3

Extraction of metals and reduction

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**12**
Available paper years	**2019–2025**

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.

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 01

June 2019 | 8464/C/1H | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about electrolysis.

0 5 . 1 Some metals are extracted from molten compounds using electrolysis.

Why is electrolysis used to extract some metals?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

0 5 . 2 Aluminium is produced by electrolysis of a molten mixture.

What **two** substances does the molten mixture contain?

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

0 5 . 3 Copper and chlorine are produced when molten copper chloride is electrolysed.

Complete the half equation for the reaction at each electrode.

[2 marks]

Half equation at negative electrode

Cu^{2+} _____ $\rightarrow$ _____

Half equation at positive electrode

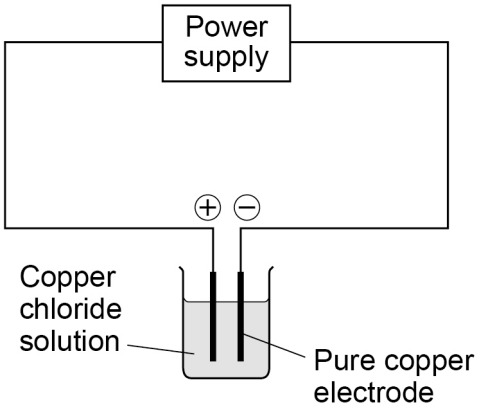
$2\ Cl^{-} \rightarrow$ _____

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 01 · continued

Figure 4 shows the apparatus a student used to electrolyse copper chloride solution.

Figure 4



The student:

- measured the mass of copper deposited on the negative electrode after 60 minutes
- compared the mass deposited with the expected value.

0 5 . 4 Suggest **two** reasons why the mass deposited was different from the expected value.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

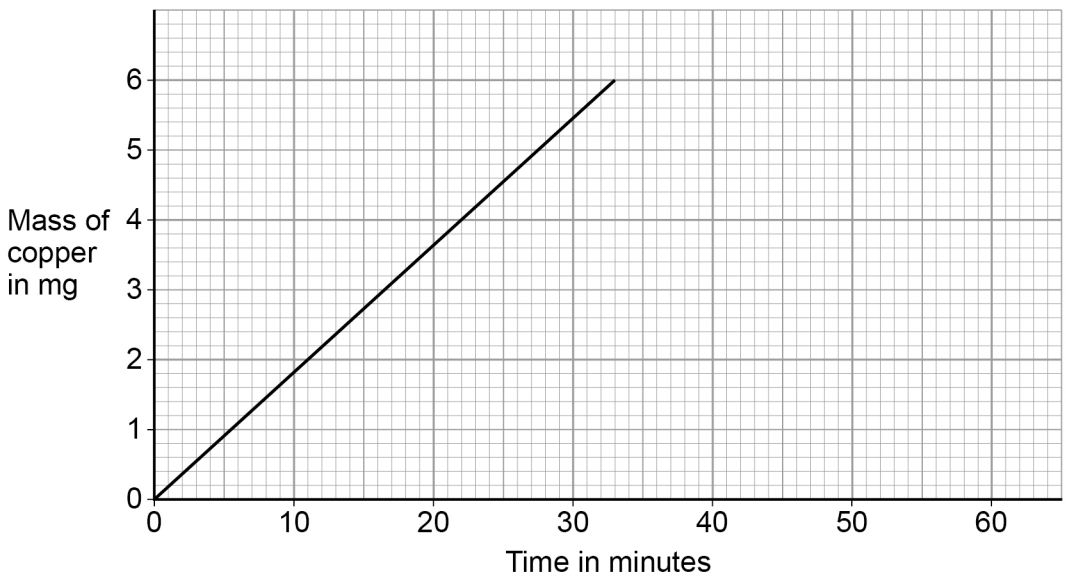
Question 5 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 01 · continued

0 5 . 5 **Figure 5** shows the expected mass of copper produced each minute.

Figure 5



Determine the expected mass of copper after 24 hours.

Use **Figure 5**.

[3 marks]

Mass = _____ mg

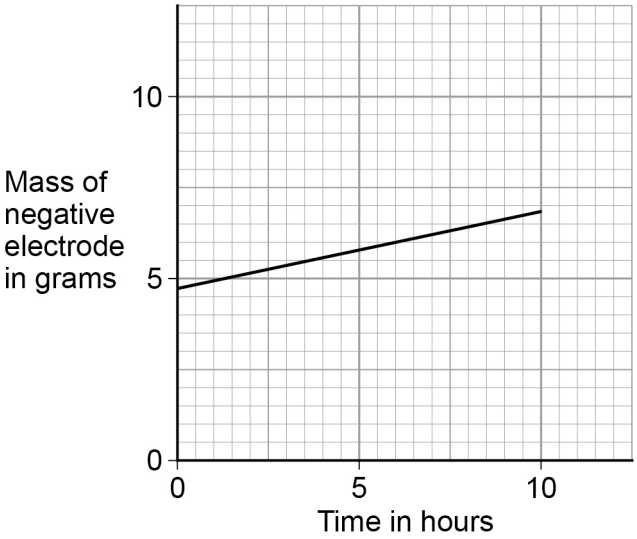
5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 01 · continued

Silver nitrate solution is electrolysed.

Figure 6 shows the change in mass of the negative electrode over 10 hours.

Figure 6



0 5 . 6 Determine the mass of the negative electrode at the start of the experiment.

Use **Figure 6**.

[1 mark]

0 5 . 7 Calculate the gradient of the line in **Figure 6**.

Give the unit.

[3 marks]

Gradient _____

Unit _____

14

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about copper and fuels.

0 4 . 1 Copper is extracted from low-grade ores by phytomining.

Describe how copper metal is produced by phytomining.

[4 marks]

0 4 . 2 Another method of extracting copper from low-grade ores is bioleaching.

A solution of copper sulfate ($CuSO_4$) produced by bioleaching has a concentration of 0.319 g/dm^3

Relative atomic masses (A_r): Cu = 63.5 O = 16 S = 32

Calculate the number of moles of copper that can be produced from 1 dm^3 of this solution.

[3 marks]

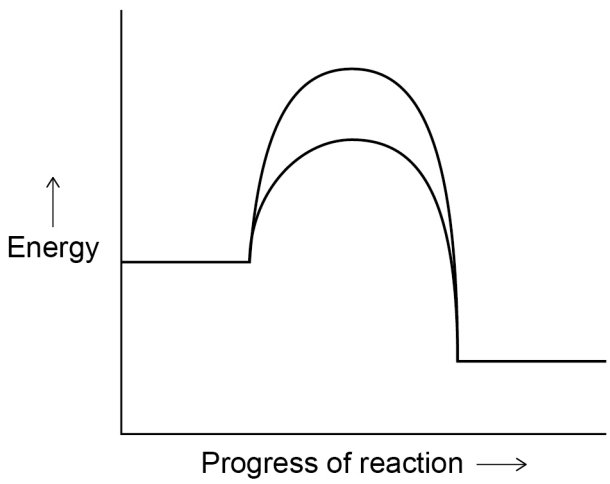
Number of moles of copper = _____ mol

Question 02 · continued

Copper is used as a catalyst.

Figure 1 shows reaction profiles for a reaction with and without a catalyst.

Figure 1



0 4 . 3 How do the reaction profiles show that using a catalyst does **not** affect the overall energy change for the reaction?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Both reaction profiles show exothermic reactions. ☐
- Both reaction profiles start at the same energy level and end at the same energy level. ☐
- Both reaction profiles show the activation energy. ☐
- The activation energy for the uncatalysed reaction is much lower than for the catalysed reaction. ☐

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 02 · continued

0 4 . 4 Copper is a catalyst in a reaction to produce ethanol from carbon dioxide.

Ethanol (C_2H_5OH) is used as a fuel.

Suggest why producing ethanol from carbon dioxide is sustainable.

[2 marks]

0 4 . 5 Chemistry plays an important role in sustainable development.

What is sustainable development?

[2 marks]

12

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 03

June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q6

0 6 This question is about oxygen (O_2) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2).

0 6 . 1 Give the test and result for oxygen gas.

[2 marks]

Test _____

Result _____

0 6 . 2 The reaction between oxygen and sulfur dioxide is at equilibrium.

$$O_2(g) + 2SO_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2SO_3(g)$$

Some of the sulfur trioxide (SO_3) is removed.

Explain what happens to the position of the equilibrium.

[2 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 03 · continued

0 6 . 3 Sulfur dioxide is an atmospheric pollutant.

Sulfur dioxide pollution is reduced by reacting calcium oxide with sulfur dioxide to produce calcium sulfite.

$$CaO + SO_2 \rightarrow CaSO_3$$

7.00 g of calcium oxide reacts with an excess of sulfur dioxide.

Relative atomic masses (A_r): O = 16 S = 32 Ca = 40

Calculate the mass of calcium sulfite produced.

[4 marks]

Mass of calcium sulfite produced = _____ g

8

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 04

November 2020 | 8464/C/1H | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about the extraction of aluminium.

0 1 . 1 An aluminium atom is represented as:

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

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

[2 marks]

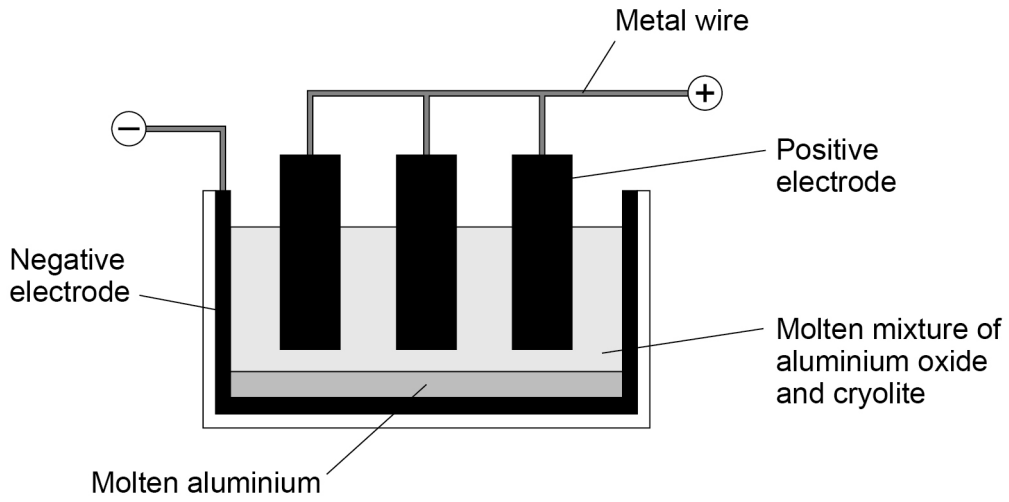
Number of electrons _____

Number of neutrons _____

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

Figure 1 shows the cell used for the electrolysis.

Figure 1



0 1 . 2 Aluminium is produced by the reduction of aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3).

What is meant by the term reduction?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 04 · continued

0 1 . 3 Oxygen is formed at the positive carbon electrodes.

Explain why the positive carbon electrodes must be continually replaced.

[3 marks]

0 1 . 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

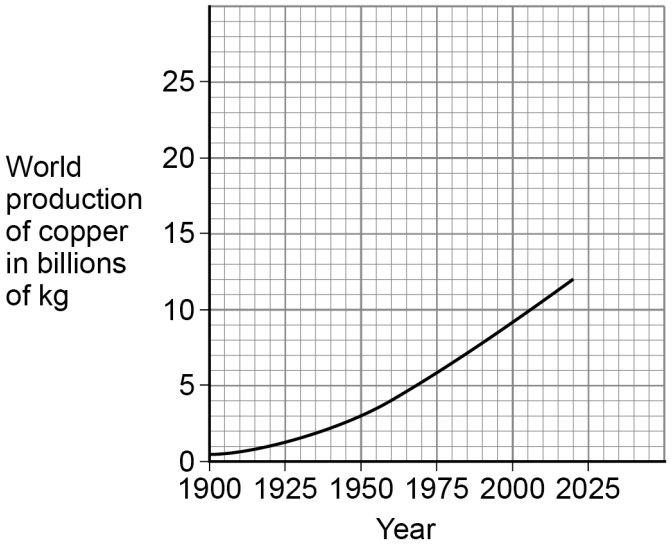
5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 05

0 4 Industries use the Earth's natural copper resources to produce useful products.

Figure 4 shows the world production of copper from 1900 to 2020.

Figure 4



0 4 . 1 Describe the trend shown by the graph in **Figure 4**.

[2 marks]

0 4 . 2 Suggest **one** reason for the trend in **Figure 4**.

[1 mark]

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 3 Suggest **one** reason why the trend cannot be used to accurately predict the future world production of copper.

[1 mark]

Question 4 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 4 High-grade copper resources are now difficult to find.

Phytomining is used to extract copper from low-grade ores.

There are five stages, **A**, **B**, **C**, **D** and **E**, in phytomining.

The stages are **not** in the correct order.

Stage **A** Copper compounds from ash are dissolved in acid.

Stage **B** Plants absorb metal compounds.

Stage **C** Plants are burned.

Stage **D** Plants are harvested.

Stage **E** Solution of copper compound is electrolysed.

What is the correct order of stages **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**, and **E**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

B, **C**, **D**, **E**, **A** ☐

B, **D**, **C**, **A**, **E** ☐

D, **B**, **C**, **E**, **A** ☐

D, **C**, **B**, **A**, **E** ☐

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 5 Give **two** disadvantages of phytomining compared with traditional mining methods.

Do **not** refer to cost in your answer.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

0 4 . 6 In one year, 8.89×10^9 kg of copper was produced.

41.0% of this copper was produced from recycled copper.

The energy needed to produce 1 kg of copper from copper ore is 70.4 MJ.

The energy needed to produce 1 kg of recycled copper is 27.2 MJ.

Calculate the difference in energy used if all the copper was produced from recycling.

Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

[5 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Difference in energy used (3 significant figures) = _____ MJ

12

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

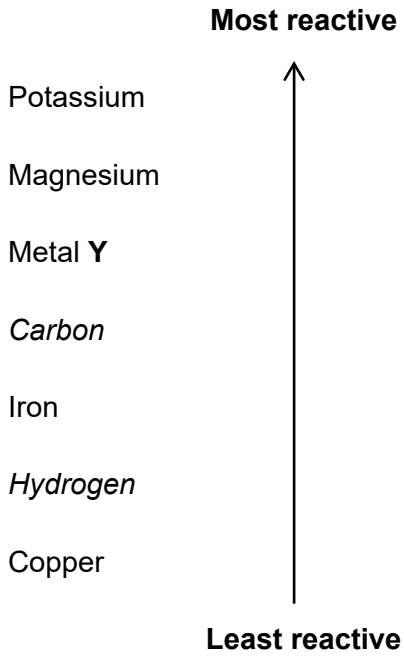
Question 06

June 2022 | 8464/C/1H | Original Q7

0 7 This question is about elements and compounds.

0 7 . 1 **Figure 8** shows a reactivity series.

Figure 8



Give the method and conditions used to extract metal **Y** from a compound of metal **Y**.

[2 marks]

Question 7 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 06 · continued

Sodium reacts with titanium chloride ($TiCl_4$) to produce titanium.

0 7 . 2 Complete the equation.

You should balance the equation.

[2 marks]

____ Na + $TiCl_4$ → _____ + _____

0 7 . 3 The reaction between sodium and titanium chloride is a redox reaction.

Write a half-equation to show that sodium is oxidised in this reaction.

[2 marks]

_____

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 06 · continued

0 7 . 4 108 g of aluminum reacts with 1.21 kg of copper chloride to produce copper.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$2\,Al + 3\,CuCl_2 \rightarrow 3\,Cu + 2\,AlCl_3$$

Calculate the maximum mass of copper produced in grams (g).

You should determine the limiting reactant.

Relative atomic masses (A_r): Al = 27 Cu = 63.5

Relative formula masses (M_r): $CuCl_2$ = 134.5 $AlCl_3$ = 133.5

[6 marks]

Limiting reactant is _____

Mass of copper = _____ g

Question 7 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 06 · continued

Sodium metal and sodium chloride are both able to conduct electricity.

0 7 . 5 Describe how sodium metal conducts electricity.

[2 marks]

0 7 . 6 Explain how sodium chloride can conduct electricity.

[3 marks]

17

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 07

0 5 This question is about the Earth's atmosphere and the Earth's resources.

0 5 . 1 After the formation of the Earth's early atmosphere, the amounts of nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere changed.

Explain the main changes in the amounts of nitrogen and oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.

[4 marks]

Nitrogen _____

Oxygen _____

0 5 . 2 Describe how coal was formed from the carbon dioxide present in the Earth's early atmosphere.

[4 marks]

0 5 . 3 The combustion of 1.0 kg of coal produces more carbon dioxide than the combustion of 1.0 kg of natural gas.

Suggest why.

[1 mark]

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 07 · continued

Metals are extracted from metal ores found in the Earth.

0 5 . 4 Describe how bioleaching is used to extract copper from low grade ores.

[3 marks]

0 5 . 5 Phytomining uses plants to extract nickel from low grade ores.

The plants contain 0.792% nickel by mass.

The plants are burned to produce ash.

The ash from these plants contains 4.80% nickel by mass.

Calculate the mass of ash produced from burning 1000 kg of plants.

Give your answer in grams in standard form.

[4 marks]

Mass of ash (in standard form) = _____ g

16

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 08

June 2024 | 8464/C/1H | Original Q6

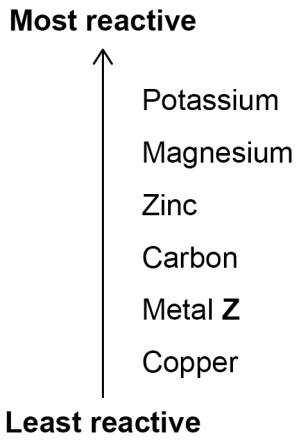
0 6 In the Earth most metals are found as compounds.

0 6 . 1 Name **one** metal that is found in the Earth as the metal itself.

[1 mark]

Figure 9 shows a reactivity series.

Figure 9



0 6 . 2 Suggest the most economical method for extracting metal **Z** from an oxide of metal **Z**.

[1 mark]

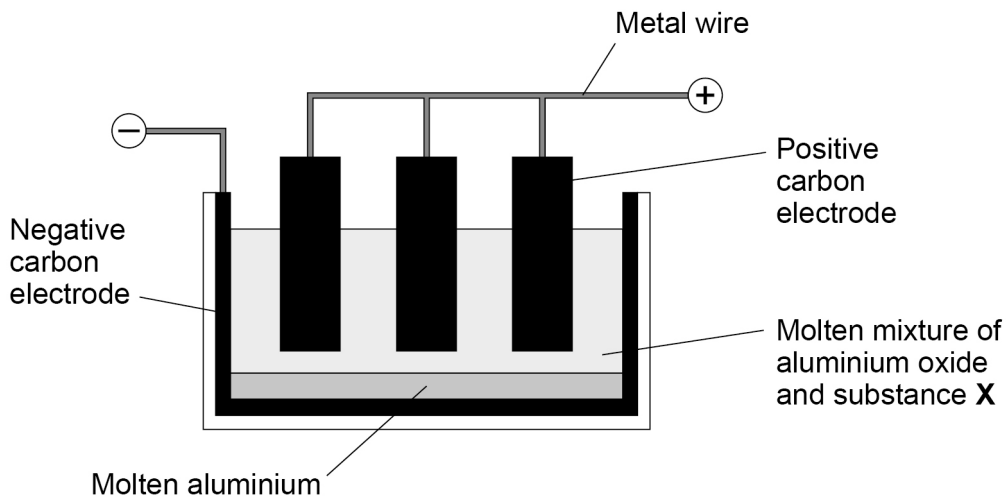
Question 6 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 08 · continued

Figure 10 shows the electrolysis cell used to extract aluminium from aluminium oxide.

Figure 10



0 6 . 3 Name substance **X** shown in **Figure 10**.

[1 mark]

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 08 · continued

0 6 . 4 Explain what happens to the **positive** carbon electrodes during the extraction of aluminium from aluminium oxide.

[3 marks]

0 6 . 5 The formula of aluminium oxide is Al_2O_3

Write a half equation for the reaction at the **negative** electrode in **Figure 10**.

[2 marks]

_____ + _____ → _____

8

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 09

June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q3

0 3 Some fractions of crude oil are processed to produce fuel for transport.

0 3 . 1 Describe how crude oil was formed.

[4 marks]

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 09 · continued

Transport is a source of atmospheric pollutants.

0 3 . 2 Suggest how sulfur dioxide can be produced by transport.

[2 marks]

0 3 . 3 Give **two** problems caused by sulfur dioxide as an atmospheric pollutant.

[2 marks]

1

2

Question 3 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 09 · continued

0 3 . 4 Describe how carbon monoxide can be produced by transport.

[2 marks]

0 3 . 5 Catalytic converters are fitted to car exhausts to reduce the amount of pollution from cars.

Carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) react in a catalytic converter.

Nitrogen and carbon dioxide are produced.

Write a balanced equation for the reaction.

[2 marks]

_____ + _____ → _____ + _____

12

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 10

June 2024 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q6

0 6 The Earth's natural resources are used to manufacture useful products.

One useful product is potable water.

Potable water can be produced from sea water by distillation.

0 6 . 1 Give **one disadvantage** of using distillation to produce potable water.

[1 mark]

0 6 . 2 Describe **one** other method to produce potable water from sea water.

[2 marks]

Question 6 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 10 · continued

A student investigated the mass of dissolved solids in a 100 cm^3 sample of sea water.

This is the method used.

1. Weigh an evaporating basin.
2. Measure 100 cm^3 of sea water.
3. Pour the sea water into the evaporating basin.
4. Heat the evaporating basin.
5. Weigh the evaporating basin and contents.
6. Calculate the mass of dissolved solids in the sea water.

0 6 . 3 Explain how repeating steps 4 and 5 would improve this method.

[2 marks]

0 6 . 4 The total mass of dissolved solids in a 100 cm^3 sample of sea water is 3.50 g.

The percentage of sodium chloride in the dissolved solids is 77.8%.

Calculate the mass of sodium chloride dissolved in the 100 cm^3 sample of sea water.

[2 marks]

Mass of sodium chloride = _____ g

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 10 · continued

Biological methods are used to extract metal compounds from metal ores.

0 6 . 5 One method of producing copper from low-grade copper ores is by using bacteria.

The bacteria produce leachate solutions that contain copper compounds.

Give **two** methods that can be used to extract copper from these leachate solutions.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

Question 6 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 10 · continued

Phytomining uses plants to absorb metal compounds from low-grade ores.

0 6 . 6 Describe how the metal compounds are obtained from the plants.

[3 marks]

0 6 . 7 Nickel is produced by phytomining.

One hectare of plants produces 215 kg of nickel.

Determine the area required to produce 750 kg of nickel.

Give your answer in m^2.

One hectare = 10 000 m^2

[3 marks]

Area required = _____ m^2

15

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 11

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

0 4 This question is about metals.

0 4 . 1 Iron is extracted from iron oxide by reduction with carbon.

Why can iron be extracted by reduction with carbon?

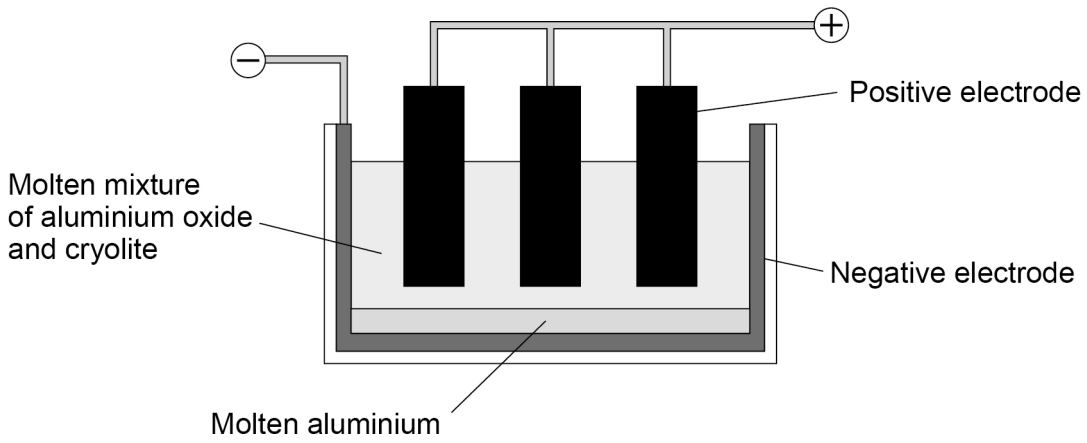
Answer in terms of reactivity.

[1 mark]

Aluminium is extracted by the electrolysis of aluminium oxide.

Figure 4 shows the apparatus used to extract aluminium.

Figure 4



5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 11 · continued

0 4 . 2 Explain why a mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite is used as the electrolyte instead of only aluminium oxide.

[2 marks]

0 4 . 3 Oxygen gas is produced at the positive electrode.

Write a balanced half equation for the production of oxygen at the positive electrode.

[2 marks]

_____ → _____ + _____

Question 4 continues on the next page

Question 11 · continued

Chromium is extracted by reacting chromium oxide with aluminium.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$Cr_2O_3 + 2\,Al \rightarrow Al_2O_3 + 2\,Cr$$

0 4 . 4 Which substance in the equation is reduced?

[1 mark]

Table 3 shows the relative cost of extracting equal masses of aluminium, chromium and iron.

Table 3

Metal	Relative cost of extraction
Aluminium	2
Chromium	20
Iron	1

0 4 . 5 Give **one** reason for the difference in the cost of extracting aluminium and **iron**.

Use **Table 3**.

[1 mark]

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 11 · continued

0 4 . 6 Give **one** reason for the difference in the cost of extracting aluminium and **chromium**.

Use **Table 3**.

[1 mark]

0 4 . 7 Metals are mixed together to form alloys.

Explain why alloys are harder than pure metals.

[3 marks]

11

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

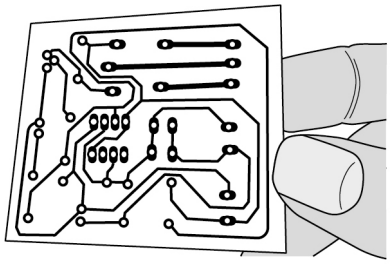
Question 12

June 2025 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q6

0 6 Gold is used in the printed circuit boards found in smartphones.

Figure 6 shows a printed circuit board.

Figure 6



A type of smartphone contains 1.73×10^{-4} moles of gold.

0 6 . 1 In one year, a manufacturer sold 2.48 million of this type of smartphone.

Calculate the total mass of gold contained in 2.48 million of these smartphones.

Give your answer in kilograms.

Relative atomic mass (A_r): Au = 197

[5 marks]

Total mass of gold = _____ kg

0 6 . 2 What is the total number of gold atoms in one of this type of smartphone?

The Avogadro constant = 6.02×10^{23} per mole

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

2.87×10^{-28} ☐

1.04×10^{20} ☐

3.48×10^{27} ☐

0 6 . 3 The materials in printed circuit boards can be recycled.

Bioleaching is one method used to extract gold from printed circuit boards.

Describe how bioleaching is used to extract gold.

[3 marks]

Question 6 continues on the next page

5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction

Question 12 · continued

0 6 . 4 Copper is also extracted using bioleaching.

Copper can also be extracted from low-grade ores using phytomining.

Phytomining has **not** been widely used to extract copper.

Suggest **two** reasons why.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

11