Electrolysis

Past Year Topical Question

Oct/Nov 2002

(b) Copper is refined by the electrolysis of aqueous copper(II) sulphate using copper electrodes. Describe the change that occurs at the electrodes.

(i) cathode (pure copper) .....

.....[1]

(ii) anode (impure copper) .....

.....[1]

(iii) Write an ionic equation for the reaction at the cathode.

.....[1]

(iv) If carbon electrodes are used, a colourless gas is given off at the anode and the electrolyte changes from a blue to a colourless solution.

The colourless gas is ..... .

The solution changes into ..... . [2]

May/June 2003

(e) One of the methods used to prevent iron or steel from rusting is to electroplate it with another metal, such as tin. Complete the following.

The anode is made of ..... .

The cathode is made of ..... .

The electrolyte is a solution of ..... .

[3]

May/June 2004

(c) Aqueous copper(II) sulphate can be electrolysed using copper electrodes. The reaction at the negative electrode is the same but the positive electrode becomes smaller and the solution remains blue.

(i) Write a word equation for the reaction at the positive electrode.

.....[1]

(ii) Explain why the colour of the solution does not change.

.....

.....[2]

(iii) What is the large scale use of this electrolysis?

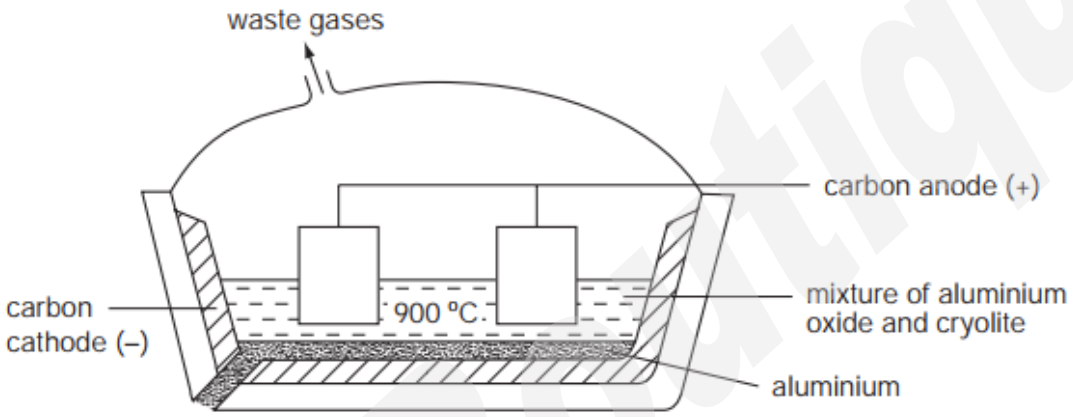
.....[1]

May/June 2005

6 The position of aluminium in the reactivity series of metals is shown below.

magnesium
aluminium
zinc
copper

(a) Aluminium is extracted by the electrolysis of its molten oxide.



(i) Name the main ore of aluminium.

..... [1]

(ii) Why does the molten electrolyte contain cryolite?

..... [1]

(iii) Oxygen is produced at the positive electrode (anode). Name another gas which is given off at this electrode.

..... [1]

(b) Aluminium reacts very slowly with aqueous copper(II) sulphate.

$$2Al(s) + 3CuSO_4(aq) \longrightarrow Al_2(SO_4)_3(aq) + 3Cu(s)$$

(i) Which of the two metals has the greater tendency to form ions?

..... [1]

(ii) Describe what you would see when this reaction occurs.

..... [1]

(iii) Explain why aluminium reacts so slowly.

..... [1]

Oct/Nov 2005

(c) The major ore of strontium is its carbonate, $SrCO_3$. Strontium is extracted by the electrolysis of its molten chloride.

(i) Name the reagent that will react with the carbonate to form the chloride.

..... [1]

(ii) The electrolysis of molten strontium chloride produces strontium metal and chlorine. Write ionic equations for the reactions at the electrodes.

negative electrode (cathode) .....

positive electrode (anode) ..... [2]

(iii) One of the products of the electrolysis of concentrated aqueous strontium chloride is chlorine. Name the other two.

..... [2]

Oct/Nov 2006

(b) Impure copper is extracted from the ore. This copper is refined by electrolysis.

(i) Name;
the material used for the positive electrode (anode),

.....

the material used for the negative electrode (cathode),

.....

a suitable electrolyte.

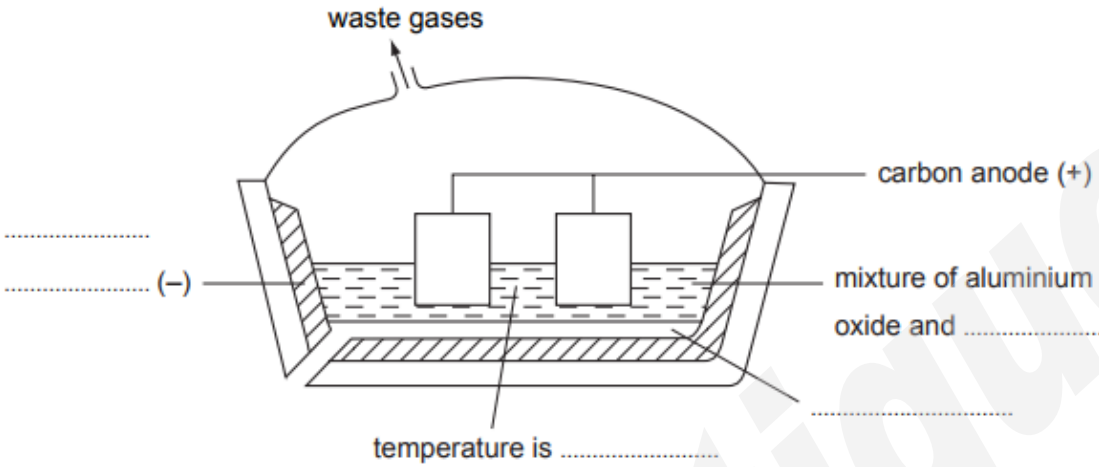
..... [3]

(ii) Write an ionic equation for the reaction at the negative electrode.

..... [1]

May/June 2007

(b) Complete the labelling of the diagram.



[4]

(c) The ions that are involved in the electrolysis are Al^{3+} and O^{2-}.

(i) Write an equation for the reaction at the cathode.

..... [2]

(ii) Explain how carbon dioxide is formed at the anode.

.....

..... [2]

Oct/Nov 2007

(c) The remaining zinc oxide reacts with sulphuric acid to give aqueous zinc sulphate. This is electrolysed with inert electrodes (the electrolysis is the same as that of copper(II) sulphate with inert electrodes).
ions present: $Zn^{2+}(aq)$ $SO_4^{2-}(aq)$ $H^+(aq)$ $OH^-(aq)$

(i) Zinc forms at the negative electrode (cathode). Write the equation for this reaction.

..... [1]

(ii) Write the equation for the reaction at the positive electrode (anode).

..... [2]

(iii) The electrolyte changes from aqueous zinc sulphate to

..... [1]

May/June 2008

3 Copper is purified by electrolysis.

(a) Complete the following.

The positive electrode (anode) is made from .....

The negative electrode (cathode) is made from .....

The electrolyte is aqueous ..... [3]

(b) Write an ionic equation for the reaction at the positive electrode (anode).

..... [2]

May/June 2009

2 The results of experiments on electrolysis using inert electrodes are given in the table.

Complete the table; the first line has been completed as an example.

electrolyte	change at negative electrode	change at positive electrode	change to electrolyte
molten lead(II) bromide	lead formed	bromine formed	used up
....	potassium formed	iodine formed	used up
dilute aqueous sodium chloride	.....	.....	....
aqueous copper(II) sulfate	.....	.....	....
....	hydrogen formed	bromine formed	potassium hydroxide formed