



The ions discharged when an aqueous solution is electrolysed using inert electrodes depend on the relative reactivity of the elements involved.

At the negative electrode

Metal will be produced on the electrode if it is less reactive than hydrogen. Hydrogen will be produced if the metal is more reactive than hydrogen.

At the positive electrode

Oxygen is formed at positive electrode. If you have a halide ion (Cl^- , I^- , Br^-) then you will get chlorine, bromine or iodine formed at that electrode.

Electrolysis of aqueous solutions

Strong acids

Completely ionised in aqueous solutions e.g. hydrochloric, nitric and sulfuric acids.

Weak acids

Only partially ionised in aqueous solutions e.g. ethanoic acid, citric acid.

Hydrogen ion concentration

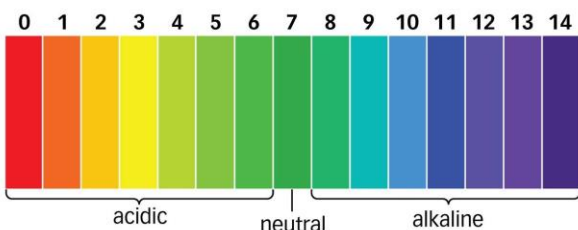
As the pH decreases by one unit (becoming a stronger acid), the hydrogen ion concentration increases by a factor of 10.

Soluble salts

Soluble salts can be made from reacting acids with solid insoluble substances (e.g. metals, metal oxides, hydroxides and carbonates).

Production of soluble salts

Add the solid to the acid until no more dissolves. Filter off excess solid and then crystallise to produce solid salts.



You can use universal indicator or a pH probe to measure the acidity or alkalinity of a solution against the pH scale.

In neutralisation reactions, hydrogen ions react with hydroxide ions to produce water:
 $\text{H}^+ + \text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Acids

Acids produce hydrogen ions (H^+) in aqueous solutions.

Alkalies

Aqueous solutions of alkalis contain hydroxide ions (OH^-).

Process of electrolysis

Splitting up using electricity

When an ionic compound is melted or dissolved in water, the ions are free to move. These are then able to conduct electricity and are called electrolytes. Passing an electric current through electrolytes causes the ions to move to the electrodes.

Electrode

*Anode
Cathode*

The positive electrode is called the anode. The negative electrode is called the cathode.

Where do the ions go?

*Cations
Anions*

Cations are positive ions and they move to the negative cathode. Anions are negative ions and they move to the positive anode.

Electrolysis

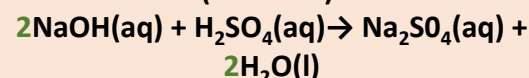
AQA Chemical Changes 2

Reactions of acids

Titrations (Chemistry only)

Titration is used to work out the precise volumes of acid and alkali solutions that react with each other.

Calculating the chemical quantities in titrations involving concentrations in mol/dm^3 and in g/dm^3 (HT ONLY):



It takes 12.20cm^3 of sulfuric acid to neutralise 24.00cm^3 of sodium hydroxide solution, which has a concentration of 0.50mol/dm^3 .

Calculate the concentration of the sulfuric acid in g/dm^3
 $0.5\text{ mol/dm}^3 \times (24/1000)\text{ dm}^3 = 0.012\text{ mol of NaOH}$

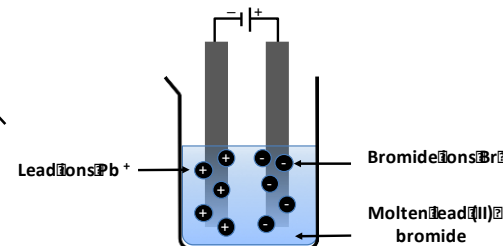
Extracting metals using electrolysis

Metals can be extracted from molten compounds using electrolysis.

This process is used when the metal is too reactive to be extracted by reduction with carbon.

*The process is expensive due to large amounts of energy needed to produce the electrical current.
Example: aluminium is extracted in this way.*

Higher tier: You can display what is happening at each electrode using half-equations:
At the cathode: $\text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Pb}$
At the anode: $2\text{Br}^- \rightarrow \text{Br}_2 + 2\text{e}^-$



1. Use the pipette to add 25 cm^3 of alkali to a conical flask and add a few drops of indicator.

2. Fill the burette with acid and note the starting volume. Slowly add the acid from the burette to the alkali in the conical flask, swirling to mix.

3. Stop adding the acid when the end-point is reached (the appropriate colour change in the indicator happens). Note the final volume reading. Repeat steps 1 to 3 until you get consistent readings.