

# AQA Chemistry Chemical changes Journey of Knowledge

## Context and introduction to the unit:

Understanding of chemical changes began when people began experimenting with chemical reactions in a systematic way and organizing their results logically. Knowing about these different chemical changes meant that scientists could begin to predict exactly what new substances would be formed and use this knowledge to develop a wide range of different materials and processes. It also helped biochemists to understand the complex reactions that take place in living organisms. The extraction of important resources from the earth makes use of the way that some elements and compounds react with each other and how easily they can be 'pulled apart'.

## KS3:

Energy – conservation, acids and alkalis, neutralisation, chemical reactions, periodic table, oxidation, reduction, displacement reactions, chemical reactions.

### CORE KNOWLEDGE

**5.4.1.1 Metal oxides** - Metals react with oxygen to produce metal oxides. The reactions are oxidation reactions because the metals gain oxygen and reduction is loss of oxygen.

**5.4.1.2 The reactivity series** - When metals react with other substances the metal atoms form positive ions. The reactivity of a metal is related to its tendency to form positive ions. Metals can be arranged in order of their reactivity in a reactivity series. The metals potassium, sodium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron and copper can be put in order of their reactivity from their reactions with water and dilute acids. The non-metals hydrogen and carbon are often included in the reactivity series. A more reactive metal can displace a less reactive metal from a compound. The reactions of metals with water and acids are limited to room temperature and do not include reactions with steam.

**5.4.1.3 Extraction of metals and reduction** - Unreactive metals such as gold are found in the Earth as the metal itself but most metals are found as compounds that require chemical reactions to extract the metal. Metals less reactive than carbon can be extracted from their oxides by reduction with carbon. Reduction involves the loss of oxygen.

**5.4.1.4 Oxidation and reduction in terms of electrons (HT only)** - **Oxidation is the loss of electrons and reduction is the gain of electrons. Write ionic equations for displacement reactions** • identify in a given reaction, symbol equation or half equation which species are oxidised and which are reduced.

**5.4.2.1 Reactions of acids with metals** - Acids react with some metals to produce salts and hydrogen.

(HT only) • explain in terms of gain or loss of electrons, that these are redox reactions • identify which species are oxidised and which are reduced in given chemical equations.

**5.4.2.2 Neutralisation of acids and salt production** - Acids are neutralised by alkalis (e.g. soluble metal hydroxides) and bases (e.g. insoluble metal hydroxides and metal oxides) to produce salts and water, and by metal carbonates to produce salts, water and carbon dioxide. The particular salt produced in any reaction between an acid and a base or alkali depends on: • the acid used (hydrochloric acid produces chlorides, nitric acid produces nitrates, sulfuric acid produces sulfates) • the positive ions in the base, alkali or carbonate.

**5.4.2.3 Soluble salts** - Soluble salts can be made from acids by reacting them with solid insoluble substances, such as metals, metal oxides, hydroxides or carbonates. The solid is added to the acid until no more reacts and the excess solid is filtered off to produce a solution of the salt. Salt solutions can be crystallised to produce solid salts.

**5.4.2.4 The pH scale and neutralisation** - Acids produce hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) in aqueous solutions. Aqueous solutions of alkalis contain hydroxide ions ( $OH^-$ ). The pH scale, from 0 to 14, is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, and can be measured using universal indicator or a pH probe. A solution with pH 7 is neutral. Aqueous solutions of acids have pH values of less than 7 and aqueous solutions of alkalis have pH values greater than 7. In neutralisation reactions between an acid and an alkali, hydrogen ions react with hydroxide ions to produce water. This reaction can be represented by the equation:  $H^+ + OH^- \rightarrow H_2O$

**4.4.2.5 Titrations (SEPS chemistry only)** - The volumes of acid and alkali solutions that react with each other can be measured by titration using a suitable indicator. • describe how to carry out titrations using strong acids and strong alkalis only (sulfuric, hydrochloric and nitric acids only) to find the reacting volumes accurately • (HT Only) calculate the chemical quantities in titrations involving concentrations in  $mol/dm^3$  and in  $g/dm^3$ .

### Disciplinary knowledge

Required practical activity 8: preparation of a pure, dry sample of a soluble salt from an insoluble oxide or carbonate, using a Bunsen burner to heat dilute acid and a water bath or electric heater to evaporate the solution. Required practical 2: (chemistry only) determination of the reacting volumes of solutions of a strong acid and a strong alkali by titration. (HT only) determination of the concentration of one of the solutions in  $mol/dm^3$  and  $g/dm^3$  from the reacting volumes and the known concentration of the other solution.

### Vocabulary

Metal oxide, oxidation, reduction, neutralisation, electrons, soluble salts, pH, reactivity series, displacement

### Reading is Power

The most flammable substance ever made

### Where next?

Energy changes

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### **CORE KNOWLEDGE**

**5.4.2.5 Strong and weak acids (HT only)** - A strong acid is completely ionised in aqueous solution. Examples of strong acids are hydrochloric, nitric and sulfuric acids. A weak acid is only partially ionised in aqueous solution. Examples of weak acids are ethanoic, citric and carbonic acids. For a given concentration of aqueous solutions, the stronger an acid, the lower the pH. As the pH decreases by one unit, the hydrogen ion concentration of the solution increases by a factor of 10.

**5.4.3.1 The process of electrolysis** - When an ionic compound is melted or dissolved in water, the ions are free to move about within the liquid or solution. These liquids and solutions are able to conduct electricity and are called electrolytes. Passing an electric current through electrolytes causes the ions to move to the electrodes. Positively charged ions move to the negative electrode (the cathode), and negatively charged ions move to the positive electrode (the anode). Ions are discharged at the electrodes producing elements. This process is called electrolysis. (HT only) **Throughout Section 4.4.3 Write half equations for the reactions occurring at the electrodes during electrolysis, and may be required to complete and balance supplied half equations.**

**5.4.3.2 Electrolysis of molten ionic compounds** - When a simple ionic compound (e.g. lead bromide) is electrolysed in the molten state using inert electrodes, the metal (lead) is produced at the cathode and the non-metal (bromine) is produced at the anode.

**5.4.3.3 Using electrolysis to extract metals** - Metals can be extracted from molten compounds using electrolysis. Electrolysis is used if the metal is too reactive to be extracted by reduction with carbon or if the metal reacts with carbon. Large amounts of energy are used in the extraction process to melt the compounds and to produce the electrical current. Aluminium is manufactured by the electrolysis of a molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite using carbon as the positive electrode (anode).

**5.4.3.4 Electrolysis of aqueous solutions** - 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 (cathode), hydrogen is produced if the metal is more reactive than hydrogen. At the positive electrode (anode), oxygen is produced unless the solution contains halide ions when the halogen is produced. This happens because in the aqueous solution water molecules break down producing hydrogen ions and hydroxide ions that are discharged.

**5.4.3.5 Representation of reactions at electrodes as half equations (HT only)** - During electrolysis, at the cathode (negative electrode), positively charged ions gain electrons and so the reactions are reductions. At the anode (positive electrode), negatively charged ions lose electrons and so the reactions are oxidations. Reactions at electrodes can be represented by half equations, for example:  $2\text{H}^+ + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2$  and  $4\text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + 4\text{e}^-$  or  $4\text{OH}^- - 4\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

### **Disciplinary knowledge**

Required practical activity 9: investigate what happens when aqueous solutions are electrolysed using inert electrodes. This should be an investigation involving developing a hypothesis WS 1.2

### **Vocabulary**

Ionised, carbonic acid, aqueous solution, electrolysis, molten ionic compounds, anode, cathode, half equation

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### **Where next?**

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