Knowledge Organiser

potassium	most reactive	K
sodium		Na
calcium		Ca
magnesium		Mg
aluminium		Al
carbon		C
zinc		Zn
iron		Fe
tin		Sn
lead		Pb
hydrogen		H
copper		Cu
silver		Ag
gold		Au
platinum	least reactive	Pt

The Process of Electrolysis

Electrolysis is the **splitting up** of an ionic substance using **electricity.**

On setting up an electrical circuit for electrolysis, two **electrodes** are required to be placed in the electrolyte. The electrodes are **conducting rods.** One of the rods is connected to the **positive** terminal and the other to the **negative** terminal.

The **electrodes** are **inert** (this means they do not react in the reaction) and are often made from **graphite** or platinum.

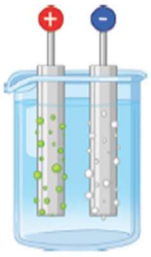
During the process of electrolysis, **opposites attract.** The positively charged ions will be attracted toward the negative electrode. The negatively charged ions will be attracted towards the positive electrode.

When ions reach the electrodes, the charges are lost and they become elements.

The **positive** electrode is called the **anode.**

The **negative** electrode is called the **cathode.**

Electrolysis of Aqueous Solutions



Gases may be given off or metals deposited at the electrodes. This is dependent on the reactivity of the elements involved.

If the metal is **more reactive** than **hydrogen** in the reactivity series, then **hydrogen** will be **produced** at the **negative cathode.** At the **positive anode,** negatively charged ions **lose** electrons. This is called **oxidation** and you say that the ions have been oxidised.

Using Electrolysis to Extract Metals

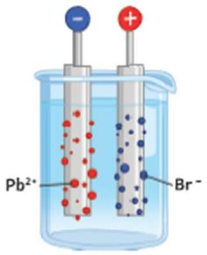
Metals are extracted by electrolysis if the metal in question reacts with carbon or if it is too reactive to be extracted by reduction with carbon. During the extraction process, large quantities of energy are used to melt the compounds.

Aluminium is manufactured by the process of electrolysis. Aluminium oxide has a high melting point and melting it would use large amounts of energy. This would increase the cost of the process, therefore molten **cryolite** is added to aluminium oxide to lower the melting point and thus reduce the cost.

Electrolysis of Molten Ionic Compounds – Lead Bromide

Lead bromide is an **ionic** substance. Ionic substances, when solid, are **not** able to conduct electricity. When molten or in solution, the ions are free to move and are able to carry a charge.

The **positive** lead ions are attracted toward the **negative cathode** at the same time as the **negative bromide** ions are attracted toward the **positive anode.**



Oxidation is the loss of electrons and reduction is the gaining of electrons. **OIL RIG** (Higher Tier Only).

We represent what is happening at the electrodes by using **half equations** (Higher Tier Only).

The lead ions are attracted towards the negative electrode. When the **lead ions** (Pb^{2+}) reach the cathode, each ion **gains two electrons** and becomes a neutral atom. We say that the lead ions have been **reduced.**

$Pb^{2+} + 2e^- \longrightarrow Pb$

The bromide ions are attracted towards the positive electrode. When the **bromide ions** (Br^-) reach the anode, each ion **loses one electron** to become a neutral atom. Two bromine atoms are then able to bond together to form the covalent molecule Br_2.

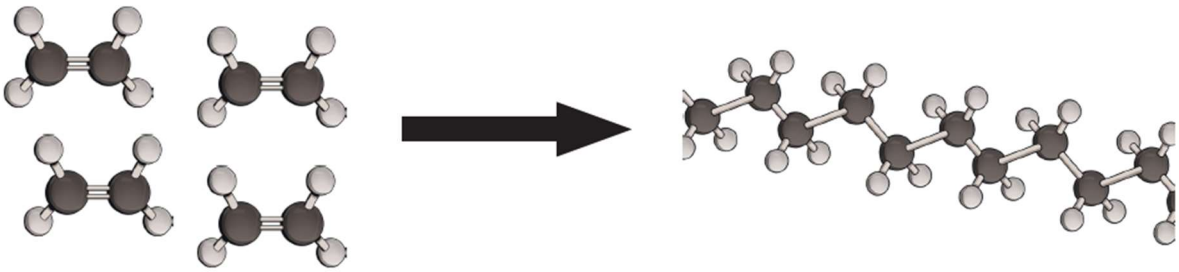
$2Br^- \longrightarrow Br_2 + 2e^-$

Ceramics

Ceramic materials are compounds. To produce ceramic products, the starting materials are moulded into the desired shape and then baked in an oven or kiln. This process causes the atoms to join together to form one large structure with strong forces between the atoms.

Polymers

Polymers are made by chemical reactions that join together many small molecules to make long molecules. These long molecules are therefore made of identical groups of atoms that are repeated many times.



Composites

Composite materials are made from a combination of two or more different types of material. Each material in the composite has different properties. When these are combined, they form a composite material that has properties of each of the materials it is made from.