

Chemical changes – Knowledge organiser

Topic 1 - Reactivity of metals	
4.4.1.1 Metal oxides	Metals react with oxygen to produce metal oxides. The reactions are oxidation reactions because the metals gain oxygen . OILRIG – oxidation is loss (of electrons) Reduction is gain (of electrons).
4.4.1.2 The reactivity series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When metals react with other substances the metal atoms form positive ions. The reactivity of a metal relates 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. Displacement: A more reactive metal can displace a less reactive metal from a compound. Potassium is the most reactive; it floats on water and fizzes (producing gas) when added to water. Sodium lithium, calcium, magnesium are comparatively less, while zinc and iron react slowly with cold water (it rusts) along with copper.
4.4.1.3 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 e.g. iron oxide + carbon → iron + carbon dioxide Reduction involves the loss of oxygen. Oxidation is the gain of oxygen
4.4.1.4 Oxidation and reduction in terms of electrons (HT only)	Oxidation is the loss of electrons and reduction is the gain of electrons (OILRIG). This can be shown as symbol equations : copper sulphate + iron → iron sulphate + copper $\text{CuSO}_4 + \text{Fe} \rightarrow \text{FeSO}_4 + \text{Cu}$ Oxidation and reduction can also be shown as half ionic equations where electrons are shown as e^- . $\text{Cu}^{2+} + \underline{2e^-} \rightarrow \text{Cu}$ (copper has gained electrons, so is reduced) $\text{Fe} - \underline{2e^-} \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$ Iron has lost electrons, so is oxidised.
Topic 2 - Reactions of acids	
4.4.2.1 Reactions of acids with metals	Acids react with some metals to produce salts and hydrogen. Metal + sulfuric acid → metal sulfate + hydrogen Metal + hydrochloric acid → metal chloride + hydrogen (HT only) The metal loses electrons, so is oxidised.
4.4.2.2 Neutralisation of acids and salt production	Acids are neutralised by alkalis (eg soluble metal hydroxides) and bases (eg 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the acid used (hydrochloric acid produces chlorides, nitric acid produces nitrates, sulfuric acid produces sulfates) the positive ions in the base, alkali or carbonate.

Using electrolysis to extract metals

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** (helps lower the melting point, to save energy) using carbon as the positive electrode (anode). Oxygen is formed at the positive electrode, and reacts with it to produce **carbon dioxide**. The electrode wears away and needs to be replaced.

4.4.3.4 Electrolysis of aqueous solutions

Putting it together

The table shows some common ionic compounds, and the elements released when their solutions are electrolysed.

ionic substance in solution	element at the negative electrode	element at the positive electrode
copper chloride, CuCl_2	copper	chlorine
copper sulfate, CuSO_4	copper	oxygen
sodium chloride, NaCl	hydrogen	chlorine
hydrochloric acid, HCl	hydrogen	chlorine
sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4	hydrogen	oxygen

The ions discharged (given out) when an aqueous solution is electrolysed using inert (unreactive) electrodes depend on the reactivity of the elements involved.

At the **negative electrode** (cathode), **hydrogen** is produced if the **metal is more reactive** than hydrogen. E.g. if the metal is sodium.

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.

Required practical 3

4.4.3.5 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:



and

