

Chemguide – questions

BASIC ELECTROLYSIS CALCULATIONS

1. Nickel(II) sulphate solution was electrolysed using a carbon anode and an iron key as the cathode. A nickel coating was formed on the key, and oxygen was given off at the anode.
 - a) Write the cathode equation.
 - b) What mass of nickel would be deposited on the iron key if a current of 0.30 amps flowed for 15 minutes? ($F = 96500 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$; $A_r \text{ Ni} = 58.7$)
 - c) Write the anode equation.
 - d) What volume of oxygen measured at room temperature and pressure would be produced in the same time? (Molar volume of a gas at rtp = $24 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$)
2.
 - a) Suppose you electrolysed dilute sulphuric acid using inert electrodes in a piece of apparatus that enabled you to collect the gases produced over water into measuring cylinders. How long would it take you to fill a 100 cm^3 measuring cylinder with hydrogen if you used a current of 2.0 amps, everything being done at room temperature?
($F = 96500 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$; molar volume of a gas at rtp = $24 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$)
 - b) What current would you have to use in order to fill the measuring cylinder in exactly 5 minutes?

What you need to do now is to practise the electrolysis calculations set by your examiners, checking your answers against their mark schemes.