

Board – CBSE

Class – 8

Topic – Chemical Effects of Electric Current

1. Fill in the blanks.

(a) Most liquids that conduct electricity are solutions of _____, _____ and _____.

(b) The passage of an electric current through a solution causes _____ effects.

(c) If you pass current through copper sulphate solution, copper gets deposited on the plate connected to the _____ terminal of the battery.

(d) The process of depositing a layer of any desired metal on another material using electricity is called _____.

Ans. (a) Most liquids that conduct electricity are solutions of acids, bases and salts.

(The solutions of acids, bases or salts are conducting in nature. They allow the current to pass through.)

(b) The passage of an electric current through a solution causes chemical effects.

(When an electric current passes through a solution, the solution decomposes into its positive and negative ions. This process of decomposition of the solution is a chemical effect.)

(c) If you pass current through copper sulphate solution, copper gets deposited on the plate connected to the battery's negative terminal.

(When an electric current passes through a copper sulphate solution, the solution decomposes into positively charged copper ions and negatively charged sulphate ions. These positively charged copper ions get attracted towards the plate connected to the battery's negative terminal.)

(d) The process of depositing the desired metal layer on another material using electricity is called electroplating.

2. When the free ends of a tester are dipped into a solution, the magnetic needle shows deflection. Can you explain the reason?

Ans. The deflection in the compass needle shows that current is flowing through the wounded wire and hence, through the circuit. The circuit is complete since the free ends of the tester are dipped in a solution. The solution is certainly a conducting solution. This is the reason why the compass needle shows a deflection.

3. Does pure water conduct electricity? If not, what can we do to make it conducting?

Ans. No. Pure water does not conduct electricity. This is because pure water is devoid of any salts. However, pure water can conduct electricity when a pinch of common salt is added to it, as the salt solution is conducting in nature.

4. In case of a fire, before the firemen use the water hoses, they shut off the main electrical supply for the area. Explain why they do this.

Ans. Water may conduct electricity. Suppose the electrical supply for the area is not shut off, and water is poured over electrical appliances. In that case, electricity may pass through water and harm the firemen. That is why, in case of a fire, the firemen shut off the main electrical supply for the area before they use the water hoses.

5. Name three liquids, which, when tested in the manner shown in Fig. 14.9, may cause the magnetic needle to deflect.

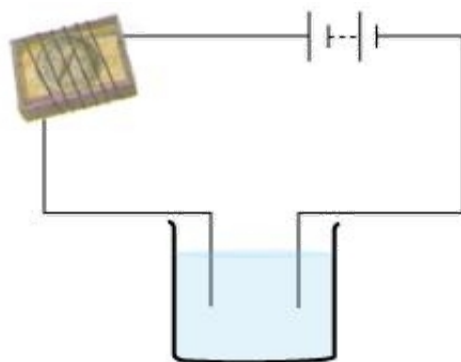


Fig. 14.9

Ans. Liquids like lemon juice, saltwater and mercury allow electricity to pass through them. Hence, these liquids can be used as in the beaker to show the given effect.

6. The bulb does not glow in the setup shown in Fig. 14.10. List the possible reasons. Explain your answer.

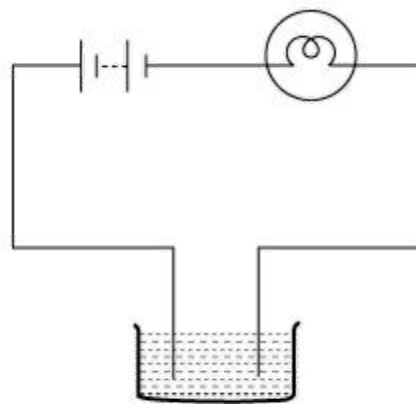


Fig. 14.10

Ans. The bulb may not glow because of the following reasons.

(i) Liquid in the beaker is non-conducting. In such a case, the electric current would not be able to pass through the liquid. Hence, the circuit is not complete.

(ii) Electric current in the circuit is very weak. This can happen if the material used for making the circuit is not a good conductor of electricity or the battery does not have sufficient energy to generate electricity.

7. A child staying in a coastal region tests the drinking water and the seawater with his tester. He finds that the compass needle deflects more in the case of seawater. Can you explain the reason?

Ans. Seawater contains more dissolved salts than drinking water. Hence, it is more conducting than drinking water. Because of this reason, the compass needle deflects more in seawater than in the drinking water.

8. Is it safe for the electrician to carry out electrical repairs outdoors during heavy downpours? Explain.

Ans. No. It is not safe to repair electrical appliances outdoors during a heavy downpour. This is because rainwater contains dissolved salts. Therefore, rainwater can conduct electricity. The electrician may get electrical shocks while working outdoors during rain.

9. A tester is used to check the conduction of electricity through two liquids, labelled A and B. It is found that the bulb of the tester glows brightly for liquid A while it glows very dimly for liquid B. You would conclude that

- (i) Liquid A is a better conductor than liquid B.
- (ii) Liquid B is a better conductor than liquid A.
- (iii) Both liquids are equally conducting.
- (iv) Conducting properties of liquid cannot be compared in this manner.

Ans. (i) Liquid A is a better conductor than liquid B.

The amount of current flowing through a conducting solution depends on the conductivity of the solution. With more conductivity, more current passes through the solution and vice-versa. Hence, the conductivity of liquid A is more than the conductivity of liquid B.

10. Paheli had heard that rainwater is as good as distilled water. So, she collected some rainwater in a clean glass tumbler and tested it using a tester. To her surprise, she found that the compass needle showed deflection. What could be the reasons?

Ans. Rainwater contains dissolved salts. This makes it a conducting solution. However, there are no dissolved salts present in the distilled water. Hence, rainwater can allow electricity to pass through it while distilled water cannot.

11. Prepare a list of objects around you that are electroplated.

Ans. Examples of electroplated objects are as follows.

- (i) Chromium plating is done on different parts of cars, buses and motorcycles to give them a shiny appearance.
- (ii) A fine layer of gold is deposited on the silver ornaments, and they are called gold-plated ornaments.
- (iii) Iron used in constructing a building is coated with a layer of zinc. This protects iron from corrosion and rusting.

12. The process that you saw in Activity 14.7 is used for the purification of copper. A thin plate of pure copper and a thick rod of impure copper are used as electrodes. Copper from the impure rod is

sought to be transferred to the thin copper plate. Which electrode should be attached to the positive terminal of the battery and why?

Ans. Copper ion is positively charged. Therefore, it is attracted towards the plate, which is connected to the battery's negative terminal. As copper ions are transferred to the thin copper plate, this thin pure copper plate must be connected to the battery's negative terminal. Consequently, an impure copper rod is connected to the positive terminal of the battery.