

1 – Acids and Bases	
Acid	A substance that dissolves in water and forms H⁺ ions . Solutions have a pH lower than 7.
Alkali	A substance that dissolves in water and forms OH⁻ ions . Solutions have a pH higher than 7.
Base	A substance that can neutralise an acid . If the base is soluble , it is also known as an alkali .
Neutralisation	acid + base -> salt + water H⁺ + OH⁻ -> H₂O
Strong acids (HT)	Completely ionise in water to release H⁺ ions . E.g. sulphuric, hydrochloric and nitric acids .
Weak acids (HT)	Partially ionise in water to release H⁺ ions . E.g. ethanoic, citric and carbonic acids .
pH in terms of H⁺ (HT)	pH is a measure of H⁺ ion concentration in solution . Stronger acid = higher H⁺ ion concentration = lower pH .
	As the pH decreases by one unit , the H⁺ ion concentration of the solution increases by a factor of 10 .
2 – Reactions of Acids with 3 Types of Bases	
Metal oxide	acid + metal oxide -> salt + water
Metal hydroxide	acid + metal hydroxide -> salt + water
Metal carbonate	acid + metal carbonate -> salt + water + carbon dioxide
Naming salts	1 st word from metal , 2 nd word from acid : nitric -> nitrate , hydrochloric -> chloride , sulphuric -> sulphate .
3 – Making Soluble Salts (e.g. copper sulphate) using Insoluble Bases	
Reaction	Gently warm sulphuric acid. Add insoluble copper oxide until no more reacts . Filter out the excess copper oxide to leave copper sulphate solution .
Crystallisation	Gently heat solution using a water bath to increase concentration. When crystals start to form, leave to

	cool. Filter out crystals. Leave crystals in a warm place to dry .
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4 – Metal Reactions		Reactivity Series
Reactivity series	Metals react by losing electrons and forming positive ions . More reactive metals lose electrons more easily .	Potassium K Sodium Na Lithium Li Calcium Ca Magnesium Mg <i>Carbon</i> C Zinc Zn Iron Fe <i>Hydrogen</i> H Copper Cu
Metal and acids	metal + acid -> salt + hydrogen (MASH) Only metals more reactive than hydrogen react.	
Metal and water	metal + water -> metal hydroxide + hydrogen Potassium, sodium, lithium and calcium react quickly with cold water .	
Oxidation	Substance gains oxygen (or substance loses electrons - OIL).	
Reduction	Substance loses oxygen (or substance gains electrons - RIG).	
Extraction from ores	Less reactive than carbon -> extract by reduction with carbon .	
	More reactive than carbon -> extract using electrolysis .	
Displacement reaction	A more reactive metal displaces a less reactive metal from its compound.	
5 – Electrolysis		
Electrolysis	Passing an electrical current through an electrolyte (a molten or dissolved ionic compound) to split it up.	
Positive ions (cations)	Move towards cathode (negative electrode) -> gain electrons -> they are reduced .	
Negative ions (anions)	Move towards anode (positive electrode) -> lose electrons -> they are oxidised .	
Molten ionic solids	At the cathode -> positive metal ions reduced . At the anode -> negative non-metal ions oxidised .	
Aqueous solutions (H⁺ and OH⁻ present)	At the cathode -> hydrogen gas or pure metal produced (whichever is least reactive). At the anode -> halogen molecules (Cl ₂ , Br ₂ , I ₂) produced if halide ions present. If not , oxygen gas is formed.	

GCSE Science

Chemistry C4 – Chemical Changes

