Electrochemical Cell

Reduction at the cathode:

Student 2: High Merit

 $H_2O_2 + 2H^+ + 2e \rightarrow 2H_2O$

The solution remains colourless as H₂O₂ and H₂O are both colourless.

This is a reduction reaction as the oxidation number of O decreases from -1 in H_2O_2 to -2 in H_2O . A decrease in oxidation number corresponds to reduction.

Each H₂O₂ gains two electrons. Gaining of electrons corresponds to reduction.

Oxidation at the anode:

Fe²⁺ → Fe³⁺ + e

The solution turns from pale green Fe²⁺ to orange Fe³⁺.

This is an oxidation reaction as the oxidation number of Fe increases from +2 in Fe²⁺ to +3 in Fe³⁺. An increase in oxidation number corresponds to oxidation.

Each Fe²⁺ loses 1 electron, losing electrons corresponds to oxidation.

Ε°

An electrochemical cell is an apparatus that uses a spontaneous oxidation-reduction reaction to produce an electric current. It consists of two half cells connected by a conducting wire and a salt bridge. The reaction is spontaneous creating electrical energy.

For this reaction:

 E° cell = E° red - E° ox = +1.77 V- 0.77 V = +1.00 V

As E°cell is positive, the reaction is spontaneous.

The most positive E° value will be the reduction reaction as these are reduction potentials

Overall equation:

 $2Fe^{2+}(aq) + H_2O_2(aq) + H^+(aq) \rightarrow 2H_2O(I) + 2Fe^{3+}(aq)$

Electolytic cell

From observations: The electrolysis of molten copper oxide produces bubbles of a colourless gas at one electrode and an orange solid is deposited at the other electrode.

Colourless gas is oxygen at the positive anode. Orange solid is copper and it is deposited at the negative cathode.

Reduction at the cathode (negative electrode)

 $Cu^{2+} + 2e \rightarrow Cu$

The oxidation number of Cu decreases from +2 in Cu²⁺ to 0 in Cu Each Cu²⁺ gains 2 electrons.

Oxidation at the anode (positive electrode)

 $0 20^{2-} \rightarrow 0_2 + 4e$

The bubbles of colourless gas are oxygen.

The oxidation number of O increases from -2 in O^{2-} to 0 in O_{2-}

Each O²⁻ loses 2 electrons.

Overall equation

 $2Cu^{2+}(I) + 2O^{2-}(I) \rightarrow 2Cu(s) + O_2(g)$

Energy requirements

The battery provides push for electrons to move in the reverse direction to their natural tendency. The non-spontaneous reaction is forced to occur and electrical energy is consumed in order to produce a chemical reaction.