Student 5: Low Achieved

NZ@A Intended for teacher use only

#### **Electrochemical Cell**

### Reduction at the cathode:

 $H_2O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O$ 

The reaction remains colourless.

This is a reduction reaction as the oxidation number of O changes from -1 in  $H_2O_2$  to -2 in  $H_2O$ 

## Oxidation at the anode:

 $Fe^{2+} \rightarrow Fe^{3+} + e$ 

This is an oxidation reaction as the oxidation number of Fe increases from +2 in Fe<sup>2+</sup> to +3 in Fe<sup>3+</sup>. An increase in oxidation number corresponds to oxidation.

Each Fe<sup>2+</sup> loses 1 electron, losing electrons corresponds to oxidation.

E°

E<sup>0</sup> for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is the most positive so it will be reduced. This reaction creates electrical energy.

# **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)

 $Cu^{2+} \rightarrow Cu$ 

The oxidation number of Cu goes from +2 in Cu<sup>2+</sup> to 0 in Cu

Each Cu<sup>2+</sup> gains 2 electrons.

## Oxidation at the anode (positive electrode)

 $O^{2-} \rightarrow O_2 + 4e$ 

The bubbles of colourless gas are oxygen.

Each O<sup>2-</sup> loses 2 electrons.

This process requires external electrical energy.