# 10.2 Current and circuits (full B.5)

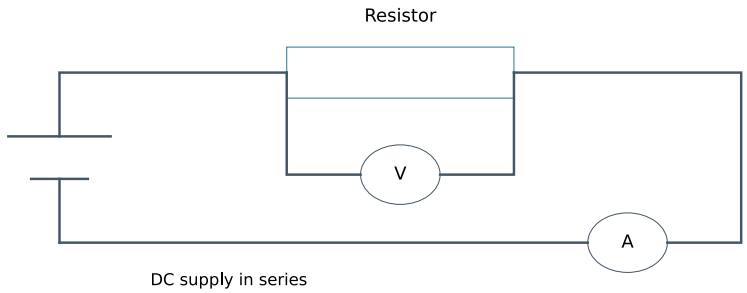
Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 28 marks**

**KEY WORDS** electromotive force (emf) • internal resistance • resistivity • Ohm's law • thermistor

## Objective

Practise the full guide B.5 toolkit: current as charge flow $I = \Delta q/\Delta t$, potential difference $V = W/q$, resistance and resistivity $\rho = RA/L$, Ohm's law and non-ohmic behaviour, the three power forms, series and parallel combinations, and cells with internal resistance $\varepsilon = I(R + r)$. Original practice; not an official IB paper.

## 1 Key knowledge and worked examples




Ammeter in series; voltmeter across resistor

■ **The B.5 equation set**

$$I = \frac{\Delta q}{\Delta t} \qquad V = \frac{W}{q} \qquad R = \frac{V}{I} \qquad \rho = \frac{RA}{L}$$

$$P = IV = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R} \qquad \varepsilon = I(R + r)$$

Series: one current, pds add, $R_s = R_1 + R_2$. Parallel: one pd, currents add, $1/R_p = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2$. Terminal pd $V = \varepsilon - Ir$.

■ **Worked example: a real cell under load**

A cell of emf 6.0 V and internal resistance 0.50 Ω drives a 5.5 Ω resistor. Current $I = 6.0/(5.5 + 0.50) = 1.0$ A; terminal pd $= 6.0 - 1.0 \times 0.50 = 5.5$ V; power wasted inside the cell $= I^2r = 0.50$ W. Two habits: include $r$ in the loop resistance before any other step, and check the terminal pd against $IR$ as you go.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** State Ohm's law, and state the condition a metal conductor must meet for it to hold. [2]

**2.2** Calculate the charge that passes a point when a current of 0.50 A flows for 2.0 minutes. [2]

**2.3** A nichrome wire ($\rho = 1.1 \times 10^{-6}$ Ω m) has length 2.0 m and cross-sectional area 0.10 mm$^2$. Calculate its resistance. [3]

**2.4** State how the resistance of a thermistor changes as temperature rises, and name one other component whose resistance changes with its environment. [2]

**2.5** A 4.0 Ω resistor and a 12 Ω resistor are connected in parallel. Calculate the combined resistance. [2]

## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** A cell of emf 6.0 V and internal resistance 0.50 Ω is connected to a 5.5 Ω resistor. Calculate the current, the terminal potential difference, and the power dissipated inside the cell. [4]

**3.2** A lamp is rated 12 V, 36 W. Calculate the current it draws at normal operation and its resistance then, and verify the power with a second power formula. [4]

**3.3** Compare solar cells with chemical cells as energy sources for a circuit: give two advantages and two disadvantages of solar cells. [4]

**3.4** A 12 V battery of negligible internal resistance is connected to a 2.0 Ω resistor in series with a parallel pair of 6.0 Ω and 3.0 Ω. Calculate the total resistance, the battery current, and the potential difference across the parallel pair. [5]