

4.2 Electrical quantities

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 45 marks

KEY WORDS resistance 电阻 • current 电流 • potential difference 电势差 • conductor 导体
 • kilowatt-hour 千瓦时 • current 电流 • resistance 电阻 • volt 伏特 • electrical power 电功率
 • electrical quantities 电学量

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **electrical quantities** 电学量: charge, current, e.m.f. and p.d., resistance, and electrical power and energy.

You must be able to:

- describe **charging by friction** 摩擦起电 and test whether an object is charged
- tell conductors from insulators, and explain the difference using electrons
- use $I = \frac{Q}{t}$, and choose the right range on an ammeter or a voltmeter
- define e.m.f. and p.d. and use $E = \frac{W}{Q}$ and $V = \frac{W}{Q}$
- measure resistance, use $R = \frac{V}{I}$, and say how length and thickness change it
- read current–voltage graphs for a resistor, a filament lamp and a diode
- use $P = IV$ and $E = IVt$, and work out a cost in kilowatt-hours

1 Worked examples

■ Charges, conductors and current

Rub a plastic rod with a cloth: **electrons** 电子 move from the cloth onto the rod. The rod is now negative and the cloth is positive. Only electrons move; the positive charge stays where it is. Like charges **repel** 排斥 and unlike charges **attract** 吸引. To test whether a rod is charged, hang it on a thread and bring another charged rod near it: **repulsion** 排斥力 is the only sure sign, because attraction also happens with an uncharged object.

A **conductor** 导体 (a metal) has free electrons that can move, so charge flows through it. An **insulator** 绝缘体 (plastic, rubber, glass) has no free electrons. To test a material, put it in a circuit with a cell and a lamp: the lamp lights only for a conductor.

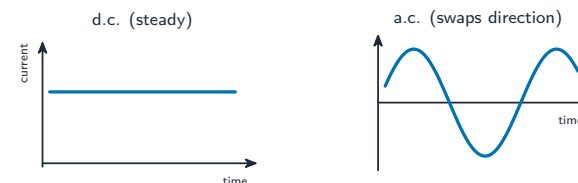
Current 电流 is the charge passing a point each second, measured in amperes (A):

$$I = \frac{Q}{t}$$

Worked example 1. A current of 3.0 A flows in a lamp for 20 s. Find the charge that passes.

- Write down what you know: $I = 3.0$ A and $t = 20$ s.
- Rearrange $I = Q/t$ to give $Q = It$.
- Substitute: $Q = 3.0 \times 20 = 60$ C.

Conventional current 常规电流 flows from + to – round the circuit; the electrons drift the other way. A **direct current** 直流电 (d.c.) always flows one way; an **alternating current** 交流电 (a.c.) keeps reversing.



d.c. flows one way; a.c. keeps reversing

■ Meters and their ranges

An **ammeter** 电流表 goes in series; a **voltmeter** 电压表 goes in parallel, across the component. Both may be **analogue** 模拟 (a needle on a scale) or **digital** 数字 (a number on a screen). Choose the **range** 量程 just above the biggest reading you expect: for a current of about 0.4 A use the 0–1 A range, not the 0–10 A range, because the needle moves further and the reading is more accurate.

■ E.m.f. and p.d.

The **e.m.f.** 电动势 of a cell is the work it does driving one coulomb of charge round the whole circuit. The **p.d.** 电势差 across a component is the work done by one coulomb passing through that component. Both are measured in volts (V):

$$E = \frac{W}{Q} \quad V = \frac{W}{Q}$$

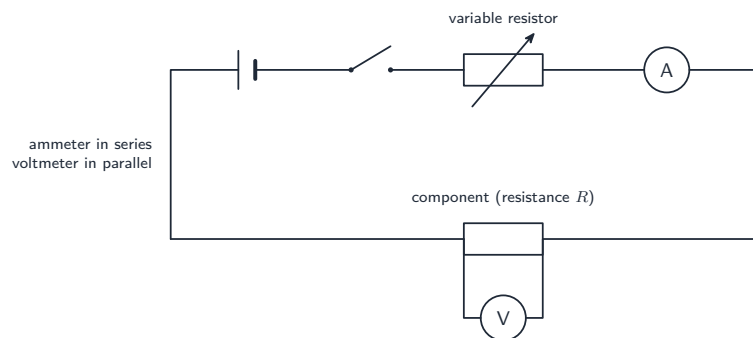
Worked example 2. A battery does 180 J of work moving 30 C of charge round a circuit. Find its e.m.f.

$$E = \frac{W}{Q} = \frac{180}{30} = 6.0 \text{ V.}$$

■ Measuring resistance

Resistance 电阻 measures how hard it is for current to flow:

$$R = \frac{V}{I}$$

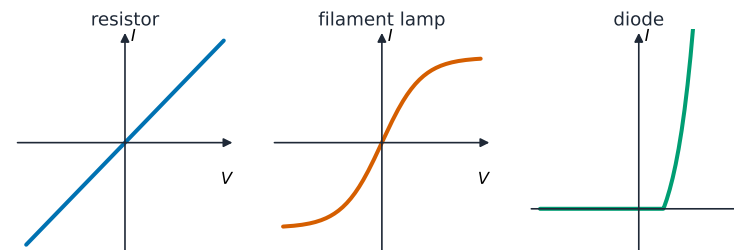


The circuit for measuring resistance: the ammeter is in series, the voltmeter is across the component, and the variable resistor changes the current

Worked example 3. In this circuit the voltmeter reads 4.8 V and the ammeter reads 0.20 A. Find the resistance of the component.

$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{4.8}{0.20} = 24 \, \Omega$. In the experiment, change the variable resistor to get four or five pairs of readings. Then either find R for each pair and take the average, or plot V against I : the gradient of the straight line is R .

For a wire at constant temperature, a longer wire has more resistance ($R \propto l$) and a thicker wire has less ($R \propto 1/A$). Doubling the length doubles R ; doubling the cross-sectional area halves it.



resistor (ohmic): $V = IR$ straight · filament: resistance rises with heat · diode: one-way

A resistor gives a straight line through the origin (constant R); a filament lamp curves as it heats up and its resistance rises; a diode conducts one way only

■ Power, energy and the kilowatt-hour

$$P = IV \quad E = IVt$$

Worked example 4. A 230 V kettle takes a current of 8.0 A for 3.0 minutes. Find its power and the energy it transfers.

- Power: $P = IV = 8.0 \times 230 = 1840 \, \text{W}$.
- Time in seconds: $t = 3.0 \times 60 = 180 \, \text{s}$.
- Energy: $E = Pt = 1840 \times 180 = 331\,000 \, \text{J} \approx 3.3 \times 10^5 \, \text{J}$.

Electricity bills use the **kilowatt-hour** 千瓦时 (kWh), the energy a 1 kW appliance uses in 1 hour:

$$E \, (\text{kWh}) = P \, (\text{kW}) \times t \, (\text{h}) \quad \text{cost} = E \, (\text{kWh}) \times \text{price per kWh}$$

Worked example 5. A 2.0 kW heater runs for 2.5 hours. Electricity costs 0.60 yuan per kWh. Find the cost.

$E = 2.0 \times 2.5 = 5.0 \, \text{kWh}$, so the cost is $5.0 \times 0.60 = 3.0$ yuan.

2 Practice

2.1 A current of 2.0 A flows for 15 s. Find the charge that passes.

[2]

2.2 A charge of 240 C passes through a motor in 4.0 minutes. Find the current. (Hint: change the time into seconds first.) [3]

2.3 A student wants to measure a current of about 0.25 A. Her ammeter has ranges of 0–100 mA, 0–1 A and 0–10 A. State which range she should use and explain why. [2]

2.4 A cell does 27 J of work moving 18 C of charge round a circuit. Find its e.m.f. [2]

2.5 A p.d. of 12 V across a heater drives a current of 0.50 A through it. Find its resistance. [2]

2.6 Wire P has a resistance of $6.0\ \Omega$. Wire Q is made of the same metal and is the same thickness as P, but twice as long. Wire S is the same length as P but has twice the cross-sectional area. State the resistance of Q and of S. [2]

2.7 A 12 V motor draws a current of 2.5 A. Find its power, and the energy it transfers in 40 s. [3]

2.8 An electric oven is rated 3.0 kW. It is used for 1.5 hours each day for 10 days. Electricity costs 0.55 yuan per kWh. Find the cost. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Two wires, X and Y, are made of the same metal at the same temperature. Y is twice as long as X and has half the cross-sectional area of X. The resistance of X is R . What is the resistance of Y? [1]

A	B
C	D

A $R/4$

B R

C $2R$

D $4R$

3.2 A charged rod is brought near a small ball hanging on a thread. The ball moves towards the rod. Which statement is correct? [1]

A	B
C	D

A The ball must have the opposite charge to the rod.

B The ball must be a conductor.

C The ball may be uncharged.

D The ball must have the same charge as the rod.

3.3 A phone charger is connected to the 230 V mains. It supplies a current of 2.0 A at a p.d. of 5.0 V to the phone for 30 minutes.

- (a) Define the potential difference across the phone. [1]

- (b) Calculate the charge that flows into the phone in the 30 minutes. [3]

- (c) Calculate the energy transferred to the phone in this time. [2]

- (d) The case of the charger is made of plastic. Explain, in terms of electrons, why the plastic case does not conduct. [2]

3.4 A student is given a length of resistance wire, a cell, a switch, an ammeter, a voltmeter and a variable resistor.

- (a) Draw a labelled circuit diagram she could use to find the resistance of the wire. [3]

- (b) Describe how she uses the circuit to obtain a reliable value for the resistance. [3]

- (c) Her readings are $V = 3.0$ V and $I = 0.60$ A. Calculate the resistance of the wire. [2]

- (d) She replaces the wire with a filament lamp and increases the current. State and explain how the resistance of the lamp changes. [2]

3.5 A 1.5 kW electric kettle and a 100 W lamp are each switched on for 20 minutes.

(a) Calculate the energy, in kWh, used by the kettle. [2]

(b) Calculate how many times longer the lamp would have to be on to use the same energy as the kettle. [2]

(c) The kettle is connected to the 230 V mains. Calculate the current in the kettle. [2]