CBSE Class 10 Science

Sample Paper 01 (2020-21)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allowed: 3 hours

General Instructions:

i. The question paper comprises four sections A, B, C and D. There are 36 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
ii. Section–A - question no. 1 to 20 - all questions and parts thereof are of one mark each. These questions contain multiple-choice questions (MCQs), very short answer questions and assertion - reason type questions. Answers to these should be given in one word or one sentence.
iii. Section–B - question no. 21 to 26 are short answer type questions, carrying 2 marks each. Answers to these questions should in the range of 30 to 50 words.
iv. Section–C - question no. 27 to 33 are short answer type questions, carrying 3 marks each. Answers to these questions should in the range of 50 to 80 words.
v. Section–D - question no. 34 to 36 are long answer type questions carrying 5 marks each. Answers to these questions should be in the range of 80 to 120 words.
vi. There is no overall choice. However, internal choices have been provided in some questions. A student has to attempt only one of the alternatives in such questions.
vii. Wherever necessary, neat and properly labeled diagrams should be drawn.

Section A

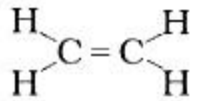
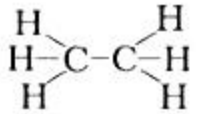
1. Translate the following statements into chemical equations and then balance them: Potassium metal reacts with water to give potassium hydroxide and hydrogen gas.

OR

Methane burns in oxygen to form carbon dioxide and water. Write a balanced equation for the reaction.

2. Identify the reducing agent in the reaction:

$4NH_3 + 5O_2 \longrightarrow 4NO + 6H_2O$

3. Structural formula of ethyne is
   a. $H - C \equiv C - H$
   b. 
   c. $H_3 - C \equiv C - H$
   d. 
4. Define the refractive index of a transparent medium. What is its unit? Which has a higher refractive index glass or water?
5. Which phenomenon is responsible for increasing the apparent length of the day by 4 min?
6. Give one use of bleaching powder.

OR

What are acids ?

7. How many joule are there in 1 kWh?
8. Identify the poles of a magnet in the figure.

9. A current of 1A is drawn by a filament of an electric bulb. What would be the number of electrons passing through a cross-section of the filament in 16s?

OR

When two ends of a metallic wire are connected across the terminals of a cell, then some potential difference is set up between its ends. In which direction electrons are flowing through the conductors?

10. The process by which carbohydrates are synthesized by plants from carbon dioxide and water with help of chlorophyll and light.
11. Name the components which you will observe when you focus the stomata slide under high power objective of a microscope.

OR

Write one function of valves in the walls of veins.

12. What are two main components of ecosystem?

OR

What are the various steps of food chains through which the transfer of food energy takes place is called?

13. Chemosynthetic mode of nutrition is different from the photosynthetic mode in which way?
14. **Assertion:** Photosynthesis is considered as an endothermic reaction.
    Reason: Energy gets released in the process of photosynthesis.
    a. Both assertion and reason are CORRECT and reason is the CORRECT explanation of the assertion.
    b. Both assertion and reason are CORRECT but, reason is NOT THE CORRECT explanation of the assertion.
    c. Assertion is CORRECT but, reason is INCORRECT.
    d. Assertion is INCORRECT but, reason is CORRECT.
15. **Assertion (A):** Man is an omnivore.
    Reason (R): Man eats food products obtained from both plants and animals.
    a. Both A and R are true and R is correct explanation of the assertion.
    b. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of of the assertion
    c. A is true but R is false.
    d. A is false but R is true.

OR

Assertion (A): Bile is essential for the digestion of lipids.
Reason (R) : Bile juice contains enzymes.
    a. Both A and R are true and R is correct explanation of the assertion.
    b. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of the assertion
    c. A is true but R is false.
    d. A is false but R is true.
16. **Assertion (A):** Variations are seen in offspring produced by asexual reproduction.

Reason (R): DNA molecules generated by replication is not exactly identical to original DNA.

a. Both A and R are true and R is correct explanation of the assertion.
b. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
c. A is false but R is true.
d. A is true but R is false.

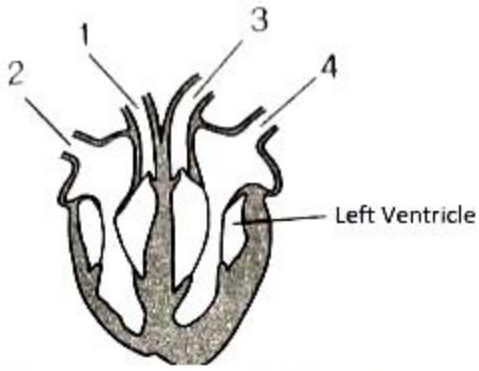
17. **Read the following and answer any four questions:**

Sanjay studied about blood circulation in humans. He wanted to observe the flow of blood and was about to cut his finger a bit. He suddenly realized that this could be fatal.

i. What is the correct route for blood flow in a human?

1. left auricle → left ventricle → lungs → right ventricle → right auricle
2. left auricle → left ventricle → right ventricle → right auricle → lungs
3. right auricle → right ventricle → left ventricle → left auricle → lungs
4. right auricle → right ventricle → lungs → left auricle → left ventricle

ii. The diagram shows the vertical section through the heart:



What are the functions of the numbered blood vessels?

	carries blood to body	carries blood to lungs	carries blood from lungs	carries blood from body
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	1	3	4	2
(c)	2	4	3	1
(d)	3	1	4	2

iii. The table shows the characteristics of blood in one blood vessel of the body.

oxygen concentration	carbon dioxide concentration	pressure

high	low	high

Which blood vessel contains blood with these characteristics?

a. Aorta
b. Pulmonary artery
c. Pulmonary vein
d. Vena cava

iv. The colour of blood is red due to the presence of

a. Hemocyanin
b. Haemoglobin
c. Chlorophyll
d. Xanthophyll

v. Which of the following chambers of the human heart contain oxygenated blood?

a. Left auricle and left ventricle
b. Left auricle and right ventricle
c. Right auricle and left ventricle
d. Right auricle and right ventricle

18. **Read the following and answer any four questions:**

Salt of a strong acid and strong base is neutral with a pH value of 7. NaCl common salt is formed by a combination of hydrochloride and sodium hydroxide solution. This is the salt that is used in food. Some salt is called rock salts bed of rack salt were formed when seas of bygone ages dried up. The common salt thus obtained is an important raw material for various materials of daily use, such as sodium hydroxide, baking soda, washing soda, bleaching powder.

i. Which of the following does not form an acidic salt?

a. Phosphoric acid
b. Carbonic acid
c. Hydrochloric acid
d. Sulphuric acid

ii. Which of the following salts has no water of crystallization?

a. Blue vitriol
b. Washing soda
c. Baking soda
d. Gypsum

iii. The formula of baking soda is

a. K_2CO

b. $KHCO_3$

c. $NaHCO_3$

d. Na_2CO_3

iv. Which of the following is treated with chlorine to obtain bleaching powder

a. $CaSO_4$

b. $Ca(OH)_2$

c. $Mg(OH)_2$

d. KOH

v. Which of the following salt is used for removing the permanent hardness of water

a. Washing soda

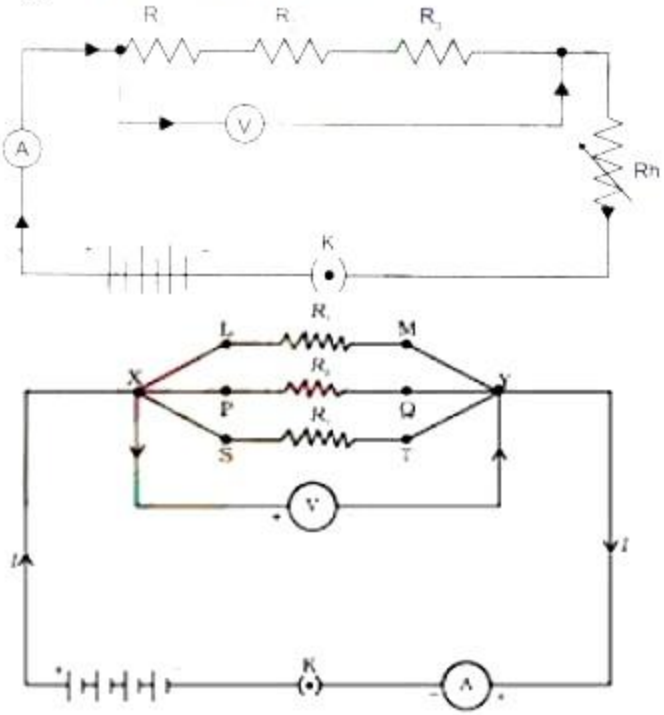
b. Baking soda

c. Bleaching powder

d. NaOH

19. **Read the following and answer any four questions:**

In resistance for a system of the resistor, there are two methods of joining the resistors together as shown below



It showed an electric current in which 3 resistors having resistor R_1, R_2 and R_3

respectively are join end to end i.e series. While the combination of the resistor in which 3 resistors connected together which point X and Y are said to be parallel.

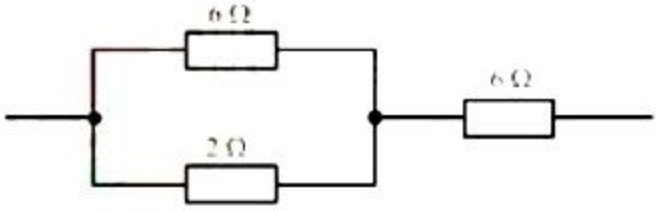
i. The total potential difference across a combination of a resistor in series is equal to
   a. $V_1 + V_2 + V_3$
   b. $V_1 - V_2 + V_2$
   c. $V_1 + V_2$
   d. None of these

ii. In a series combination of resistor, the current is
   a. same at every point of the circuit
   b. different at every point of the circuit
   c. zero
   d. can not be determined

iii. The electrical energy disputed in the resistor is given by
   a. W = VIT
   b. W = VIR
   c. W = RIT
   d. W = RT

iv. If 5 resistor, each of value 0.2 ohm are connected in series what will be the resultant resistance
   a. 1 ohm
   b. 10 ohm
   c. 6 ohm
   d. 8 ohm

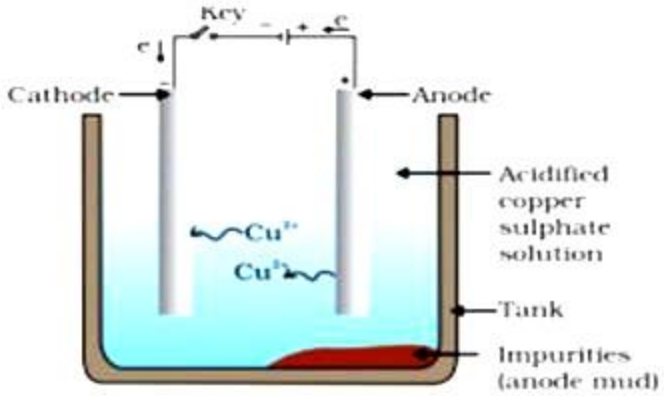
v. The figure given below shows three resistors.



Their combined resistance is:
   a. $16\ \Omega$
   b. $14\ \Omega$
   c. $\frac{20}{3}\Omega$
   d. $\frac{15}{2}\Omega$

20. **Read the following and answer any four questions:**

In the electrolytic refining of copper. The electrolyte is a solution of acidified copper sulphate. There are an anode and cathode. Refining is carried out by passing an electric current.



i. The anode is _____.
   a. pure strips
   b. impure copper
   c. refined copper
   d. none of these

ii. Anode mud consists of:
   a. insoluble impurities
   b. soluble impurities
   c. pure metal
   d. impure metal

iii. Which of the following are refined electrolytically: (A) Au, (B) Cu, (C) Zn, (D) K
   a. A and B
   b. B and C
   c. A, B and C
   d. B, C and D

iv. On passing, electric current Cu is deposited on:
   a. cathode
   b. anode
   c. bottom of cathode
   d. bottom of anode

v. Which one of the following four metal would be displaced from the solution of its salt by the other three metal?

a. Zn
b. Mg
c. Cu
d. Ag

Section B

21. What will happen if there is sudden shortage of water in the body?

OR

What is the difference between arteries & veins?

22. State the two vital functions of kidney.
23. What would be the electron dot structure of a molecule of sulphur which is made up of eight atoms of sulphur?
24. With the help of a chemical equation, explain how a soda-acid fire extinguisher helps in putting out a fire.
25. A ray passing through the centre of curvature of a spherical mirror after reflection, returns along the same path. Why?
26. What is an electric fuse? What is its role in electric circuits? Should it be placed on neutral wire or on live wire? Justify your answer.
27. Study the following cross that shows the self-pollination in F_1, fill in the blank the genotype and phenotype in the F1 generation. What type of cross it is?

Parents	RRYY	x	rryy
	Round, yellow		wrinkled, green
F_1 —	Rr Yy	x	?
	Round, yellow		

OR

Distinguish between acquired and inherited characters with an example of each.

28. Give an account of factors affecting the rate of decomposition.
29. What are differences between aerobic and anaerobic respiration? Name some organisms that use anaerobic mode of respiration.
30. A silver article generally turns black when kept in the open for a few days. The article

when rubbed with toothpaste again starts shinning. Why do silver articles turn black when kept in the open for a few days? Name the phenomenon involved.

31. What are the uses of Modern Periodic Table?
32. The following table shows the positions of four elements A, B, C and D in the periodic table.

Group → / Period ↓	1	2	3 to 12	13	14	15	16	17
2	A					B		
3		C			D			

Using the above table answer the following questions.

i. Which element will form only covalent compounds?
ii. Which element is a metal with valency 2?
iii. Out of C and D which one has bigger atomic radius and why?

33. What is dispersion? What happens when light is passed through a glass prism?
34. A thin converging lens form a real magnified image and virtual magnified image of an object in front of it.
    i. Write the positions of the objects in each case.
    ii. Draw ray diagrams to show the image formation in each case.
    iii. How will the following be affected on cutting this lens into two halves along the principal axis?
        a. Focal length
        b. Intensity of the image formed by half lens.

OR

A 2.0 cm tall object is placed perpendicular to the principal axis of a convex lens of focal length 10 cm. The distance of the object from the lens is 15 cm. Find the nature, position, and size of the image. Also, find its magnification.

35. Reproduction is essentially a phenomenon that is not for survival of an individual but for the stability of a species. Justify.
36. What is the pattern of magnetic field pattern due to current carrying conductor.

OR

a. Draw magnetic field lines produced around a current-carrying straight conductor passing through cardboard. Name, state and apply the rule to mark the direction of these field lines.
b. How will the strength of the magnetic field change when the point where the magnetic field is to be determined is moved away from the straight wire carrying constant current? Justify your answer.

CBSE Class 10 Science

Sample Paper 01 (2020-21)

Solution

Section A

1. Unbalanced equation: $K + H_2O \rightarrow KOH + H_2$

   Balanced equation: $2K + 2\ H_2O \rightarrow 2\ KOH + H_2$

   OR

   Methane burns in oxygen to form carbon dioxide and water.

   Methane + oxygen $\rightarrow$ carbon dioxide + water.

   $CH_4\ (g) + 2O_2\ (g) \rightarrow CO_2(g) + 2H_2O\ (l)$

2. NH_3 is the reducing agent as it gets oxidized to NO by the removal of hydrogen and the addition of oxygen. O_2 has been reduced to H_2O by the addition of H.

3. (a) H - C $\equiv$ C - H

   Explanation: The formula of ethyne is C_2H_2

4. The ratio of the speed of light in the free space (c) to the speed of light in given medium (v^-) is called its refraction index.

   $n = c/v^-$

   It has no unit. Glass has more refractive index than water.

5. The phenomenon responsible for increasing the apparent length of the day by 4 min is **atmospheric refraction.**

6. It is used for bleaching cotton and linen in textile industry.

   OR

   Acids are compound which on dissolving in water gives hydronium ion [H_3O^+] as the only positively charged ions.

7. 1kWh = 1,000 Ω × 1h = 1,000 J/S × 3600S

   1kWh = 3,600,000 J = 3.6×10^6 J

8. The poles of a magnet are marked in the figure as we know that out side magnet field

lines moves N→S and inside the Magnet field lines moves S→N .

9. Given, I = 1A and t = 16s

   We know that,

   $I = \frac{q}{t} = \frac{ne}{t}$ [$\because$ q = ne]

   $\Rightarrow \quad n = \frac{I \times t}{e} = \frac{1 \times 16}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}}$ [$\because$ e = 1.6×10^{-19}C]

   = 10^{20} electrons will flow through the conducting wire,when 1A current is passed through it for 16 seconds .

   OR

   Electrons are flowing from higher potential end to lower potential end through the conductor.

10. The process by which green plants prepare food is called photosynthesis. During this process; the solar energy is converted into chemical energy and carbohydrates are formed. Green leaves are the main sites of photosynthesis. The green portion of the plant contains a pigment chloroplast; which contains chlorophyll.
11. We can observe following components in a slide of stomata under high power microscope :
    1. guard cells
    2. stomatal pores
    3. chloroplasts
    4. epidermal cells

    OR

    The valves in the walls of veins prevent the backflow of blood.
12. An ecosystem has two types of components, biotic component and abiotic component.

    OR

    Trophic levels
13. In the chemosynthetic mode an organism utilises chemical energy whereas in

photosynthetic mode autotrophs requires solar energy to prepare food.

14. (b) Both assertion and reason are CORRECT but, reason is NOT THE CORRECT explanation of the assertion. Explanation: Both assertion and reason are CORRECT but, reason is NOT THE CORRECT explanation of the assertion.
15. (a) Both A and R are true and R is correct explanation of the assertion.

OR

(c) A is true but R is false.

16. (a) Both A and R are true and R is correct explanation of the assertion.
17. i. (d) Right auricle $\rightarrow$ Right ventricle $\rightarrow$ Lungs $\rightarrow$ Left auricle $\rightarrow$ Left ventricle

ii.

	carries blood to body	carries blood to lungs	carries blood from lungs	carries blood from body
(d)	3	1	4	2

iii. (a) Aorta

iv. (b) Haemoglobin

v. (a) Left auricle and left ventricle

18. i. (b) Carbonic acid

ii. (c) Baking soda

iii. (c) $NaHCO_3$

iv. (b) $Ca(OH)_2$

v. (a) Washing soda

19. i. (a) $V_1 + V_2 + V_3$

ii. (a) Same in every point of circuit

iii. (a) W = VIT

iv. (a) 1 ohm

v. (d) $\frac{15}{2}\Omega$

20. i. (b) Impure copper

ii. (a) Insoluble impurities

iii. (b) B and C

iv. (a) Cathode

v. (d) Ag

Section B

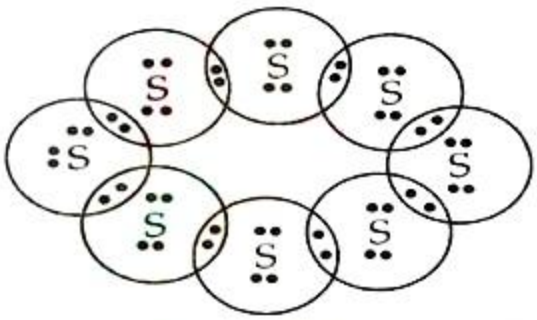
21. When body has sudden shortage of water, then nephron starts re absorbing more water from the filtrate .This is done to retain more water in the body.

OR

Arteries	Veins
It carries blood away from the heart.	It carries blood towards the heart.
They are thick walled.	They are thin walled
They have narrow lumen	They have wide lumen
Pressure of the blood is high	Pressure of the blood is low
It carries oxygenated blood.	It carries deoxygenated blood
It does not have valves	It has valves to prevent backflow of blood.

22. The vital functions of the kidney are as follows:
    1. Removal of toxic waste such as urea.
    2. Control of water balance and level of mineral ions in the body which is known as osmoregulation.
23. Electron dot structure of a molecule of sulphur (S_8)

    Atomic number of Sulphur is 16 and the electronic configuration is 2, 8, 6. The number of valence electrons is 6 and a sulphur atom requires 2 more electrons to complete an octet. A sulphur atom achieves the octet by sharing one electron each with two other sulphur atoms. Thus, 8 sulphur atoms form a cyclic octa-atomic molecule with formula S_8.

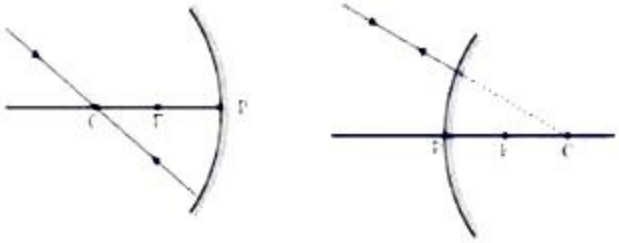


24. Soda-acid fire extinguisher contains sodium bicarbonate and sulphuric acid, which are present in separate containers inside the extinguisher. When the knob of the fire extinguisher is pressed, the sulphuric acid mixes with sodium bicarbonate solution and a lot of CO_2 gas is produced.

Carbon dioxide gas forms a blanket over the fire and cuts off the supply of air to the burning substance and the fire stops.

$$\underset{\text{Sodium hydrogen carbonate}}{2NaHCO_3} + \underset{\text{Sulphuric acid}}{H_2SO_4} \rightarrow \underset{\text{Sodium sulphate}}{Na_2SO_4} + \underset{\text{Water}}{2H_2O} + \underset{\text{Carbon dioxide}}{CO_{2(g)}}$$

25. When the ray of light passes through the centre of curvature of the spherical mirror it strikes along the normal that means it is incident on the mirror at 900. Hence the incident ray coincides with the normal and retraces its path. Therefore the angle of incidence = 0
According to the law of reflection
The angle of reflection = 0
Hence the angle of reflection to become zero degrees
Thus ray of light retraces its path.
The figure below illustrates the above situation as follows:



26. An electrical fuse is a simple device used to interrupt an electrical circuit during overcurrent condition due to short circuit and/or overload. An electrical fuse operates on the principle of heating effect of electric current.
The fuse should be placed on the live wire because the live wire has a higher voltage. If the live wire is damaged inside the appliance and a large current is created, then the fuse needs to be in this part of the circuit so that it can not blow. If the fuse was on the neutral wire and a fault occurred on the line, then the fuse would not be in the circuit to blow off.

27.

Parents	RRYY	x	rryy
	Round, yellow		wrinkled, green
F_1 —	Rr Yy	x	Rr Yy
	Round, yellow		**Round, yellow**

The given cross is a dihybrid cross that shows the inheritance of two different traits simultaneously. In the given question, when pure breeding dominant parent plant (RRYY) crossed with pure breeding recessive parent plant (rryy), it gives heterozygous dominant

progeny in the F_1 generation. All progeny in this cross will have genotype RrYy and exhibit round yellow. Self-cross of F1 progeny will give F_2 generation.

OR

Lamarck believed that the character we accquire during our life time passes on to the next generation. But, his theory was not acceptable . Only and only the characters which cause genetic changes are passed to next generation. Differences between acquired and inherited characters are as follows:

Acquired Characters	**Inherited Characters**
These characters develop in the organism during their lifetime.	These characters are received by organisms from their parents through DNA.
These do not bring about any change in the genes of organisms. That is the change is physical. It does not cause genetic variation.	These bring about change in genes of organisms. Such as mutation.
These are lost with the death of the individual, e.g. good physique of an athlete, intelligence.	These are transferred to the next generation, e.g. fused and free earlobes.

28. **Factors affecting decomposition:**
    1. Upper layer of soil is the main site of decomposition processes in the ecosystem.
    2. The rate of decomposition of detritus is affected by climatic factors and chemical quality of detritus.
    3. Temperature and soil moisture affect the activities of root microbes.
    4. The chemical quality of detritus is determined by relative proportion of water soluble substances, polyphenols, lignin and nitrogen.
29. Difference between aerobic and anaerobic respiration:

Aerobic respiration	**Anaerobic respiration**
(i) Takes place in presence of oxygen.	(i) Takes place in absence of oxygen.
(ii) Complete oxidation of glucose occurs.	(ii) Incomplete oxidation of glucose occurs.
(iii) More energy is produced.	(iii) Less energy is produced.

Anaerobic respiration takes place in yeast, some bacteria and some internal parasites like tapeworm. Anaerobic respiration also takes place in our muscles during vigrous exercise to meet the energy demands of the body.

30. When silver is kept in open for a few days, it reacts with atmosphere oxygen to form oxide. In due course of time, this react with oxygen and hydrogen sulphide (in the atmosphere) to form silver sulphide; which appears as black layer. This phenomenon is called tarnishing of silver.

    $4Ag + O_2 + 2H_2S \rightarrow 2Ag_2S + 2H_2O$

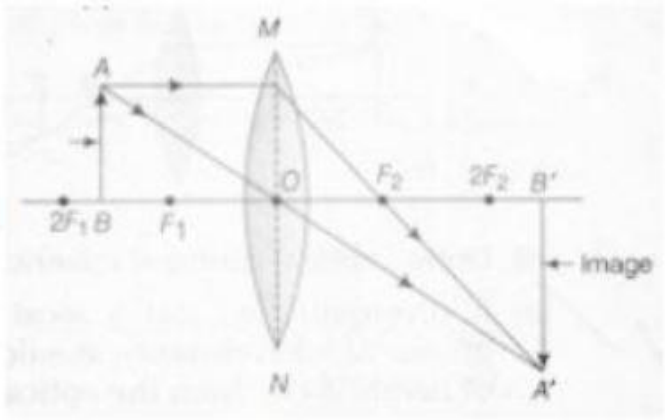
31. **The uses of Modern Periodic Table:**
    1. Periodic table systematizes the study of elements. In the periodic table, the elements with similar properties are placed together in the same group. If we know the properties of one element of the group, the properties of other elements belonging to the same group can be predicted. Thus, there is no need to study the properties of all the elements.
    2. Properties of an element can be predicted from the position of the element in the periodic table. For example, if the element belongs to group IA or IIA it is likely to be a reactive metal, and if it belongs to group VII A it is likely to be a reactive non-metal.
    3. Periodic table has led to the discovery of many elements.

32. i. D as it has 4 valence electrons. Thus, to gain stablility it will form covalent bonds.
    ii. C as it lies in group 2. All elements in group 2 has 2 valence electrons.
    iii. C has bigger atomic radius than D because atomic radius decreases on moving from left to right across a period.

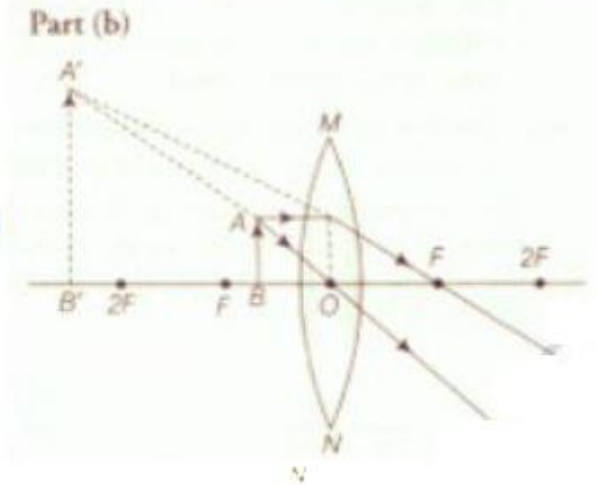
33. The phenomenon of splitting up of white light into its constituent colurs as it passes through prism is known as dispersion. Light rays bend towards the normal when it enters the prism. Since white light consists of 7 colours it splits into 7 bands of colour.

34. i. a. Object is placed between F and 2F of thin converging lens.
       b. Object is placed between optical centre and F.
    ii. The ray diagrams for real magnified and virtual magnified images are as follows:

Part (a)



Part (b)



iii. a. There will be no change in focal length of converging lens.

b. Intensity will become one-fourth and brightness of lens will be less .

OR

Height of the object h = + 2.0 cm; Focal length f = + 10 cm; object-distance u = -15 cm; Image-distance v = ? Height of the image h' = ?

Since $\frac{1}{v} - \frac{1}{u} = \frac{1}{f}$

or, $\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{f}$

$\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{(-15)} + \frac{1}{10} = -\frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{10}$

$\frac{1}{v} = \frac{-2+3}{30} = \frac{1}{30}$

or, v = + 30 cm

The positive sign of v shows that the image is formed at a distance of 30cm on the other side of the optical centre. The image is real and inverted.

Magnification m = $\frac{h'}{h} = \frac{v}{u}$ or, h' = $h\frac{v}{u}$

Height of the image, h' = $(2.0)(\frac{+30}{-15})$ = -4.0 cm

or m = $\frac{+30\text{cm}}{-15\text{cm}}$ = -2

The negative signs of m and h' show that the image is inverted and real. It is formed

below the principal axis. Thus, a real, inverted image, 4 cm tall, is formed at a distance of 30 cm on the other side of the lens. The image is two times enlarged.

35. Each species face many forces that reduce the number of individuals constantly. Some of them are namely struggling for survival, competition.
For natural rescores, prediction, the natural cycle of aging and death, any natural calamity, etc. All these natural forces reduce the number of individuals per species.
Reproduction is the process of production of own kind. It includes the production of offspring having both similarities and variations among themselves and from presents. Further, the process of DNA replication and its inheritance to offspring ensure production of own kind only.
Therefore, reproduction not only restores the number of individuals removed from the species by (competition) natural forces but also maintain heredity of genetic character and introduction of variations, as needed for continuity and stability of species. Without it all of the exciting species will diminish soon life will come to an end.
36. Take a straight conducting wire AB which passes through a horizontal cardboard. The ends of the wire are connected to a battery as shown in fig. When the key is closed, the current flows through the wire from B to A as shown in fig. (a), it produces magnetic field around it.

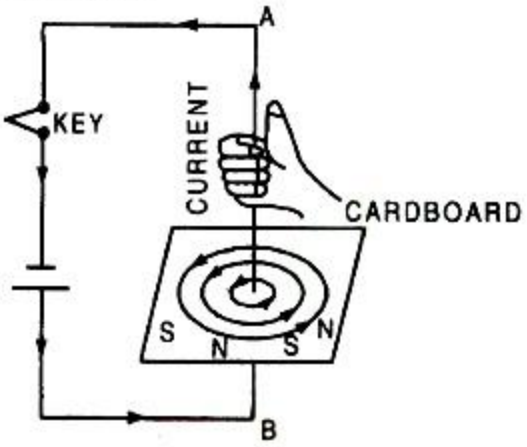
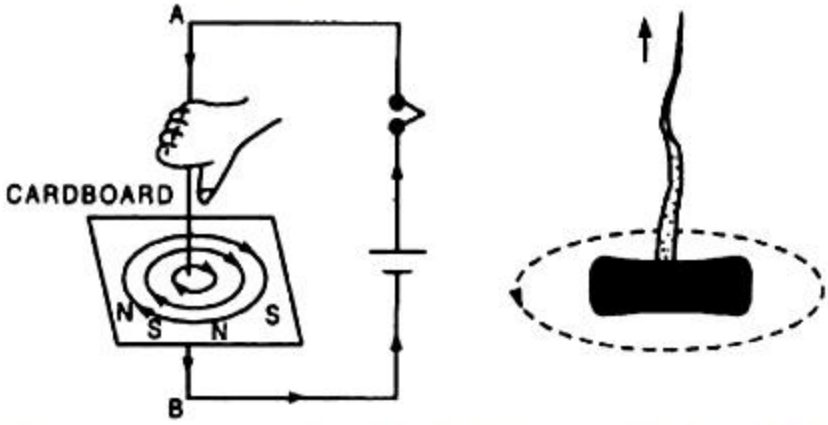


fig. (a)

The magnetic lines of force can be drawn with the help of a compass needle. The magnetic lines of force can also be visualized by sprinkling iron filings on the cardboard. On tapping the cardboard sheet, the iron filings arrange themselves in circles around the wire. The direction of the field is indicated by compass needle (a) The direction of magnetic field is given by right hand grip rule and by right hand cork screw rule.
Right hand grip rule is stated below : Grasp the wire in the right hand so that the thumb

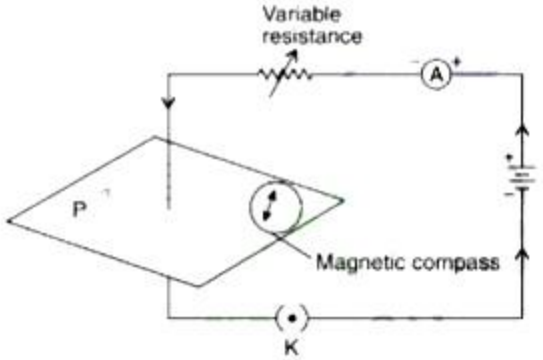
points along the wire in the direction of current, the fingers will then point in the direction of magnetic field.



Right hand cork-screw rule : Imagine a right handed cork-screw to be lying with its direction coinciding with the conductor carrying current and to be revolved so that it travels in the direction in which thumb rotates gives the direction of lines of force.

OR

a. The magnetic field lines produced around a current-carrying straight conductor passing through cardboard is shown below.



A right-hand thumb rule is applied to find the direction of these field lines. Imagine that you are holding a current-carrying straight conductor in your right hand such that the thumb points towards the direction of the current. Then your fingers will wrap around the conductor in the direction of the field lines of the magnetic field.

b. When we move away from the straight wire, the deflection of the needle decreases which implies the strength of the magnetic field decreases. The reason is that the concentric circles representing the magnetic field around a current-carrying straight wire become larger and longer as the distance increases.