

3) Sulfuric acid is one of the most important industrial chemicals:

3.1 Outline three uses of sulfuric acid in industry –

1. Production of Fertilisers (MAIN USE OF SULFURIC ACID):

- Superphosphate Fertiliser & Ammonium Sulfate are commercial fertilisers:



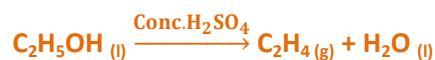
2. Pickling Steel

- Galvanising requires steel to be free of defects (pure) otherwise it is ineffective
- H_2SO_4 removes rust (Fe_2O_3) and other impurities before galvanising the steel item



3. Dehydrating Agent

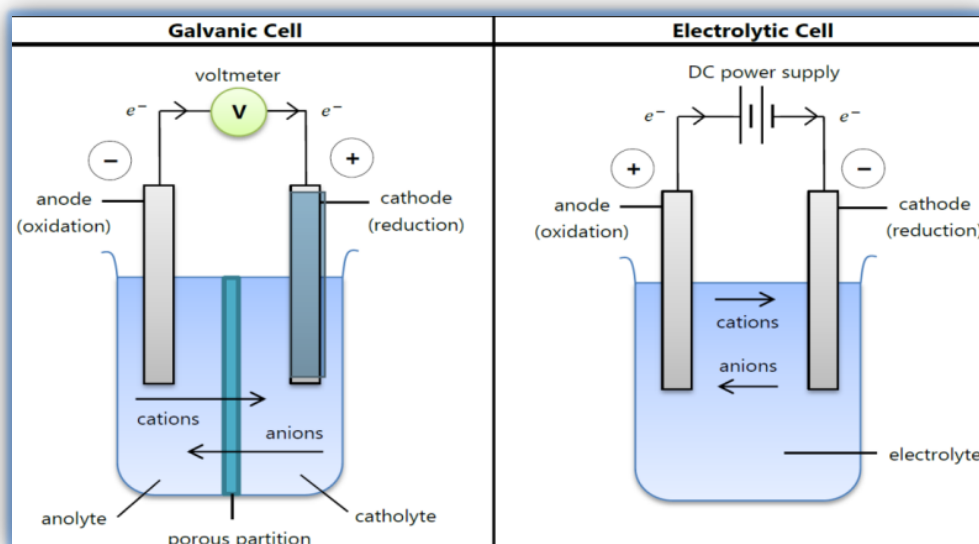
- Concentrated H_2SO_4 is a strong dehydrating agent → dehydration of ethanol



4) The industrial production of sodium hydroxide requires the use of electrolysis:

4.1 Explain the difference between galvanic cells and electrolytic cells in terms of energy requirements –

- **Galvanic Cells** convert chemical potential energy into electrical energy via spontaneous redox reactions (chemical energy \rightarrow electrical energy)
- **Electrolytic Cells** convert external DC electrical energy into chemical energy to drive a non-spontaneous reaction (electrical energy \rightarrow chemical energy)



Galvanic Cell	Electrolytic Cell
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spontaneous reaction converts chemical energy \rightarrow electrical energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical energy \rightarrow chemical energy to produce a non-spontaneous reaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voltage of cell must be positive for reaction to occur ($E^\ominus > 0$) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied voltage causes reaction so E^\ominus can be negative (< 0) (electrical energy required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anode is <u>negative</u> \rightarrow oxidation • Cathode is <u>positive</u> \rightarrow reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anode is <u>positive</u> \rightarrow oxidation • Cathode is <u>negative</u> \rightarrow reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Electrons</u>: Anode \rightarrow cathode (negative to positive terminal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Electrons</u>: Negative battery terminal \rightarrow cathode, then anode \rightarrow positive battery terminal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Half-Cells have separate electrolytes, allowing current to be collected by an external circuit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 compartment with electrodes immersed in one electrolyte • DC source removes electrons from anode and pushes electrons onto cathode \rightarrow circuit is completed by ion flow

SIMILARITIES:

- ✦ Electrolyte conducts electricity in the cell \rightarrow electrical charge is carried by anions & cations
- ✦ Oxidation at anode, reduction at cathode
- ✦ In external circuit, current travels through wire from anode \rightarrow cathode

6.2 Describe the uses of sodium carbonate –

- Anhydrous sodium carbonate (Soda Ash) is a white crystalline substance that is readily soluble in water → sodium carbonate exists as hydrated salts, the most common being sodium carbonate decahydrate (Washing Soda): $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Uses:

1. **Glass Making:** Main use of Na_2CO_3 is in glass making → glass is made by melting a mixture of Na_2CO_3 , CaCO_3 (limestone) and SiO_2 (silicon dioxide → sand)
2. **Softening Agent:** Na_2CO_3 in form of washing soda is used in water treatment to soften water → CO_3^{2-} ions precipitate with Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions, reducing hardness:
$$\text{Ca}^{2+}_{(\text{aq})} + \text{CO}_3^{2-}_{(\text{aq})} \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3(\text{s})$$
3. **Soap and Detergent Production:** Na_2CO_3 is used as a base in the production of soap/detergents, as a cheaper alternative to stronger alkalis e.g. NaOH
4. **Primary Standard:** Na_2CO_3 is a moderately weak base, has high molar mass, remains pure, is a solid and is air-stable, thus can be weighed accurately and used as a primary standard
5. **Electrolyte:** Na_2CO_3 is a very good conductor in electrolysis. CO_3^{2-} ions are not corrosive to the anodes