
ELECTRICITY – COMPLETE NOTES

◆ **Basic Terms & Definitions**

- **Electric Charge (Q)**

A fundamental property of matter due to which it experiences electrical forces.

Q = charge (Coulomb, C).

- **Electric Current (I)**

Rate of flow of electric charge across a cross-section of a conductor.

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

- **I = current (Ampere, A)**
- **Q = charge (Coulomb, C)**
- **t = time (seconds, s)**

- **Potential Difference (V)**

Work done to move a unit charge between two points in a circuit.

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

- **V = potential difference (Volt, V)**
- **W = work done (Joule, J)**
- **Q = charge (Coulomb, C)**

- **Resistance (R)**

Opposition offered by a conductor to the flow of current.

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

- **R = resistance (Ohm, Ω)**
 - **V = potential difference (Volt, V)**
 - **I = current (Ampere, A)**
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- **Resistivity (ρ , rho)**

Resistance of a conductor of unit length and unit area.

$$R = \rho \frac{l}{A}$$

- ρ = resistivity (Ohm-metre, $\Omega \cdot m$)
 - l = length of conductor (metre, m)
 - A = cross-sectional area (m^2)
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◆ **Important Laws & Theories**

1. **Ohm's Law**

At constant temperature, current through a conductor is directly proportional to potential difference across it.

$$V = IR$$

- V = potential difference (Volt, V)
 - I = current (Ampere, A)
 - R = resistance (Ohm, Ω)
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2. **Joule's Law of Heating**

Heat produced is proportional to square of current, resistance, and time.

$$H = I^2 R t$$

- H = heat produced (Joule, J)
 - I = current (Ampere, A)
 - R = resistance (Ohm, Ω)
 - t = time (seconds, s)
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3. **Combination of Resistances**

- **Series Combination**

$$R_{eq} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$$

- R_{eq} = equivalent resistance (Ω)
- R_1, R_2, R_3 = individual resistances (Ω)

- **Parallel Combination**

$$\frac{1}{R_{eq}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}$$

Same meanings as above.

4. **Electric Power (P)**

Rate at which work is done or energy consumed.

$$P = VI = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R}$$

- **P = power (Watt, W)**
 - **V = potential difference (Volt, V)**
 - **I = current (Ampere, A)**
 - **R = resistance (Ohm, Ω)**
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5. **Electrical Energy (E)**

Total energy consumed by an appliance.

$$E = P \times t$$

- **E = energy (Joule, J) or Kilowatt-hour (kWh)**
- **P = power (Watt, W)**
- **t = time (seconds, s or hours, h)**

$$1 \text{ kWh} = 1000 \text{ W} \times 3600 \text{ s} = 3.6 \times 10^6 \text{ J}$$

◆ **Key Concepts**

- **Electric Fuse:** A safety device that melts and breaks the circuit if excessive current flows.
- **Heating Effect of Current:** Current produces heat when it flows through a resistor → used in heaters, bulbs, irons.
- **Short Circuit:** When live and neutral wires touch, causing a sudden flow of large current.
- **Overloading:** When too many appliances draw current from the same supply line.

- **Commercial Unit of Electricity:** Kilowatt-hour (kWh), also called a “unit” of electricity.
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◆ **Quick Formula Sheet (with Abbreviations)**

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

- I : current (A), Q : charge (C), t : time (s)

2. $V = \frac{W}{Q}$

- V : potential difference (V), W : work (J), Q : charge (C)

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

- R : resistance (Ω), V : potential difference (V), I : current (A)

4. $R = \rho \frac{l}{A}$

- ρ : resistivity ($\Omega \cdot m$), l : length (m), A : area (m^2)

5. $V = IR$ (Ohm's Law)

6. $H = I^2 R t$ (Joule's Heating Law)

7. $R_{eq} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$ (Series)

8. $\frac{1}{R_{eq}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}$ (Parallel)

9. $P = VI = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$ (Power)

10. $E = P \times t$ (Energy)

- in Joule or kWh
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