

Physics 11

Circuits Unit Test Solutions

1. a. b. c. d.
2. a. b. c. d.
3. a. b. c. d.
4. a. b. c. d.
5. a. b. c. d.
6. a. b. c. d.
7. a. b. c. d.
8. a. b. c. d.
9. a. b. c. d.
10. a. b. c. d.
11. a. b. c. d.
12. a. b. c. d.
13. a. b. c. d.
14. a. b. c. d.
15. a. b. c. d.
16. a. b. c. d.
17. a. b. c. d.
18. a. b. c. d.
19. a. b. c. d.
20. a. b. c. d.

1. Problem

The current flowing in an electric circuit can be increased by

- a. increasing voltage and decreasing resistance
- b. decreasing voltage and increasing resistance
- c. increasing voltage and increasing resistance
- d. decreasing voltage and decreasing resistance

Solution

Ohm's law states that

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

Therefore, current can be increased by increasing voltage and decreasing resistance.

2. Problem

Car batteries are rated in "amp-hours". This is a measure of their

- a. energy density
- b. power
- c. energy capacity
- d. electric charge

Solution

The amp-hour comes from multiplying current and time and is therefore a unit of electric charge.

3. Problem

A battery is rated at 6.5 V and 5900 mAh. How much energy does the battery store at full charge?

- a. 168 kJ
- b. 140 kJ
- c. 82.4 kJ
- d. 263 kJ

Solution

Convert to SI units and multiply the voltage by the charge:

$$E = QV = (5900 \text{ mAh} \times 3.6 \text{ C/mAh})(6.5 \text{ V}) = 140 \text{ kJ}$$

4. Problem

What voltage is applied across a 1.4Ω resistor if the current is 1.9 A?

- a. 1.4 V
- b. 2.7 V
- c. 5 V
- d. 2.4 V

Solution

Use Ohm's law:

$$V = IR = (1.9 \text{ A})(1.4 \Omega) = 2.7 \text{ V}$$

5. Problem

A lamp draws a current of 9.6 A when it is connected to a 2.5 V source. What is the resistance of the lamp?

- a. 3.8Ω
- b. 24Ω
- c. 0.26Ω
- d. 17Ω

Solution

Use Ohm's law:

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{2.5 \text{ V}}{9.6 \text{ A}} = 0.26 \Omega$$

6. Problem

A lamp with a resistance of 6.8Ω is placed across a potential difference of 8.5 V. What is the current through the lamp?

- a. 22 A
- b. 7.1 A
- c. 0.8 A
- d. 1.2 A

Solution

Use Ohm's law:

$$I = \frac{V}{R} = \frac{8.5 \text{ V}}{6.8 \Omega} = 1.2 \text{ A}$$

7. Problem

A voltage source of 3 V delivers a current of 9.5 A to an electric motor that is connected across its terminals. What power is consumed by the motor?

- a. 46 W
- b. 28 W
- c. 25 W
- d. 12 W

Solution

Use the formula for the power in a circuit:

$$P = IV = (9.5 \text{ A})(3 \text{ V}) = 28 \text{ W}$$

8. Problem

A space heater with a resistance of $7.6\ \Omega$ operates at a voltage of 117V. How much energy does the space heater use in 3.2 hours?

- a. 6.7 kWh
- b. 7.6 kWh
- c. 5.8 kWh
- d. 4.7 kWh

Solution

Find the power of the device using $P = IV = V^2/R$ and multiply by the time. Remember to convert all units.

$$E = Pt = \frac{V^2}{R}t = \frac{(117\text{ V})^2}{7.6\ \Omega}(3.2\text{ h}) = 5800\text{ Wh} = 5.8\text{ kWh}$$

9. Problem

As more resistors are added in **series** to a constant voltage source, the power supplied by the source

- a. increases.
- b. decreases.
- c. remains the same.
- d. not enough information.

Solution

The total resistance increases, causing the total current to decrease. Since the voltage is constant and $P = IV$, the power decreases.

10. Problem

Three resistors are connected in **series**. Their resistances are $72\ \Omega$, $21\ \Omega$, and $90\ \Omega$. What is the equivalent resistance of the resistors?

- a. $180\ \Omega$
- b. $14\ \Omega$
- c. $96\ \Omega$
- d. $48\ \Omega$

Solution

The equivalent resistance of resistors in series is the sum of the resistances.

$$R = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = 183\ \Omega$$

11. Problem

When different resistors are connected in series, it is true that

- a. the total resistance is equal to the greatest resistance of any individual resistor.
- b. the power dissipated in each is the same.
- c. the same current flows in each one.
- d. the potential difference across each is the same.

Solution

The current is the same in resistors in series.

12. Problem

You have a 5Ω light bulb and a 10Ω light bulb. You make a circuit that places them in series across a battery. Which light bulb is brighter?

- a. The 5Ω bulb is brighter.
- b. The 10Ω bulb is brighter.
- c. Both bulbs glow at the same brightness.
- d. It depends on the voltage.

Solution

The current through both bulbs is the same since they are placed in series. However, the voltage drop is greater for the greater resistance. Since $P = IV$, and V is greater for the greater resistance, the 10Ω light bulb is brighter.

13. Problem

A total of 856 resistors, all with resistance 719Ω , are connected in **parallel**. What is the equivalent resistance of the resistors?

- a. 0.53Ω
- b. 0.84Ω
- c. 1.3Ω
- d. 0.62Ω

Solution

The equivalent resistance of resistors in parallel when they all have the same resistance R_i is

$$R = \left(\frac{1}{R_i} + \frac{1}{R_i} + \frac{1}{R_i} + \dots \right)^{-1} = \frac{R_i}{856} = 0.84\Omega$$

14. Problem

A total of 280 Christmas light bulbs, all with resistance 906Ω , are connected in **series**. What is the equivalent resistance of the lights?

- a. $370\text{ k}\Omega$
- b. $190\text{ k}\Omega$
- c. $250\text{ k}\Omega$
- d. $160\text{ k}\Omega$

Solution

The equivalent resistance of resistors in series when they all have the same resistance R_i is

$$R = R_i + R_i + R_i + \dots + R_i = 280R_i = 250\text{ k}\Omega$$

15. Problem

Two resistors are connected in **parallel**. Their resistances are 202Ω and 406Ω . A battery applies $6.3V$ to the combination. What is the current through the 202Ω resistor?

- a. 40 mA
- b. 31 mA
- c. 26 mA
- d. 43 mA

Solution

The full voltage of the battery is applied to both resistors. The current through the first resistor is

$$I = \frac{V}{R} = \frac{6.3\text{ V}}{202\Omega} = 31\text{ mA}$$

16. Problem

Two resistors are connected in **series**. Their resistances are 7Ω and 10Ω . A difference in potential of 56 V is applied to the combination. What is the current through the 10Ω resistor?

- a. 2.2 A
- b. 2.7 A
- c. 4.3 A
- d. 3.3 A

Solution

The equivalent resistance of resistors in series is the sum of the resistances.

$$R = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = 17\Omega$$

The current is the same through all components in series and its value is

$$I = \frac{V}{R} = \frac{56\text{ V}}{17\Omega} = 3.3\text{ A}$$

17. Problem

Two resistors are connected in **parallel**. Their resistances are 24Ω and 21Ω . A battery applies 14 V to the combination. What is the current drawn from the battery?

- a. 0.85 A
- b. 1.6 A
- c. 1.4 A
- d. 1.2 A

Solution

The equivalent resistance of resistors in parallel is

$$R = \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} \right)^{-1} = 11.2\Omega$$

The current drawn from the battery is

$$I = \frac{V}{R} = \frac{14\text{ V}}{11.2\Omega} = 1.2\text{ A}$$

18. Problem

Three resistors are connected in **parallel**. Their resistances are 92Ω , 2Ω , and 72Ω . What is the equivalent resistance of the resistors?

- a. 1.9Ω
- b. 2.5Ω
- c. 3.5Ω
- d. 2.8Ω

Solution

The equivalent resistance of resistors in parallel is

$$R = \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} \right)^{-1} = 1.9\Omega$$

19. Problem

A 200 mA current flows into a parallel combination of a 29Ω and a 14Ω resistor. What current flows through the 29Ω resistor?

- a. 57 mA
- b. 86 mA
- c. 93 mA
- d. 65 mA

Solution

The total current is equal to the sum of the current through each resistor

$$I = I_1 + I_2$$

The voltage across each resistor is the same and $V = IR$ so

$$I_1 R_1 = I_2 R_2$$

Combining the two equations and solving for I_1 gives

$$I_1 = \left(\frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right) I = 65\text{ mA}$$

20. Problem

When a battery with an emf of 1.8 V supplies a 1.2 A current, its terminal voltage is 1.5 V. What is the internal resistance of the battery?

- a. 0.22 Ω
- b. 0.18 Ω
- c. 0.46 Ω
- d. 0.25 Ω

Solution

The terminal resistance is related to the emf by $V_{terminal} = \mathcal{E} - Ir$. Therefore,

$$r = \frac{\mathcal{E} - V_{terminal}}{I} = 0.25 \Omega$$