## Quiz (Hydrogen-Oxygen Fuel Cell)

- 1. Hydrogen-oxygen fuel cell can be used in toy cars.
  - (a) Write half equations for the reactions at the anode and the cathode respectively.
  - (b) Write the overall equation for the reaction in the fuel cell.
  - (c) State ONE advantage of using fuel cells over using zinc-carbon cells.
  - (d) Suggest ONE application of hydrogen-oxygen fuel cells in daily life.
- 2. The diagram below shows a simplified structure of hydrogen-oxygen fuel cell.



- (a) Suggest a suitable chemical for use as the electrolyte in this cell.
- (b) Write a half equation for the reaction taking place at the anode in the left half cell.
- (c) Is the reaction in the left half cell an oxidation or a reduction? Explain your answer.
- (d) Write a half equation for the reaction taking place at the cathode in the right half cell.
- (e) Write an overall equation for the reaction taking place in this fuel cell.
- (f) Predict the direction of electron flow in the external circuit when the cell operates.

## **Suggested Answer**

- 1. (a) At the anode:  $H_2(g) + 2OH(aq) \longrightarrow 2H_2O(I) + 2e^{-1}$ 
  - At the cathode:  $O_2(g) + 2H_2O(I) + 4e^- \longrightarrow 4OH^-(aq)$
  - (b)  $2H_2(g) + O_2(g) \longrightarrow 2H_2O(I)$
  - (c) Any ONE:

Fuel cells cause less environmental problems.ORFuel cells have a higher efficiency of energy conversion.

(d) Any ONE:

They are used to provide electricity for electric vehicles / MP3 players / mobile phones / notebook computers, etc. OR They are used as backup power sources for hotels, hospitals, residential and office buildings.

- 2. (a) Hot concentrated potassium hydroxide solution.
  - (b)  $H_2(g) + 2OH^-(aq) \longrightarrow 2H_2O(I) + 2e^-$
  - (c) The reaction in the left half cell is an oxidation because the oxidation number of hydrogen increases from 0 to +1.
  - (d)  $O_2(g) + 2H_2O(I) + 4e^- \longrightarrow 4OH^-(aq)$
  - (e)  $2H_2(g) + O_2(g) \longrightarrow 2H_2O(I)$
  - (f) The electrons flow from the left compartment to the right compartment in the external circuit.