Quiz (Electroplating)

The diagram on the right shows the electroplating of an iron ring with nickel.



- (a) Suggest a suitable material for electrode X.
- (b) Suggest an electrolyte for the electroplating set-up.
- (c) Write equations, with state symbols, for the reactions at the anode and the cathode respectively.
- (d) The rate of electroplating can be increased by increasing the current flowing in the circuit. However, the current cannot be too high. Give a reason.
- (e) Suggest TWO other methods that can increase the rate of electroplating.

Suggested Answer

- (a) Nickel
- (b) Nickel(II) sulphate
- (c) At the anode: Ni(s) \longrightarrow Ni²⁺(aq) + 2e⁻

At the cathode: Ni²⁺(aq) + 2e⁻ \longrightarrow Ni(s)

- (d) Too high a current can result in a loose spongy metal deposit which may peel off.
- (e) 1. Place the electrode X and the iron ring closer to each other.
 - 2. Use a solution of the electrolyte with a higher concentration.