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# UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2011/2012

January 2012

## **EBS 315/3 - Hydrometallurgy** **[Hidrometalurgi]**

Duration : 3 hours  
[Masa : 3 jam]

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Please ensure that this examination paper contains ELEVEN printed pages and ONE page APPENDIX before you begin the examination.

*[Sila pastikan bahawa kertas peperiksaan ini mengandungi SEBELAS muka surat beserta SATU muka surat LAMPIRAN yang bercetak sebelum anda memulakan peperiksaan ini.]*

This paper consists of SEVEN questions.

*[Kertas soalan ini mengandungi TUJUH soalan.]*

**Instruction:** Answer **FIVE** questions. If a candidate answers more than five questions only the first five questions answered in the answer script would be examined.

**[Arahan:** Jawab **LIMA** soalan. Jika calon menjawab lebih daripada lima soalan hanya lima soalan pertama mengikut susunan dalam skrip jawapan akan diberi markah.]

The answers to all questions must start on a new page.

*[Mulakan jawapan anda untuk semua soalan pada muka surat yang baru.]*

You may answer a question either in Bahasa Malaysia or in English.

*[Anda dibenarkan menjawab soalan sama ada dalam Bahasa Malaysia atau Bahasa Inggeris.]*

In the event of any discrepancies, the English version shall be used.

*[Sekiranya terdapat sebarang percanggahan pada soalan peperiksaan, versi Bahasa Inggeris hendaklah diguna pakai.]*

1. [a] Figure 1.0 in Appendix illustrates the general flow of ores and concentrates in hydrometallurgical leaching practice. It is useful to consider three ore types: namely, low-grade ore, direct leaching ore and high grade ore.

With the help of Figure 1.0, distinguish between these three types of ores and describe briefly the general flow of these ores with respect to their transportation, the leaching techniques practiced, followed by solution treatment and separation of metal values, giving several examples of ores suitable for beneficiation and metal recovery.

*Rajah 1.0 dalam Lampiran, menunjukkan cartalir umum bagi suatu bijih dan konsentrat dalam amalan pelarutlesapan hidrometalurgi. Adalah berguna mempertimbangkan tiga jenis bijih: bijih bergred rendah, bijih pelarutlesapan langsung dan bijih bergred tinggi.*

*Dengan bantuan Rajah 1.0, bezakan antara ketiga-tiga bijih ini dan terangkan secara ringkas cartalir umum bagi bijih-bijih ini merujuk kepada kaedah pengangkutan, amalan teknik pelarutlesapan, diikuti dengan perawatan larutan dan pemisahan logam-logam, dengan memberikan contoh yang sesuai bagi bagi proses benefisiasi dan perolehan logam.*

(50 marks/markah)

- [b] Discuss briefly the common pre-treatment techniques adopted for metallic ores before their leaching to improve the efficiency of the leaching process.

*Bincangkan secara ringkas, teknik-teknik pra-rawatan yang lazim digunakan bagi bijih logam sebelum pelarutlesapan untuk mempertingkatkan kecekapan proses pelarutlesapan.*

(25 marks/markah)

- [c] Explain briefly how a batch leaching test can help in deciding the number of stages in a co-current leaching system.

*Terangkan secara ringkas, bagaimana satu ujian pelarutlesapan kelompok boleh membantu dalam meramalkan bilangan peringkat dalam sistem pelarutlesapan arus selari.*

(25 marks/markah)

2. [a] Aluminum in bauxite usually exists in one of three forms:

Gibbsite [ $\gamma$  Al (OH)<sub>3</sub>], Boehmite [ $\gamma$  Al OOH] and Diaspore [ $\alpha$  Al OOH].

*Aluminum dalam bauksit biasanya wujud dalam salah satu tiga bentuk berikut:*

*Gibbsit [ $\gamma$  Al (OH)<sub>3</sub>], Boehmit [ $\gamma$  Al OOH] dan Diaspor [ $\alpha$  Al OOH].*

- (i) Distinguish between these three forms and what factors constitute to the refractoriness of these three types of bauxite ore in their processing?

*Bezakan antara ketiga-tiga bentuk ini dan apakah faktor-faktor yang menyumbang kepada sifat refraktori ketiga-tiga jenis bauksit ini dalam pemprosesan mereka?*

(30 marks/markah)

- (ii) The Bayer process is an excellent example of large-scale pressure hydrometallurgy. Describe Bayer process and briefly state the sequential steps and the chemical reactions involved in the dissolution process.

*Proses Bayer merupakan satu contoh proses hidrometalurgi tekanan skala besar yang sangat baik. Huraikan secara ringkas proses Bayer dan nyatakan langkah-langkah turutan dan tindakbalas kimia yang terlibat dalam proses pelarutannya.*

(30 marks/markah)

- [b] A gold processing plant is processing 200 tonnes of ore of grade 2.0 g/T. This ore is being processed using 5 reactors in series at residence time of 6.5 hours. The slurry carrying the ore contained a solid to liquid ratio of 2.5. The solution that is produced contained about 0.78 g/T of gold. What is the percentage of recovery in this plant?

*Satu loji pemrosesan emas memproses 200 tan bijih yang bergred 2.0 g/T. Bijih ini telah diproses menggunakan 5 reaktor secara bersiri dengan masa residens 6.5 jam. Slurri yang mengandungi bijih ini mempunyai nisbah pepejal cecair 2:5. Larutan yang terhasil mengandungi sebanyak 0.78 g/T emas. Apakah peratus perolehan loji ini?*

(40 marks/markah)

3. [a] Ore deposits amenable to in situ leaching or referred to as solution mining, may be classified into three general group of Type I, II and III.

*Endapan bijih yang sesuai menjalani pelarutlesapan "in-situ" atau yang dikenali sebagai "solution mining", boleh dikelaskan kepada kumpulan umum iaitu Jenis I, II dan III.*

- (i) With the aid of a sketch, distinguish between these three types of ore deposit, relative to its position in the lithosphere, showing the solution mining system.

*Dengan bantuan satu lakaran, bezakan antara ketiga-tiga jenis endapan bijih ini, relatif kepada kedudukannya dalam litosfera, menunjukkan sistem perlombongan tersebut.*

(40 marks/markah)

- (ii) State the several advantages and disadvantages of solution mining.

*Nyatakan kebaikan dan keburukan perlombongan larutlesap.*

(30 marks/markah)

- [b] With the aid of a sketch, describe the principles of percolation leaching of ores.

*Dengan bantuan lakaran, huraikan dengan ringkas prinsip pelarutlesapan penelusan bagi suatu bijih.*

(30 marks/markah)

4. [a] (i) What factors govern the rate of the chemical reaction for a diffusion control and a chemically controlled reaction?

*Apakah faktor-faktor yang mengawal kadarcepat tindakbalas kimia bagi satu tindakbalas kawalan resapan dan kawalan kimia?*

(20 marks/markah)

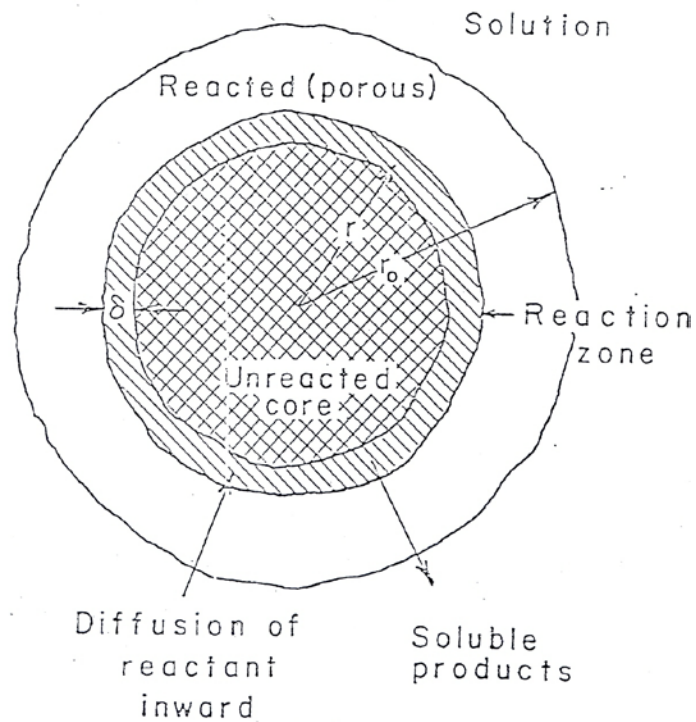
- (ii) Explain why the kinetics of gold and silver cyanidation are diffusion controlled.

*Terangkan mengapa kinetik pensianidaan emas dan perak adalah kawalan resapan.*

(20 marks/markah)

- [b] Consider the leaching of a single (non-porous) particle surrounded by the leaching solution of constant concentration in some degree of motion. With the aid of the Figure 2.0 below, explain briefly the steps involve in the leaching process. As the leaching progresses with time, what factors affect the kinetics of the leaching reaction and briefly explain why.

*Pertimbangkan pelarutlesapan satu partikel tunggal (bukan-poros) yang dikelilingi oleh pergerakan satu larutan pelarutlesapan dengan kepekatan malar. Dengan bantuan Rajah 2.0 di bawah, terangkan secara ringkas, langkah-langkah yang terlibat dalam proses pelarutlesapan. Dengan berlangsungnya proses pelarutlesapan dengan masa, apakah faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi kinetik tindakbalas pelarutlesapan ini dan terangkan secara ringkas.*



**Figure 2.0 - Reaction zone model in the leaching of a single particle of ore**

*Rajah 2.0 - Model zon tindakbalas dalam pelarutlesapan satu partikel tunggal bijih*

(30 marks/markah)

[c] Briefly describe the conventional gold cyanidation practice.

*Terangkan secara ringkas amalan pensianidaan emas yang lazim.*

(30 marks/markah)

5. [a] The chemical reactors can be categorized into three general types which are:
- The batch reactor
  - The plug flow reactor and
  - The mixed flow (or the continuous agitation) reactor

*Reaktor-reaktor kimia boleh dikategorikan kepada amnya tiga jenis iaitu:*

- *Reaktor kelompok*
- *Reaktor aliran "plug"*
- *Reaktor aliran tercampur (atau pengadukkan berterusan)*

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- (i) With the aid of a sketch showing the different reactors, describe briefly the basic features and the ideal application of these reactors.

*Dengan bantuan lakaran menunjukkan reaktor yang berbeza ini, terangkan secara ringkas ciri-ciri asas dan aplikasi yang ideal bagi reaktor-reaktor ini.*

*(25 marks/markah)*

- (ii) Briefly state the important factors that govern the design and the performance of a reactor.

*Nyatakan secara ringkas faktor-faktor yang mengawal rekabentuk dan prestasi satu reaktor.*

*(25 marks/markah)*

- [b] In a dump leaching process, 12,000 ton of ore has been processed. The ore containing 0.32% copper in the oxide form has undergone leaching process using the liquor solution from the electrolytic plant.

From the data given below, calculate the efficiency of extraction.

From the unrecovered residual copper, compute the fraction of copper that is in the tailing and in the undissolved fraction.

*Dalam suatu proses pelarutlesapan timbunan, sebanyak 12,000 tan bijih telah diproses. Bijih tersebut mengandungi 0.32% kuprum dalam bentuk oksida, yang telah menjalani proses pelarutlesapan menggunakan larutan likor dari loji elektrolitik.*

*Dari data yang diberikan di bawah, kirakan kecekapan pengekstrakan.*

*Dari baki kuprum yang tidak diperolehi, kirakan pecahan yang tertinggal dalam hampas dan pecahan yang tidak larut.*

**Table 1.0: Copper Heap leaching data**  
**Jadual 1.0: Data pelarutlesapan timbunan bagi kuprum**

Solution added (Larutan ditambah)			Solution removed (Larutan dikeluarkan)		
Ton	% Cu	Cu (T)	Ton	% Cu	Cu (T)
2000	1.6	32.0	2200	2.10	46.2
2200	1.1	23.2	2500	2.00	50.6
2500	1.2	30.0	2300	1.75	40.25
2700	1.6	43.2	2400	1.45	34.8
2200	1.5	33.0	2000	1.20	24
2000	0.3	6.00	1700	0.40	6.8
300	-				
13,900	Total Cu <i>Jumlah Cu</i>	167.4	13,100	Total Cu <i>Jumlah Cu</i>	202.05

(50 marks/markah)

6. [a] Electrowinning is an efficient route in recovering metals from solutions based on electrochemical reactions. It is widely adapted in hydrometallurgical processes with fundamentals going back to Faraday's studies on electrolytic reactions.

*Elektrolean adalah satu kaedah yang efisien dalam perolehan logam dari larutan berdasarkan kepada tindakbalas elektrokimia. Ia meluas digunakan dalam proses hidrometalurgi dengan pengetahuan asas dari kajian Faraday ke atas tindakbalas elektrolitik.*

- (i) State the TWO Faraday's Law for electrolysis.

*Nyatakan DUA hukum Faraday bagi elektrolisis.*

(10 marks/markah)

...9/-



- (ii) Describe briefly the fundamentals of electrowinning process using a simple electrolysis cell. State **TWO** examples of established industrial applications employing electrolysis fundamentals.

*Huraikan secara ringkas prinsip asas proses elektrolehan menggunakan sel elektrolisis. Nyatakan DUA contoh aplikasi industri yang sediada yang menggunakan asas elektrolisis ini.*

(15 marks/markah)

- (iii) Tabulate the differences between electrowinning and electrorefining.

*Dalam bentuk jadual, tunjukkan perbezaan di antara elektrolehan dan elektrotulenan.*

(15 marks/markah)

- [b] An experiment was conducted using a laboratory cell to demonstrate electrowinning of nickel (atomic mass =  $58.69 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ). The cell contained  $80 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  nickel sulphate solution (of pH 3.4), maintained at a temperature of  $55^\circ\text{C}$ . The cathode and anode are DSA-Titanium and DSA- $\text{O}_2$ , respectively. After 3.5 hours, 6.9 g of nickel deposit was obtained. With the cell potential being 2.2 V, current density of  $200 \text{ A m}^{-2}$  and electrode surface of  $60 \text{ cm}^2$ , calculate the current efficiency for this experiment.

*Satu eksperimen telah dijalankan menggunakan satu sel makmal untuk menunjukkan elektrolehan nikel (jisim atom =  $58.69 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ). Sel ini mengandungi  $80 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  larutan nikel sulfat ( pH 3.4), pada suhu  $55^\circ\text{C}$ . Katod dan anod adalah jenis DSA-Titanium and DSA- $\text{O}_2$ , masing-masing. Selepas 3.5 jam, sebanyak 6.9 g nikel diendapkan. Dengan keupayaan sel 2.2 V, ketumpatan arus  $200 \text{ A m}^{-2}$  dan permukaan elektrod  $60 \text{ cm}^2$ , kirakan kecekapan arus bagi eksperimen ini.*

(25 marks/markah)

- [c] Zinc (atomic mass =  $65.39 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ) was obtained by electrowinning from a zinc sulfate solution. The process was done under the conditions where the cell voltage and current density were  $2.5 \text{ V}$  and  $0.03 \text{ A cm}^{-2}$ , respectively. If the current efficiency is estimated at 95%, calculate the volume of hydrogen gas produced (given STP conditions) and the electrical energy consumption per kg of zinc produced (given  $1 \text{ F} = 96500 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$ ).

*Zink (jisim atom =  $65.39 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ) diperolehi dari elektrolehan satu larutan zink sulfat. Proses dijalankan di bawah keadaan di mana voltan sel dan ketumpatan arus adalah  $2.5 \text{ V}$  and  $0.03 \text{ A cm}^{-2}$ , masing-masing. Jika kecekapan arus dianggarkan pada 95%, kirakan isipadu gas hidrogen yang terhasil (pada keadaan STP) dan penggunaan tenaga elektrik per kg zink yang dihasilkan (diberikan  $1 \text{ F} = 96500 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$ ).*

(35 marks/markah)

7. [a] What is McCabe-Thiele diagram? With reference to a solvent extraction circuit, explain the data needed and how they are obtained in the construction of a McCabe-Thiele diagram.

*Apakah dia gambarajah McCabe-Thiele? Dengan merujuk kepada satu litar pengekstrakan pelarut, terangkan data yang diperlukan dan bagaimana ianya diperolehi dalam pembinaan satu gambarajah McCabe-Thiele.*

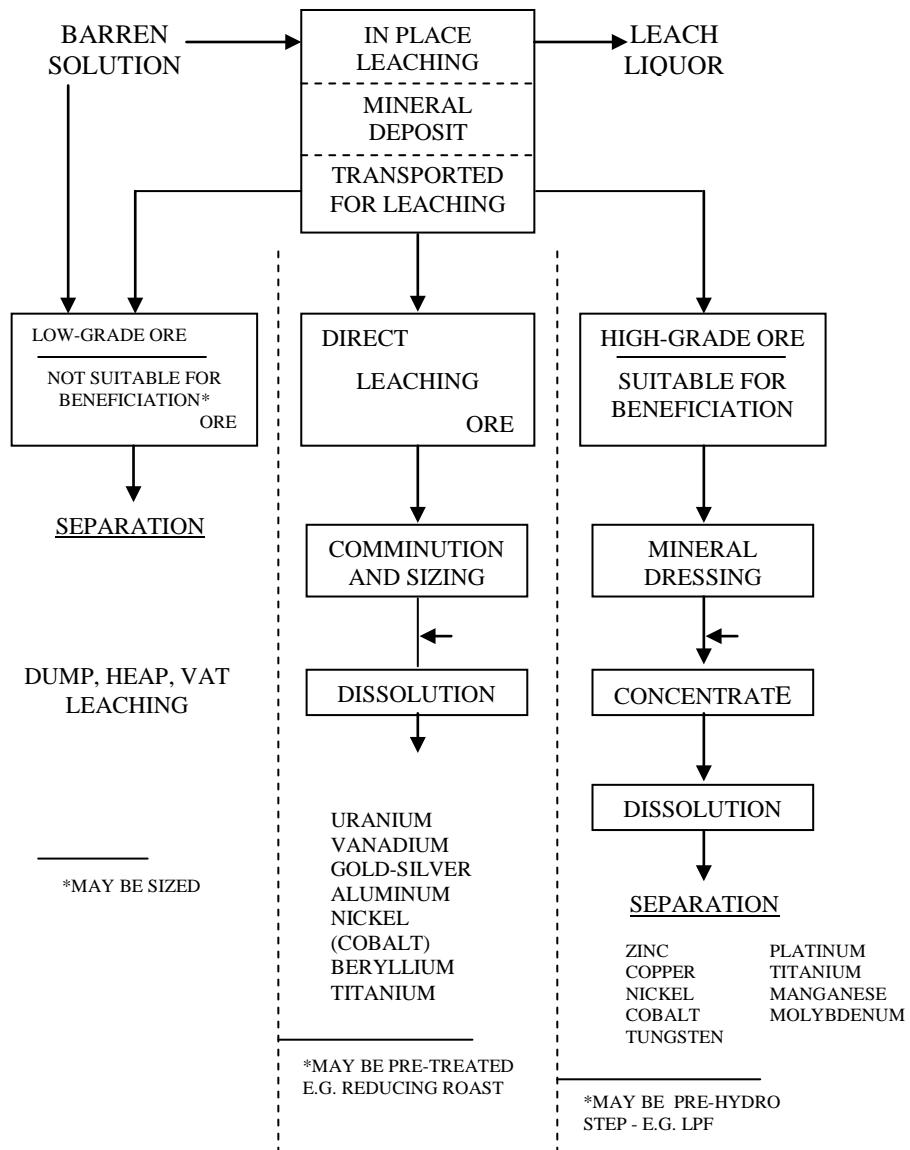
(50 marks/markah)

- [b] Describe briefly the usage of ion-exchange resins in the gold industry. Compare this process with the application of activated carbon in the same industry. List similarities/differences and factors that may influence the performance of each approach. Explain also the advantages and disadvantages of both processes.

*Huraikan secara ringkas penggunaan resin penukaran ion dalam industri emas. Bandingkan proses ini dengan aplikasi karbon teraktif dalam industri yang sama. Senaraikan kesamaan/perbezaan dan faktor-faktor yang mungkin mempengaruhi prestasi setiap pendekatan. Terangkan juga kebaikan dan keburukan kedua-dua proses.*

(50 marks/markah)

**APPENDIX**  
**LAMPIRAN**



**Figure 1.0 - General flow of ores and concentrates in hydrometallurgical leaching practice**

**Rajah 1.0 - Aliran umum bagi bijih dan konsentrat dalam amalan pelarutlesapan hidrometalurgi**