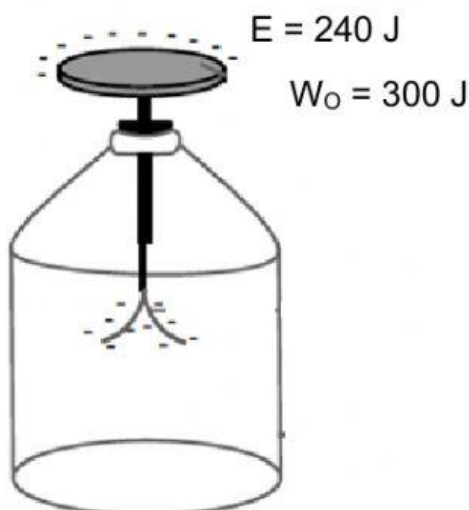


## Photoelectric effect worksheet 3

Quick practise:

- ✓ Leave no spaces between values and units
- ✓ If no photoelectrons are emitted, answer any subsequent questions with n/a
- ✓ Type meters per second as m.s-1

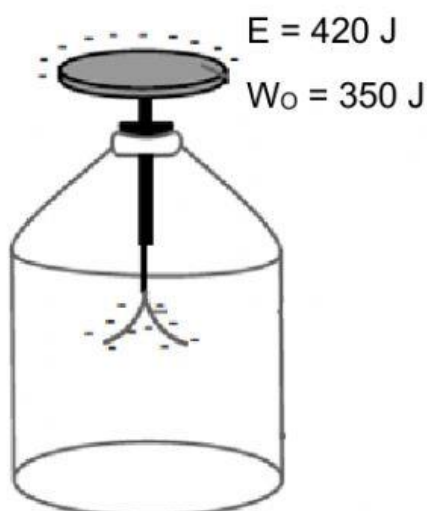
1.



Determine

- Whether electrons will be emitted    yes    **no**
- If yes, the energy of the emitted photoelectrons     $E_k =$

2.



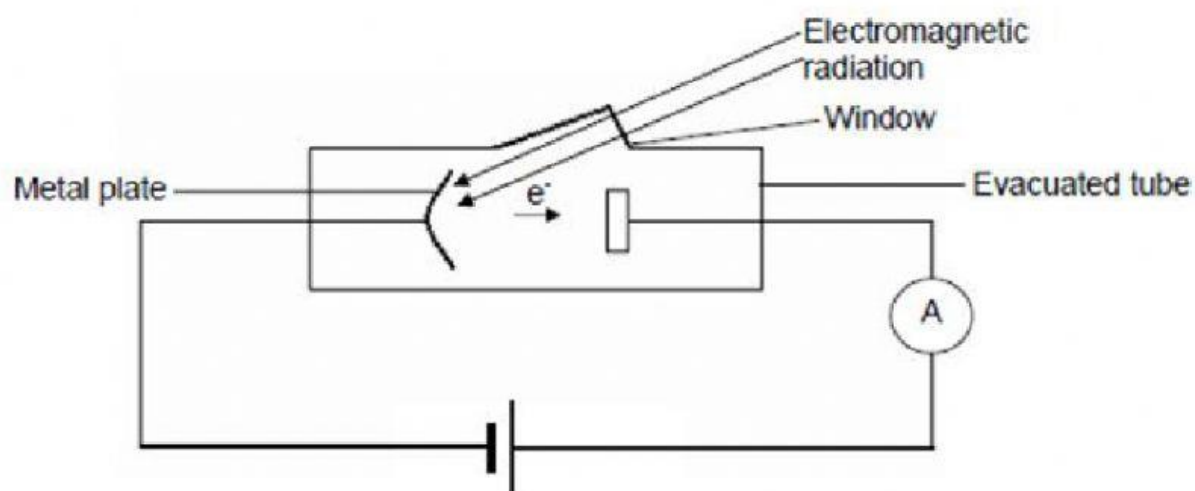
Determine

- Whether electrons will be emitted    yes    no
- If yes, the energy of the emitted photoelectrons     $E_k =$
- Calculate the speed of the emitted photoelectrons  $v = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \times 10^{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}} \text{ m.s-1}$

## Brightness and frequency of the light and the relationship with current in a photocell

*A photocell in a solar panel is a practical application of the photoelectric effect.*

The diagram below shows a metal plate that emits electrons when a certain frequency of electromagnetic radiation is incident on it. The plate is connected to a source of potential difference and an ammeter as shown in the circuit below.



## Brightness of the light and the current

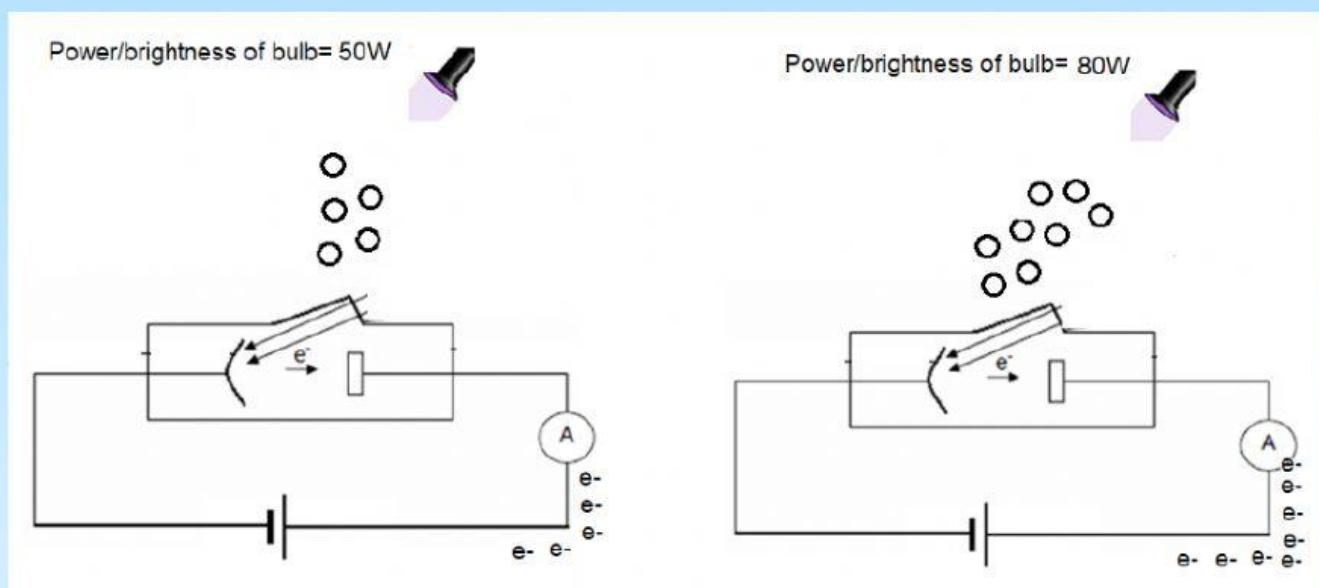
The only real difference here compared to other theory questions is that current is the number of electrons/photoelectrons that flow past a point per second. Thus you must ensure to say that in your explanation.

Increasing the brightness of the light causes the following (*key phrases to use in an explanation*)

- more photons to be emitted per second
- thus more photons hit the metal plate per second
- and more photoelectrons will be emitted per second

(But only if the energy of the light is greater than the work function of the metal)

- thus the current will increase in the photocell



## Frequency of the light and current

Increasing the frequency causes

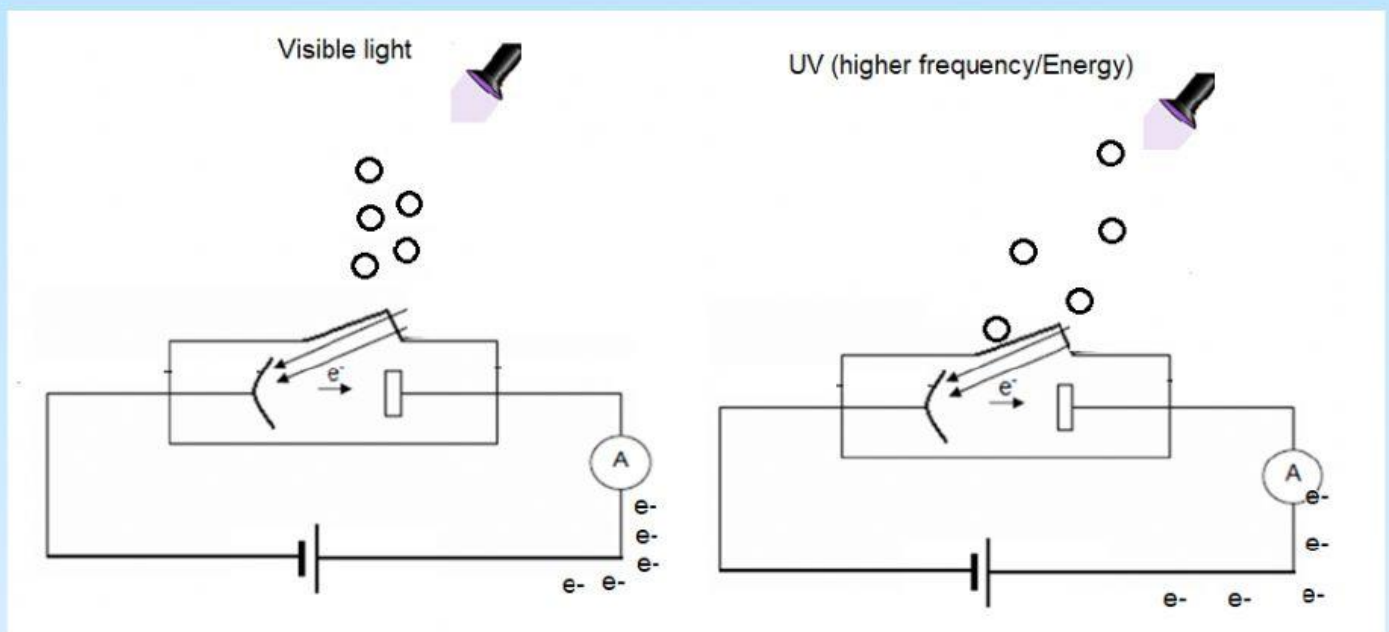
- the energy of the photons to increase. ( $f$  is directly proportional to energy.)
- The number of photoelectrons is **not** affected.

Thus the photons travelling towards the metal have more energy and are moving faster. This causes the photoelectrons emitted to gain more energy ( $E_{k\max}$ ) and also to move faster and have higher speed when emitted. {However there are still the same number of electrons emitted **per second**, they are just moving faster}.

Since there is the same number of emitted photoelectrons, but they move faster, there just ends up being larger spaces between each emitted photoelectron.}

Key phrases to use are

- photons with more energy are released
- but the same number of photons are released per second
- thus the same number of photoelectrons are released per second, but they just have more  $E_k$  (they move faster)
- thus the current in the photocell remains constant.





Exercise 1:

Question 1 to 7 must be answered in your phys book

1. What is the photoelectric effect?
2. Why does wave theory fail to explain it?
3. What is a photon?
4. What happens to the energy of a photon when it collides with the surface of the metal?
5. What is the threshold frequency of a substance?
6. What is the work function of a substance?
7. Write an equation to show how the work function and threshold frequency are related?
8. Calculate the energy of a photon of light if it has a frequency of  $7,5 \times 10^{15}$  Hz.

=        x 10                    ← unit

Answer (to 2 decimal places)

Exponent, written as a regular number

9. What is the energy of a photon with a wavelength of  $4.6 \times 10^{-6}$  m  
=        x 10
10. Rank red, green and yellow light from greatest to smallest according to: (type red,green,yellow with no spaces in the correct order separated by a comma)
  - a. wavelength
  - b. frequency
  - c. energy

Which of these three is most likely to emit an electron from a metal surface?

Red    Green    Yellow

12. The threshold frequency of a particular metal is  $4.3 \times 10^{15}$  Hz.  
a. Calculate the work function of the metal.

= \_\_\_\_\_  $\times 10$  \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Would a photon with  $2 \times 10^{-18}$  J of energy emit an electron from the metal?

Yes    no

13.

The threshold frequency of a particular metal is the frequency of green light. What would happen to the current in a photo electric cell if:

- |                        |            |                       |                   |                   |                          |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. dim yellow light    | no current | there will be current | current increases | current decreases | current remains the same |
| b. bright yellow light | no current | there will be current | current increases | current decreases | current remains the same |
| c. dim blue light      | no current | there will be current | current increases | current decreases | current remains the same |
| d. bright blue light   | no current | there will be current | current increases | current decreases | current remains the same |
- were shone onto the metal cathode.

14. Copper has a work function of  $6.2 \times 10^{-19}$  J. If copper is irradiated with a wavelength of 800nm will electrons be emitted?  
Calculate the energy of the light first.

E = \_\_\_\_\_  $\times 10$  \_\_\_\_\_

Yes    No