

C2: Separation techniques

Knowledge organiser



What are mixtures?

Mixtures are different substances found together, but not chemically bonded. This means the different substances can be **separated** from each other.

In a **compound**, different substances are chemically bonded together, while in a mixture they are not.

The substances that make up a mixture keep their own properties and are easy to separate.

You can change the amounts of the substances in a mixture.

You can tell the difference between a **pure substance** and an **impure substance** – a pure substance has a single, sharp melting point, while an impure substance (a mixture) has a range of temperatures for its melting point.

Solutions

Solutions are a type of mixture made of two parts:

- **1 Solvent**: the liquid that makes up most of the solution.
- **2 Solute**: the substance that is added to the solvent and **dissolves** into it.

The solute usually starts as a solid, and its particles break away from each other and move into the solvent.

Solubility

The **solubility** of a solute means how much solute can dissolve in a certain volume of solvent.

- Different solutes have different solubilities in different solvents.
- Increasing the temperature often increases the solubility.
- Soluble substances can dissolve, insoluble substances cannot.

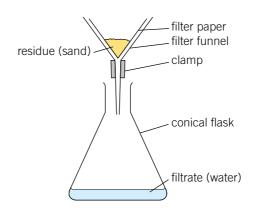
Saturated: when so much solute has been added to the solvent that no more can dissolve, we say the mixture is saturated.

How can we separate mixtures?

Filtration

A method to separate a mixture of an undissolved solid and a liquid.

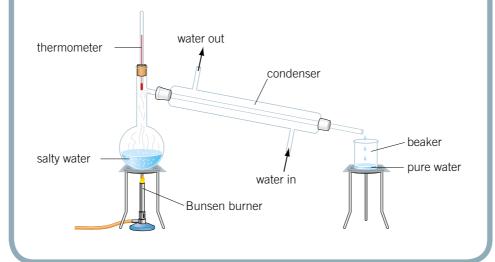
- 1 Filter paper has extremely small holes in it.
- 2 Particles in a liquid or solution are so tiny that they can fit through the holes.
- **3** Larger particles of the solid are too big to fit through the holes and are held back by the paper.
- Residue: solids left behind in the filter paper.
- Filtrate: the liquid that passes through the filter paper.



Distillation

A method that separates a solute and a solvent while keeping the solvent.

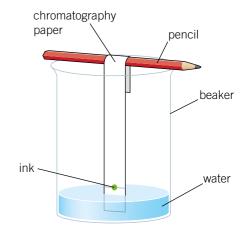
- 1 The solution is boiled so the solvent turns in to a gas.
- **2** The gas is then cooled down in a **condenser**, where it turns back into a liquid and can be collected.



Chromatography

A method used to separate mixtures that are soluble in the same solvent.

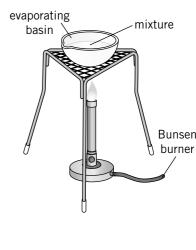
- **1** A mixture like ink is placed on a piece of paper, which is placed in a solvent.
- **2** As the solvent moves up the paper it separates all the different constituents (parts) of the ink, producing a **chromatogram**.



Evaporation

A method to separate a solute and a solvent, keeping the solute.

- 1 The solution is heated then left in an evaporating basin until all the solvent evaporates.
- 2 The solute is left behind as a solid.





Make sure you can write definitions for these key terms.