Combined Science - Biology - KS4 Cell Biology

Osmosis

(Downloadable student document)



Recap of fundamental concepts



Concentration

Concentration is the mass of a solute per unit volume.



Quick concept check

- 1. What is a solute?
- 2. What is a solvent?
- 3. What does concentration mean?



Answers

- 1. A solid that is dissolved to form a solution.
- 2. The liquid into which a solute is dissolved.
- 3. The mass of solute per unit volume of the solvent.
- 4. A solution with a low concentration of solute.



Osmosis



Osmosis is the movement of water from an area of more water to an area of less water, through a partially permeable membrane.



Quick concept check

- 1. What is osmosis?
- 2. Does it require energy?



Answers to quick concept check

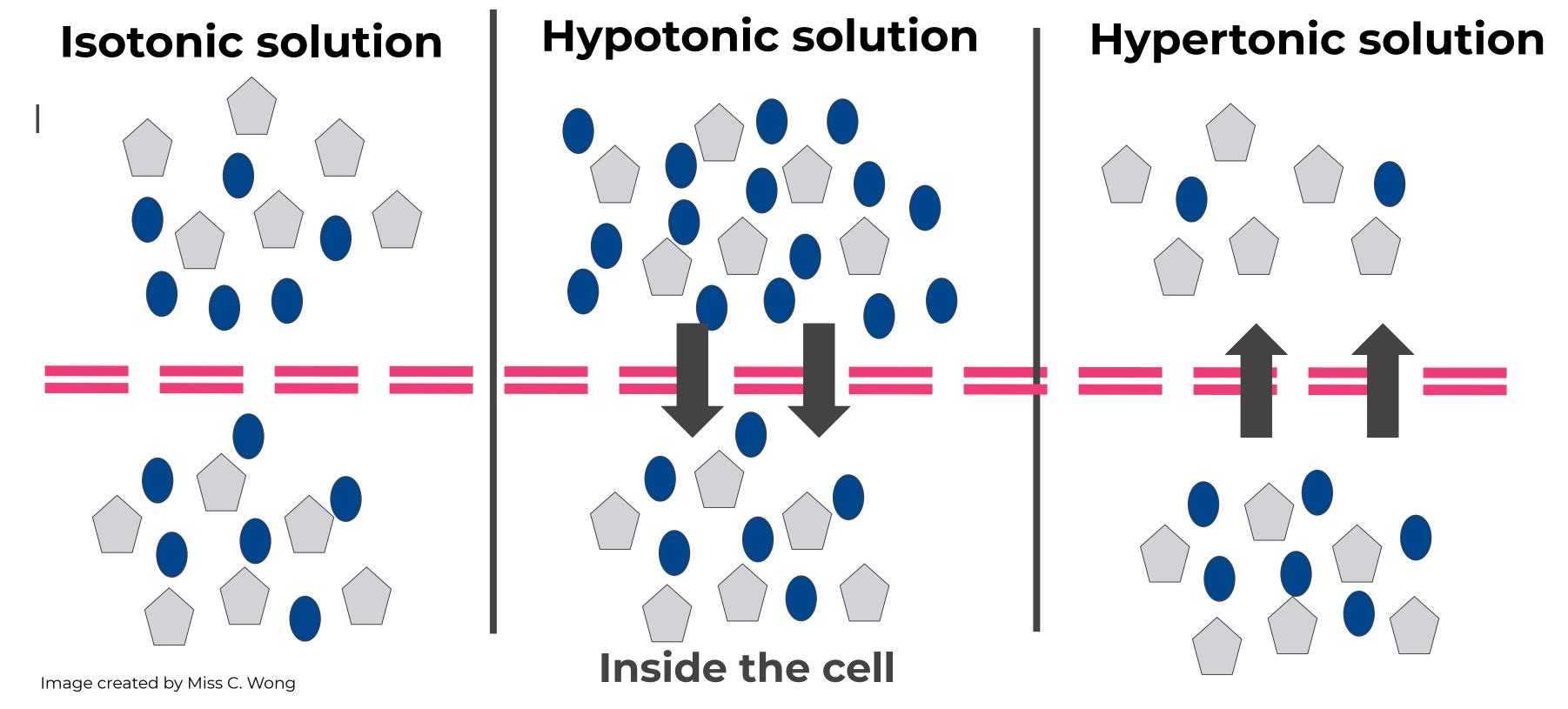
Osmosis is the movement of water from a region of higher concentration of water to a region of lower concentration of water through a partially permeable membrane. It does not require energy.



Hypotonic, hypertonic, isotonic



Hypotonic, hypertonic, isotonic solution





Normal blood glucose concentration is 8 grams per litre. Use numbers to suggest possible concentrations of glucose solutions that are hypertonic, hypotonic and isotonic to blood glucose concentration.

Concentration in g/L

Hypertonic

Hypotonic

Isotonic



Answers to quick concept

Concentration in g/L

Hypertonic Any number above 8

Hypotonic Any number below 8

Isotonic 8



Osmosis in animal and plant cells



Quick concept check

- 1. Under what condition will an animal cell burst?
- 2. Describe what happens to the cell membrane and cell wall when a plant cell is plasmolysed.



Answers

1. When an animal cell is placed into a hypotonic solution

2. The cell membrane is detached from the cell wall because the cell has lost water from its vacuole and cytoplasm.



Exam style question



In an experiment, 5% sugar solution is placed inside a visking tubing. The visking tubing is a membrane that contains small pores. Only water can pass through the visking tubing.

The visking tubing with the 5% sugar solution is lowered into a 0.02% sugar solution. The initial level of the 5% sugar solution is indicated by the red fluid.

- 1. Describe the change in the level of solution inside the visking tubing 20 minutes into the experiment. (1 mark)
- Explain your answer in the previous question. (3 marks)



Answers

1. The level increases/rises.

2. The solution **outside has more water** than the solution inside the visking tubing.

Water enters the visking tubing through the partially permeable membrane into the visking tubing by osmosis.



Independent practice



Independent practice

- 1. What does isotonic mean?
- 2. If a cell is placed in an isotonic solution, what is happening to the water?
- 3. What does hypotonic mean?
- 4. If a cell is placed in an hypotonic solution, what is happening to the water?
- 5. If this keeps happening what could happen to the cell?
- 6. What does hypertonic mean?
- 7. If a cell is placed in an hypertonic solution, what is happening to the water?
- 8. If this keeps happening what could happen to the cell?
- 9. A student wants to investigate osmosis. A carrot was placed in a dilute solution.
- a) What will happen to its mass? Explain your answer.
- b) The carrot was placed in 0.4 mol/dm^3 solution. Its mass did not change. Explain why this happened.
- c) What does this tell us about the concentration of the carrot?
- d) The carrot was placed in a concentrated solution. What will happen to its mass? Explain your answer.



Answers

- 1. Concentration of solute is the same inside and outside of the cell.
- 2. It diffuses in and out of the cell at the same rate.
- 3. Concentration of solute is higher inside the cell/solution outside the cell is more dilute.
- 4. It moves inside the cell.
- 5. It can swell and eventually burst.
- 6. Concentration of solute is lower inside the cell.
- 7. Water leaves the cell.
- 8. It can shrivel.
- 9. Mass will increase. This is because there is a higher concentration of salt inside the carrot and so water moves by osmosis into the carrot's cells from a dilute solution to a more concentrated solution
 - b) The concentration inside the carrot must be the same (isotonic) so no net movement of water occurs
 - c) It is also 0.4 mol/dm³
 - d) The mass will decrease as water moves out from a more dilute solution in the cell to a more concentrated solution outside of the cell.

