1-

a) Discuss different reactions in the blast furnace.

Reactions in the blast furnace

Following chemical reactions take place in different zones of the blast furnace.

(i) **Zone of reduction** – $(300^{\circ}C \text{ to } 800^{\circ}C \text{ - i.e. dull red heat})$

This is the uppermost zone of the blast furnace. It is called the zone of reduction. Here. the iron oxide from the charge is reduced by carbon monoxide to spongy iron.

$$Fe_2O_3 + 3 CO \rightarrow 2 Fe + 3 CO_2 \uparrow$$

The reduction of Fe₂O₃ actually takes place in following three stages.

a) Conversion of ferric oxide to ferroso - ferric oxide

 $3 \text{ Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + 2 \text{ Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

b) Conversion of ferroso - ferric oxide to ferrous oxide.

 $Fe_3O_4 + CO \rightarrow CO_2 + 3 FeO$

c) Conversion of ferrous oxide to metallic iron.

 $FeO + CO \rightarrow CO_2 + Fe$

When the spongy iron falls in the middle region (zone of heat absorption),

limestone,

CaCO₃ decomposes to give CaO (lime) and CO₂. Lime thus obtained acts as a flux.

It combines with silica to form a fusible (meltable) slag.

 $CaCO_3 \rightarrow CaO + CO_2$; $CaO + SiO_2 \rightarrow CASiO_3$ (slag)

(ii) Zone of heat absorption – (800° C to 1200° C – i.e. bright red heat) This is the middle part or zone of the blast furnace. In this zone, the ascending CO₂ is reduced to carbon monoxide when it reacts with carbon (coke).

 $CO_2 + C \rightarrow 2 CO - 39 \text{ kcal}$

As the reaction is endothermic, the temperature in this region falls and comes in the

range $8000C - 1000^{\circ}C$.

(iii) Zone of combustion – (1300° C to 1500° C – i.e. white heat)

This is the zone near the tuyeres . Here the carbon burns to form CO2 producing tremendous amount of heat. C + O2 \rightarrow CO2 \uparrow + 97 kcal

The heat evolved raises the temperature to 15000C. As the hot gases go up and meet the descending charge, the temperature falls slowly to about 1300°C.

(iv) **Zone of fusion** – $(1500^{\circ}C \text{ to } 1900^{\circ}C)$

In this zone, the spongy iron melts and dissolves some carbon, phosphorus and silica. The molten iron collects at the bottom of the furnace while the fusible slag floats on it and protects the iron from oxidation. The layers of molten iron and slag are withdrawn through separate tapping holes from time to time. The process is economical as it is continuous one. The waste gases containing about 25% CO, 15% CO₂, 56% N₂ and 4% H₂ are let out through the outer pipe. These are burnt with air to produce heat which is used for preheating the air blast passed through the tuyeres. The blast furnace can work day and night for years together. Iron so obtained is known as **Pig Iron**. It is remelted in a vertical furnace (known as cupola) and can be cast or poured into moulds. It is then called **cast iron**. Thus cast iron is obtained after remelting pig iron.

b) Mention the different applications of alumina in modern industry

Alumina can be used in different fields as the following: Furnace components, Catalyst substrates, Electronics substrates, Electrical insulators, Cutting tools, Bearings, Spark Plugs, Arc lamp tubes, Laser hosts, Gem stones, Catalyst pellets, *Alumina coatings*, Oxidation protection of aluminum and aluminum alloys, Capacitors, Transisitors, Bioceramics *Alumina fibers*, Thermal insulators, Fire retardation, Ceramics and glasses, Electrical insulators, Porcelains, Durable glasses.

a) Mention the different applications of iron in our modern life.

Iron is used in the forms shown below as material of construction for machines, plants, buildings, locomotives, ships, automobiles, railway lines and for many other things. All these forms are obtained from pig iron which is first obtained from the iron ore. White cast iron obtained when molten low silicon, high manganese pig iron is rapidly cooled. Grey pig iron which contains very small amounts of carbon and other impurities but 1.2-3% slag Steel which contain from 0.08 to 0.8% carbon. Major part of cast iron is used to manufacture steel. Cast iron is used for casting metal objects such as pipes, railings, weights, heavier parts of machines etc. Iron is used as material of construction. Hard steel which contain 0.8 to 1.5% carbon. Alloy or special steels which besides carbon contain one or more metals such as Ni, Cr, W, V, Mo, Mn.

2-

b) Discuss the steps which used in the manufacture of cast iron.

Washing and concentration or dressing of the ore

Haematite ore is washed with water. It is subjected to magnetic separation. The ore being magnetic in nature, falls apart as a separate heap. This way the ore becomes rich in oxide of iron. It is then broken into small pieces of 1" to 2" size, screened and shifted. This helps to remove gangue. Due to washing, silicious impurities are removed. The ore is thus concentrated.

(ii) Preliminary roasting and calcinations

The concentrated ore is roasted and calcined with a little coal in shallow kiln (furnace) in excess air. Following changes take place during roasting and calcinations. (i) Moisture escapes as steam and organic matter present burns off to give CO_2 and sulphur and arsenic are oxidized to form their volatile oxides SO_2 and As_2O_3 respectively. (ii) Ferrous oxide is converted to ferric oxide which avoids formation of ferrous silicate in the slag during smelting and (iii) The mass becomes porous and thus makes it more suitable for reduction to metallic iron. Following reactions take place.

Fe2O3. 3 H2O \rightarrow Fe2O3 + 3 H2O \uparrow ; FeCO3 \rightarrow FeO + CO2 \uparrow ; 4 FeO + O2 \rightarrow 2 Fe2O3

(iii) Reduction or smelting in a Blast Furnace

The roasted and calcined ore (8 parts) is mixed with coke (4 parts) which acts as a reducing agent and limestone (1 part) which acts as a flux. The mixture is introduced in a tall **Blast Furnace**. The blast furnace has two functions (i) to reduce the ore to metallic iron and (ii) to remove the impurities in the form of slag.

c) Explain the methods which used in reduction of oxides to metals.

One or more of the following methods can be used to obtain a metal from its oxide.

(i) **Heating** - Less reactive metals like silver and mercury can be obtained by heating their oxides alone. These metals are placed at the bottom of the electrochemical series.

 $2 \ HgO \ \rightarrow \ 2 \ Hg \ + \ O_2 \qquad ; \qquad 2 \ Ag_2O \ \rightarrow \ 4Ag \ + \ O_2$

(ii) Carbon reduction - Some metals like lead, copper, zinc and iron can be

obtained by reducing their oxides by carbon. When the oxides of these metals are heated with coke, the oxides are reduced to a metal. Carbon has more affinity for oxygen than the metals have it for oxygen hence carbon extracts the oxygen leaving behind the free metal.

(iii) Use **of carbon monoxide** - Oxides of metals like PbO, CuO, FeO can be reduced by carbon monoxide at high temperature to give the corresponding metals.

 $CuO + CO \rightarrow Cu + CO_2 : \ FeO + CO \rightarrow Fe + CO_2 ; \ PbO \ + \ CO \rightarrow \ Pb \ + CO_2$

(iv)Use of aluminium - Oxides of metals like ZnO, Cr_2O_3 and MnO_2 cannot be reduced by carbon because these metals have a greater affinity for oxygen than carbon. An active metal like aluminium (in the form of powder) is required to reduce the oxides of these metals. The reduction of a metal oxide by heating with aluminium is called aluminothermy. In this process, lot of heat is evolved and hence the metal may melt in the container. It is tapped from the bottom of the container.

 $Cr_2O_3 + 2 Al \rightarrow Al_2O_3 + 2 Cr + Heat$; $3MnO_2 + 4Al \rightarrow 2 Al_2O_3 + 3 Mn + Heat$

(v) Electrolysis - The metals like iron, zinc, lead, chromium, manganese lie in the middle of the electrochemical series. They are somewhat active. So their oxides can be reduced by carbon or carbon monoxide or reactive metals like aluminium or sodium, calcium. But the metals like sodium, magnesium, calcium, aluminium which are placed in the top of the electrochemical series i.e. which are very active, cannot be obtained by the reduction of their oxides by ordinary reducing agents. So they are obtained by passing an electric current through the purified molten ore. An electric current is passed through the

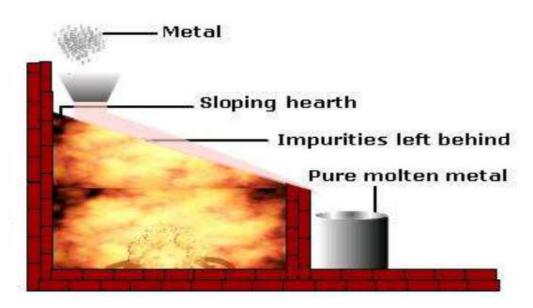
molten oxide or chloride of the metal. The metal gets deposited at the cathode from where it is separated.

3-

a) Mention different methods which used in refining of metals with explain **ONLY ONE** method.

Refining of metals:

(i) **Liquation** - It is a technique for separating constituents of an ore, a metal, or an alloy by partial melting. The technique is used when the melting temperature of the metal is lower than that of the impurity and the impurities are not miscible with the metal. Metals like Bi, Sn, Pb, Hg etc. are purified by this technique. The sloping floor of the reverberatory furnace is used to melt the crude metal, when pure metal flows down and impurities are left behind.



Electro- refining - Electro-refining of metals is a process of obtaining pure metal from the impure one by the process of electrolysis.

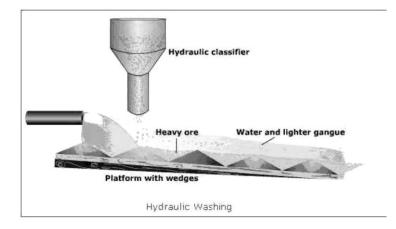
Process - The process of electro-refining of metals involves the following steps: (i) The electrolyte is usually an aqueous solution of the salt of the metal with some

corresponding acid, if necessary. (ii) A thick block of impure metal is made as the anode. (iii) A thin rod or sheet of pure metal is made as the cathode. (iv) The metal cations being positive, migrate towards the cathode and get discharged. (v) At anode, the atoms of the metal lose electrons, form cations and enter the solution. (vi) The less electropositive impurities in the anode, settle down at the bottom and are removed as anode mud while the more electropositive impurities pass into the solution. (vii) Anode finally disintegrates while the cathode gains in weight due to the collection of pure metal. This way pure metal is obtained.

Distillation - Metals like zinc and mercury which boil at low temperature are purified by this method. The impure metal is taken in iron retort and heated strongly above the boiling point of the metal. At the boiling point, vapours of the metal are produced which are led to a condenser. By condensation of the vapours, pure metal is obtained.

physical methods which used in concentration of ore:

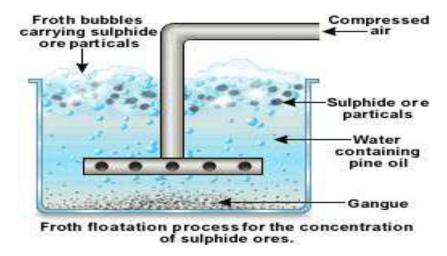
(1) Hydraulic washing (Gravity separation): In this process, the ore particles are poured over a hydraulic classifier which is a vibrating inclined table with grooves and a jet of water is allowed to flow over it. The denser ore settles in the grooves while the lighter gangue particles are washed away. This method is used for concentration of heavy oxide ores of lead, tin, iron etc. The hydraulic washing method is shown in the following figure.



(2) **Froth floatation -** This method is especially used for sulphide ores. The method employs a mixture of water and pine oil which is made to agitate with the ore. A mixture of water, pine oil, detergent and powdered ore is first taken in a tank. A blast of compressed air is blown through the pipe of a rotating agitator

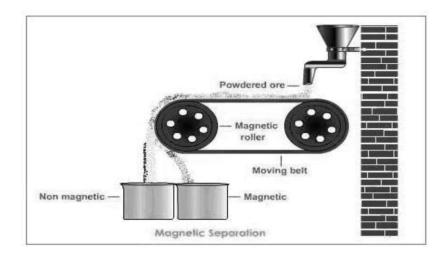
Fig.1 - Hydraulic washing

to produce froth. The sulphide ore particles are wetted and coated by pine oil and rise up along with the froth (froth being lighter). The gangue particles wetted by water sink to the bottom of the tank (water being heavier). Sulphide being more electronegative attracts the covalent oil molecules. The gangue being less electronegative is attracted by the water. The froth containing the sulphide ore is transferred to another container, washed and dried. Thus sulphide ore is separated from the gangue. The froth floatation process is shown in the following figure.



(3) **Magnetic separation** - Magnetic ores like pyrolusite (MnO_2) and chromite (FeO.Cr₂O₃) are enriched by this method by making use of the difference in the magnetic properties of the ore and gangue particles. The powdered ore is dropped on to leather or brass conveyer belt, which moves over two rollers one of which is

magnetic. When the ore passes over the magnetic roller, it sticks to the belt due to the force of attraction and falls nearer to magnetic roller. The gangue falls in a normal way under the influence of gravity. The magnetic ore and gangue thus form two separate heaps. Following figure shows the magnetic separation method.



4-

a) Leaching - It means washing. In this process, the ore is washed with some suitable reagent (solvent) so that the main metal passes into its salt solution. This solution is separated and subjected to further treatment like precipitation. It is then treated further to recover the metal. This is a chemical method of concentration

b) Conversion of concentrated ore to oxide

It is easier to obtain a metal from its oxide form as compared to its sulphide, carbonate or any other form. Therefore, prior to reduction usually the metal is converted to its oxide form. Following methods are used to convert the concentrated ore to its oxide form.

1) Calcination -It is a process in which the ore is heated strongly in absence of air. The ore is heated at a temperature well below its melting point. The ore gets thermally decomposed, undergoes phase transformation and eliminates the volatile impurities like moisture, carbon dioxide etc. Since the ore becomes porous and compact, it easily undergoes further chemical reactions. This method is generally used for carbonate and hydrated ores.

2) Roasting - It is a process wherein the ore is heated either alone or with some other material in excess of air below the fusion point of the ore. Usually, this method is used for sulphide ores. In roasting, definite chemical changes take place to form oxide or chloride of the metal. Ores of metals like zinc, lead, copper and nickel, when roasted in air, are converted to their oxides. Ores of some metals like lead may get partially oxidized and converted to sulphate. In such case, it is called sulphating roasting or partial roasting. Ores of metals like silver and gold are mixed with common salt and are heated in air. They are converted to their chlorides which are easy to reduce. This type of roasting is called chlorinating roasting. The purpose of roasting is to convert the ore in a form suitable to reduce. The gaseous product of sulphide roasting, sulphur dioxide, is often used to produce sulphuric acid.

c) Mention the methods which used for purification of bauxite with explain ONLY ONE method.

Bauxite contains iron oxide or silica as major impurity. The bauxite containing iron oxide as major impurity is called **red bauxite** and the bauxite containing silica as major impurity is called **white bauxite**. Iron and silicon both make aluminium metal brittle and liable for corrosion hence they must be eliminated. If bauxite contains iron oxide, Fe₂O₃ as the major impurity, it is purified by Baeyer's process or Hall's process. If it contains silica, SiO₂ as the major impurity, it is purified by Serpek's process.

(i) **Serpek's process** – This process is used when bauxite ore contains appreciable amount of silica (above 7 %) and low amount of Fe₂O₃ (less than 1 %).Powdered

bauxite is mixed with carbon and heated up to 1800oC in a current of nitrogen. Aluminium from bauxite is converted to aluminium nitride while silica is reduced to silicon.

 $Al_2O_3.n H_2O + 3C + N_2 \rightarrow 2 AlN + 3 CO + n H_2O$

 $SiO_2 + 2C \rightarrow Si\uparrow + 2 CO\uparrow$

Silicon volatilizes at this temperature. Aluminium nitride is hydrolyzed with hot water. It precipitates aluminium hydroxide.

 $AlN + 3 H_2O \rightarrow Al(OH)_3 \downarrow + NH_3$

The precipitate of Al(OH)₃ is washed, dried and ignited at about 1500₀C to get pure alumina.

 $2 \text{ Al}(\text{OH})_3 \rightarrow \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 3 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \uparrow$

b) **Baeyer's process** – This process is used when bauxite ore contains appreciable amount of Fe₂O₃ (7 to 10 %) and low amount of silica (less than 1 %). The ore is first calcined and then finely ground. It is then digested with a hot and strong solution of caustic soda (45 %) in an autoclave under 80 lb. pressure at 150oC for 2 to 8 hours. At this stage, aluminium oxide dissolves in NaOH to form sodium meta aluminate (NaAlO₂) while ferric oxide and titanium dioxide remain undissolved.. They are then removed by filtration.

 $Al_2O_3 + 2 NaOH \rightarrow 2 NaAlO_2 + H_2O$

Sodium meta aluminate (soluble)

Silica dissolves in the form of silicate. After filtration, sodium meta aluminate solution is diluted with water, slowly cooled and then mixed with a little freshly precipitated aluminium hydroxide which acts as a nucleus for precipitation of aluminium hydroxide.(Alternatively CO₂ can be passed till the solution becomes acidic) It is then digested. Sodium meta aluminate, NaAlO₂ hydrolyses to give precipitate of aluminium hydroxide.

 $NaAlO_2 + 2 H_2O \rightarrow NaOH + Al(OH)_3 \downarrow$

Aluminium hydroxide precipitate is then washed, dried and ignited to get pure alumina (Al₂O₃). The filtrate containing caustic soda is concentrated and used again.

 $2 \text{ Al}(\text{OH})_3 \rightarrow \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 3 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \uparrow$

c) **Hall's process** - This process is used for low grade bauxite ores. In this process, bauxite ore is fused with sodium carbonate, Na₂CO₃ to give water soluble sodium meta aluminate , Na_AlO₂ leaving behind Fe₂O₃ and SiO₂.

Al₂O₃ + Na ₂CO₃ \rightarrow 2 NaAlO₂ + CO₂ \uparrow

The fused mass of sodium meta silicate is extracted with water and filtered. The impurities Fe2O3 and SiO2 remain on the filter paper. The filtrate containing NaAlO2 is warmed and CO2 is passed through it, when Al(OH)3 is precipitated.

 $2 \text{ NaAlO}_2 + \text{CO}_2 + 3 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2 \text{ Al}(\text{OH})_3 \downarrow + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$

The precipitate is filtered, washed and ignited to obtain pure alumina.

 $2 \operatorname{Al}(OH)_3 \rightarrow \operatorname{Al}_2O_3 + 3 \operatorname{H}_2O \uparrow$

5-

a) Explain ONLY ONE method for the manufacture of steel.

Steel is manufactured from pig or cast iron.. Iron containing 0.1 to 1.5 % carbon is called steel. It is manufactured from cast iron by burning out carbon, silicon, phosphorus and sulphur. Then a calculated quantity of carbon is added to it to get a required quality of steel. Following methods are used for the manufacture of steel from pig or cast iron. (i) Bessemer process (ii) Open Hearth process (iii) L. D .process

1) Bessemer process

Bessemer process was invented in 1855 by an English steel maker Henry Bessemer. The process is carried out in a special kind of egg-shaped or pearshaped furnace. The furnace is called Bessemer converter. Bessemer converter is 20 feet high and 10 feet in diameter. This is made of steel plates. It is lined with silica (SiO2) or a mixture of lime (CaO) and magnesia (MgO) depending upon the nature of impurities present in cast iron. If the impurities are basic, like MnO, then a lining of silica bricks is used and the process is known as **Acid**

Bessemer process. On the other hand, if the impurities are acidic like P_2O_5 or SO_2 , then a lining of CaO and MgO is used and the process is known as **Basic Bessemer process.** Bessemer converter is provided with a number of fine holes at the bottom through which a hot blast of air can be forced in fine jets. It is supported on two horizontal arms (trunnions) so that it can be tilted in a vertical plane. The converter can hold a charge of 20 tons at a time. The Bessemer converter is shown in the following figure.

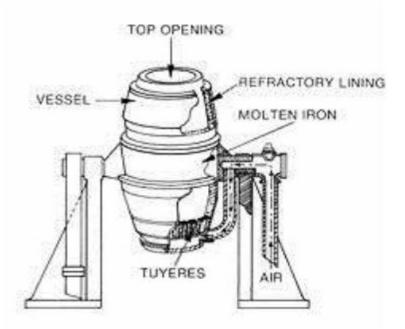


Figure 8 - Bessemer Converter

a) Acid Bessemer Process - First the converter is turned into a horizontal position. Then molten pig or cast iron containing little or no phosphorus is introduced into it. The converter is then brought almost to a vertical position and a hot blast of air is introduced. The air is used to oxidize the impurities. Silicon and manganese are partly oxidized and their oxides pass into slag. Sulphur burns off as SO2. A portion of iron is also oxidized. The iron oxide (Fe2O3) formed oxidizes Mn and Si, if any. The iron oxide now reacts with the carbon present evolving CO which burns at the mouth of the converter with a blue flame. When the flame dies out, the molten metal in the converter becomes wrought iron containing little Fe2O3. To get steel, the converter is again tilted, the blast of hot air is stopped and a calculated quantity of molten **spiegeleisen** (an alloy of Fe, C and Mn) is added. The hot blast of air is turned on again for few minutes for thorough mixing. The molten steel is then poured out and cast into moulds. The reactions taking place in the Bessemer converter are summarized below.

 $Si + O_2 \rightarrow SiO_2$; 2 Mn + O₂ \rightarrow 2 MnO ; MnO + SiO₂ \rightarrow MnSiO₃

 $2 \text{ C} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{ CO}$; $4 \text{ Fe} + 3 \text{ O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{ Fe}_2\text{O}_3$; $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + 3 \text{ C} \rightarrow 2 \text{ Fe} + 3 \text{ CO}$

b) Basic Bessemer process (Thomas Gilchrist process) - This process is only used to treat pig iron containing phosphorus. A charge of limestone and coke is first introduced into the converter. The hot blast of air is turned on. The molten cast iron containing phosphorus is then added and the blast continued. Silicon and manganese are first oxidized and pass into slag. Then phosphorus and carbon are oxidized simultaneously. Carbon monoxide burns at the mouth of the converter. Phosphorus pentoxide reacts with lime and forms a slag containing calcium phosphate. It is known as **Thomas Slag** and is used as a fertilizer. The molten iron is poured out into a ladle (deep spoon with long handle) separated from the slag

and then mixed with the charge of requisite amount of spiegeleisen for recarburisation and deoxidation to form steel. The reactions taking place in the converter are summarized below.

 $P_4 + 5 O_2 \rightarrow P_4O_{10}$; $6 CaO + P_4O_{10} \rightarrow 2 Ca_3(PO_4)_2$ (Thomas Slag)

Merits of Bessemer process

(i) Time required for the production of steel is less

(ii) Production cost is low.

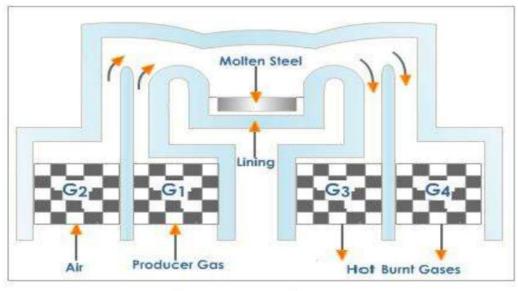
Demerits of Bessemer process

(i) Steel produced is of poor quality

(ii) Loss of iron in slag is more.

2) Open hearth process (Siemens - Martine process)

Most of the high grade steel is made by this process. This is a modern method of manufacture of steel. The furnace used for this purpose is shown in following figure. The process is carried out in a large shallow hearth. When the hearth (floor), is lined with silica, the process is called **Acid Open Hearth process**. When the hearth is lined with lime and magnesia, the process is called **Basic Open Hearth process**. The furnace is heated by means of producer gas (a mixture of CO + N₂ with little amount of H₂, CO₂ and CH₄) and air. There are two generators – one for the hot air and one for the producer gas. The spent hot gases are made to leave the hearth through two other generators. Meanwhile, the first two generators get cooled and the producer gas and air are switched over to the second set of generators and the spent hot gases are led through the first two generators. The process, thus, works alternatively.



Open Hearth Process

a) A _____ Fig. 9 – Open hearth furnace

method is used. Pig or cast iron, rusted steel scrap and iron ore are introduced on to the hearth of the furnace. It melts due to hot producer gas. Iron oxide (Fe₂O₃) acts as an oxidizing agent.

 $Fe_{2}O_{3} + 3 \text{ C} \rightarrow 2 \text{ Fe} + 3 \text{ CO} \uparrow ; 2 \text{ Fe}_{2}O_{3} + 3 \text{ S} \rightarrow 4 \text{ Fe} + 3 \text{ SO}_{2} \uparrow$

The oxides of Mn (i.e. MnO) and Si (i.e. SiO₂) react with each other to form slag (MnSiO₃). The amount of carbon is adjusted to get desired quality of steel.

b) Basic Open Hearth Process - When pig iron contains phosphorus, then this method is used. Carbon, sulphur and silicon get oxidized to their respective oxides. Phosphorus is oxidized to form P2O5 which combines with CaO (lime) to form slag. The reactions are as follows.

10 Fe₂O₃ + 12 P \rightarrow 20 Fe + 3 P₄O₁₀; P₄O₁₀ + 6 CaO \rightarrow 3 Ca₃ (PO₄)₂ (Slag)

 $SiO_2 + CaO \rightarrow CaSiO_3$ (Slag) ; $SiO_2 + MnO \rightarrow MnSiO_3$ (Slag)

A small quantity of charge is taken out after certain interval of time and analysed for carbon content. When a chemical test indicates that metal contains the minimum required amount of carbon, then calculated quantity of **spiegeleisen** is added. A little aluminium or ferrosilicon is added to the molten steel which is drawn out from the furnace. This removes any dissolved O₂ and N₂ in the molten steel.

Comparison of Bessemer and Open Hearth process

Open hearth process has many advantages over Bessemer process. A comparison of both these processes is given in the following table.

3) L.D. (Linz and Donawitze) Process

In this process, highly pure oxygen is blown from the top of the converter. A jet of 99.5 % pure oxygen is blown at supersonic speed on to the molten bath of pig or cast iron when all the impurities including phosphorus and sulphur are burnt away at high temperature, leaving low carbon content and high quality steel. The density of the metal is higher than impure metal. Therefore, it sinks to the bottom. The process requires about 30 to 40 minutes. The process is much useful for getting low carbon steel. The converter for l. D. process is shown in the following figure.

Advantages of L.D. process

(i) Due to liberation of large amount of heat, scrap iron can be used as starting material.

(ii) Carbon and phosphorus are removed at the same time.

(iii) Superior quality of steel is obtained.

(iv) Process is very cheap and quick.

(v) Nitrogen content in the finished steel is very low

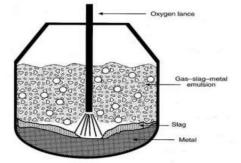


Fig. - 10 - L.D. Process

b) Mention the names, compositions of three ores of iron.

1. Magnetite

Magnetite has a chemical composition of Fe₃O₄, corresponding to 72.36% iron and 27.64% oxygen; has a color of dark gray to black, and a specific gravity, 5.16 to 5.18. It is strongly magnetic, sometimes possessing polarity so it will act as a natural magnet. The magnetic property of magnetite is important, for it permits exploration by magnetic methods and makes possible the magnetic

separation of magnetite from gangue materials to produce a high quality concentrate. Magnetite occurs in igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. It has become increasingly important as a source of iron as a consequence of the continued improvements in magnetic concentration techniques and in the expanded use of the high grade products. At times, magnetite contains

titanium in small amounts as inclusions of ilmenite. When the titanium content reaches 2–15% or more, the magnetite is termed titaniferous magnetite.

2. Hematite

Hematite has a chemical composition of Fe2O3 corresponding to 69.94% iron and 30.06% oxygen, has a color from steel gray to dull red or bright red, can be either earthy, compact or crystalline, and has a specific gravity of 5.26. Common varieties are termed crystalline, specular, martite (pseudomorphic after magnetite), maghemite (magnetic ferric oxide), earthy, ocherous, and compact.

Hematite is one of the most important iron minerals. It has a wide occurrence in many types of rocks and is of varying origins. It occurs associated with vein deposits, igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, and as a product of the weathering of magnetite. Some low-grade deposits of disseminated crystalline hematite have been successfully treated by both gravity and flotation techniques to produce high quality concentrates.

18

3. Hydrous Oxides

Limonite is the name commonly given to hydrous iron oxides that mineralogically are composed of various mixtures of the minerals goethite or lepidocrocite. The chemical formula for goethite is HFeO2 and that for lepidocrocite is FeO(OH). Goethite contains 62.85% iron, 27.01% oxygen, and

10.14% water; has a specific gravity in the range of 3.6–4.0, is commonly yellow or brown to nearly black in color, and is compact to earthy and ocherous. In non-technical parlance, the term limonite is used to denote unidentified oxides with a variable moisture content due to absorbed or capillary water. It is a secondary mineral, formed commonly by weathering, and occurs in association with other iron oxides and in sedimentary rocks.

4. Ilmenite

Ilmenite has a chemical composition of FeTiO₃, corresponding to 36.80% iron, 31.57% titanium, and 31.63% oxygen. This is commonly considered an iron titanate. Ilmenite is often associated in small amounts with magnetite. Although generally mined as a source of titanium rather than as an ore of iron, iron may be recovered as a byproduct.

5. Siderite

Siderite has a chemical composition of FeCO₃ corresponding to 48.20% iron, 37.99% CO₂ and 13.81% oxygen, a specific gravity of 3.83–3.88, and a color from white to greenish gray and brown. Siderite commonly contains variable amounts of calcium, magnesium or manganese. Siderite varies from dense, fine grained and compact to crystalline. The siderite ores are sometimes termed spathic iron ore or black-band ore. Carbonate ores are commonly calcined before they are charged into the blast furnace. They frequently contain enough lime and magnesite to be self-fluxing.

| Class and Mineralogical Name | Chemical Composition of Pure Mineral | Common Designation | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Oxide | | | |
| Magnetite | Fe ₃ O ₄ | Ferrous-ferric oxide | |
| Hematite | Fe ₂ O ₃ | Ferric oxide | |
| Ilmenite | FeTiO ₃ | Iron-titanium oxide | |
| Limonite | HFeO ₂ ^(a) FeO(OH) ^(b) | Hydrous iron oxides | |
| Carbonate Siderite | FeCO ₃ | Iron carbonate | |
| (^{a)} Goethite | 16003 | fion carbonate | |

d) Give the names, composition and uses of any three alloys of iron

Alloy Steels

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| Ν | Metal added | Alloy Steel | Composition | Properties | Uses |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Manganese | Manganese steel | 12 to 15 % Mn | Very hard and resistant to wear | For rock crushing machinery, armour plates, rail road tracks |
| 2 | Nickel steel | Nickel steel | 3.2 % Ni | Increased elasticity and hardness | For making armour plates, cables, automobile parts |
| 3 | Chromium | Chromium steel | 11.5 % Cr | Resists corrosion | For utensils, cycle and automobile parts |
| 4 | Nickel | Invar | 36 % Ni | Coefficient of expansion equals that of glass | For clock pendulums and measuring tapes |
| 5 | Chromium | Chromium steel | 1.5 to 2 % Cr | Extremely hard | For cutting tools and crushing machinery, armour piercing bullets |
| 6 | Vanadium and chromium | Chromium – vanadium steel | 0.15 %V + 1% Cr | Good tensile strength | For springs, shafts, axles and frames |
| 7 | Tungsten | Tungsten steel | 14 to 20% W | Extremely hard and strong | For drills and high speed tools |
| 8 | Molybdenum | Molybdenu m steel | 0.3 to 3 % Mo | Retains hardness even at high temperature | For cutting tools and axles |