

Module 3

Electrical Fundamentals

	Level		
	A	B1	B2
3.1 Electron Theory	A	B1	B2
Structure and distribution of electrical charges within: atoms, molecules, ions, compounds; Molecular structure of conductors, semiconductors and insulators.	1	1	1
3.2 Static Electricity and Conduction	A	B1	B2
Static electricity and distribution of electrostatic charges; Electrostatic laws of attraction and repulsion; Units of charge, Coulomb's Law; Conduction of electricity in solids, liquids, gases and a vacuum.	1	2	2
3.3 Electrical Terminology	A	B1	B2
The following terms, their units and factors affecting them: potential difference, electromotive force, voltage, current, resistance, conductance, charge, conventional current flow, electron flow.	1	2	2
3.4 Generation of Electricity	A	B1	B2
Production of electricity by the following methods: light, heat, friction, pressure, chemical action, magnetism and motion.	1	1	1
3.5 DC Sources of Electricity	A	B1	B2
Construction and basic chemical action of primary cells, secondary cells, lead acid cells, nickel cadmium cells, other alkaline cells; Cells connected in series and parallel; Internal resistance and its effect on a battery; Construction, materials and operation of thermocouples; Operation of photo-cells.	1	2	2
3.6 DC Circuits	A	B1	B2
Ohms Law, Kirchoff's Voltage and Current Laws; Calculations using the above laws to find resistance, voltage and current; Significance of the internal resistance of a supply.	-	2	2
3.7 Resistance / Resistor	A	B1	B2
a) Resistance and affecting factors; Specific resistance; Resistor colour code, values and tolerances, preferred values, wattage ratings; Resistors in series and parallel; Calculation of total resistance using series, parallel and series parallel combinations; Operation and use of potentiometers and rheostats; Operation of Wheatstone Bridge;	-	2	2
b) Positive and negative temperature coefficient conductance; Fixed resistors, stability, tolerance and limitations, methods of construction; Variable resistors, thermistors, voltage dependent resistors; Construction of potentiometers and rheostats; Construction of Wheatstone Bridge.	-	1	1
3.8 Power	A	B1	B2
Power, work and energy (kinetic and potential); Dissipation of power by a resistor; Power formula; Calculations involving power, work and energy.	-	2	2

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3.9 Capacitance / Capacitor	A	B1	B2
Operation and function of a capacitor; Factors affecting capacitance area of plates, distance between plates, number of plates, dielectric and dielectric constant, working voltage, voltage rating; Capacitor types, construction and function; Capacitor colour coding; Calculations of capacitance and voltage in series and parallel circuits; Exponential charge and discharge of a capacitor, time constants; Testing of capacitors.	-	2	2
3.10 Magnetism	A	B1	B2
a) Theory of magnetism; Properties of a magnet; Action of a magnet suspended in the Earth's magnetic field; Magnetisation and demagnetisation; Magnetic shielding; Various types of magnetic material; Electromagnets construction and principles of operation; Hand clasp rules to determine: magnetic field around current carrying conductor;	-	2	2
b) Magnetomotive force, field strength, magnetic flux density, permeability, hysteresis loop, retentivity, coercive force reluctance, saturation point, eddy currents; Precautions for care and storage of magnets.	-	2	2
3.11 Inductance / Inductor	A	B1	B2
Faraday's Law Action of inducing a voltage in a conductor moving in a magnetic field; Induction principles; Effects of the following on the magnitude of an induced voltage: magnetic field strength, rate of change of flux, number of conductor turns; Mutual induction; The effect the rate of change of primary current and mutual inductance has on Factors affecting mutual inductance: number of turns in coil, physical size of coil, permeability of coil, position of coils with respect to each other; Lenz's Law and polarity determining rules; Back emf, self induction; Saturation point; Principle uses of inductors.	-	2	2
3.12 DC Motor / Generator Theory	A	B1	B2
Basic motor and generator theory; Construction and purpose of components in DC generator; Operation of, and factors affecting output and direction of current flow; Operation of, and factors affecting output power, torque, speed and direction of rotation of C motors; Series wound, shunt wound and compound motors; Starter Generator construction.	-	2	2
3.13 AC Theory	A	B1	B2
Sinusoidal waveform: phase, period, frequency, cycle; Instantaneous, average, root mean square, peak, peak to peak current values; Triangular/Square waves; Single / 3 phase principles.	1	2	2

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3.14 Resistive (R), Capacitive (C) and Inductive (L)	A	B1	B2
Phase relationship of voltage and current in L, C and R circuits, parallel, series and series parallel; Power dissipation in L, C and R circuits; Impedance, phase angle, power factor and current calculations; True power, apparent power and reactive power calculations.	-	2	2
3.15 Transformers	A	B1	B2
Transformer construction principles and operation; Transformer losses and methods for overcoming them; Transformer action under load and no-load conditions; Power transfer, efficiency, polarity markings; Primary and Secondary current, voltage, turns ratio, power, efficiency; Auto transformers.	-	2	2
3.16 Filters	A	B1	B2
Operation, application and uses of the following filters: low pass, high pass, band pass, band stop.	-	1	1
3.17 AC Generators	A	B1	B2
Rotation of loop in a magnetic field and waveform produced; Operation and construction of revolving armature and revolving field type AC generators; Single phase, two phase and three phase alternators; Three phase star and delta connections advantages and uses; Calculation of line and phase voltages and currents; Calculation of power in a three phase system; Permanent Magnet Generators.	-	2	2
3.18 AC Motors	A	B1	B2
Construction, principles of operation and characteristics of. AC synchronous and induction motors both single and polyphase; Methods of speed control and direction of rotation; Methods of producing a rotating field: capacitor, inductor, shaded or split pole.	-	2	2

