

# Video: The Thermistor

## Video Deconstruction Document

### Instructions:

*This document has 8 pages. Answer these questions after watching the video or as you watch the video. You may find it useful to pose the video from time to time.*

### QUESTIONS

#### Question 1

What is a thermistor?

**CHECK ANSWER TO QUESTION 1**

#### Question 2

What is a NTCT?

**CHECK ANSWER TO QUESTION 2**

#### Question 3

Draw the symbol for the thermistor

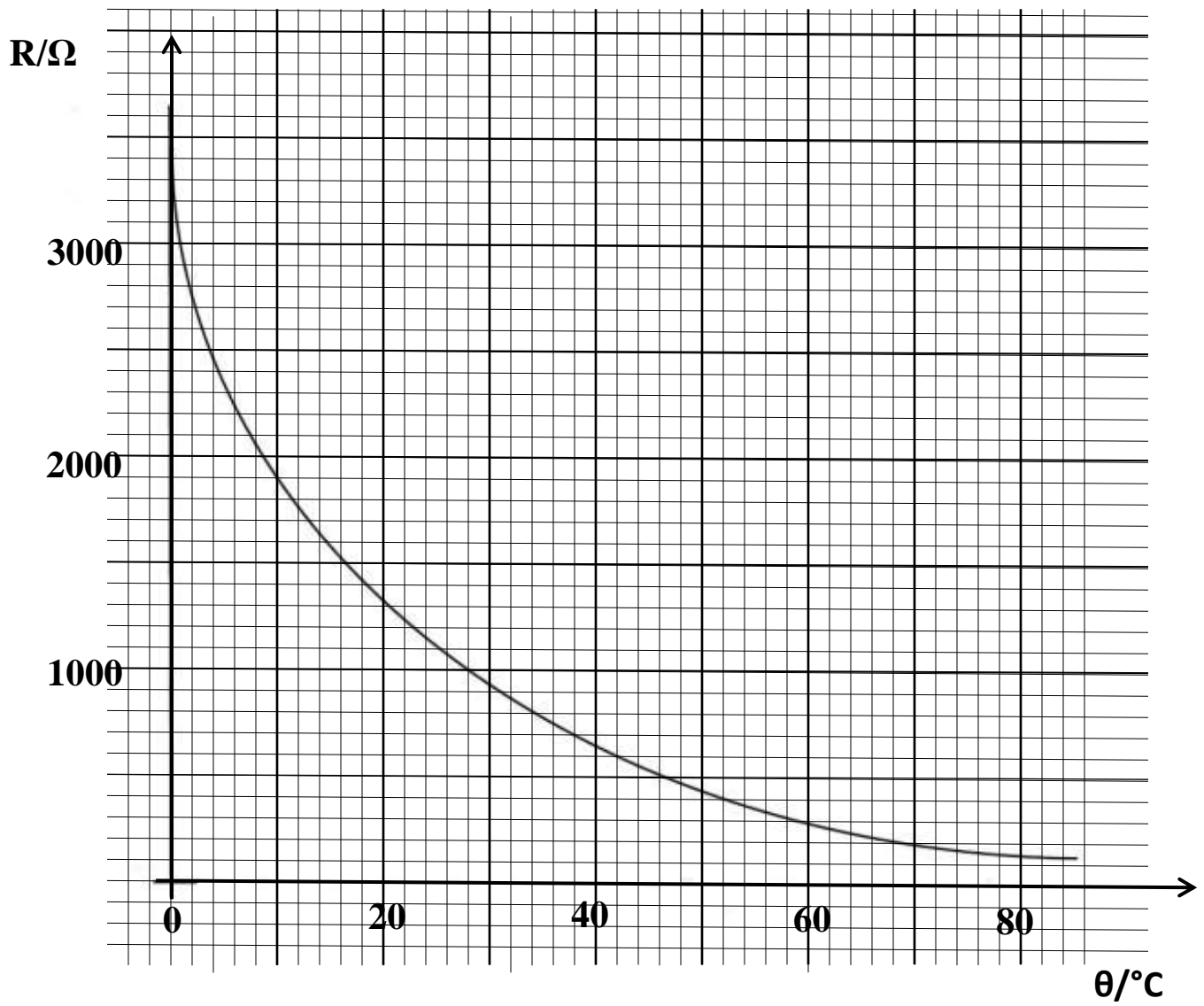
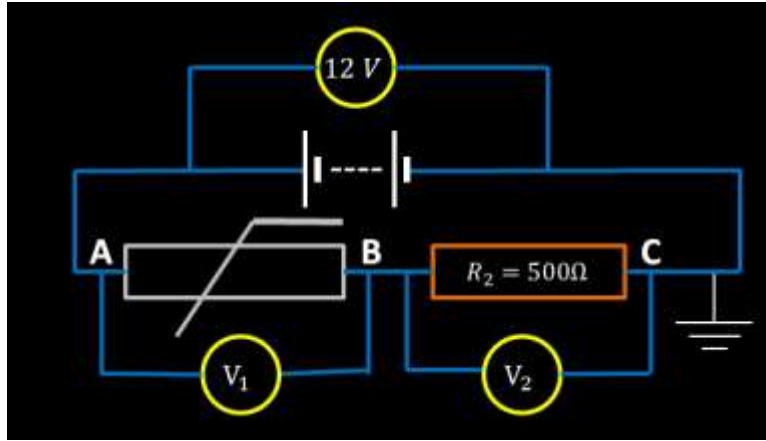
**CHECK ANSWER TO QUESTION 3**

### Harder Question

#### Question 4

The diagram shows a potential divider circuit which incorporates a thermistor. The graph shows how the resistance of the thermistor ( $R_1$ ) changes with temperature. Use the graph to determine the values of **potential at point A** ( $V_A$ ), **potential difference across  $R_1$**  ( $V_1$ ), **potential at point B** ( $V_B$ ), **Potential difference across  $R_2$**  ( $V_2$ ) and **potential at point C** ( $V_C$ ) at various temperatures as indicated in the table.

- i. Describe how the potential at point B changes with rise in temperature
- ii. How could the trend be reversed with rise in temperature?
- iii. Determine the temperature at which the potential at point B is 6.0 V

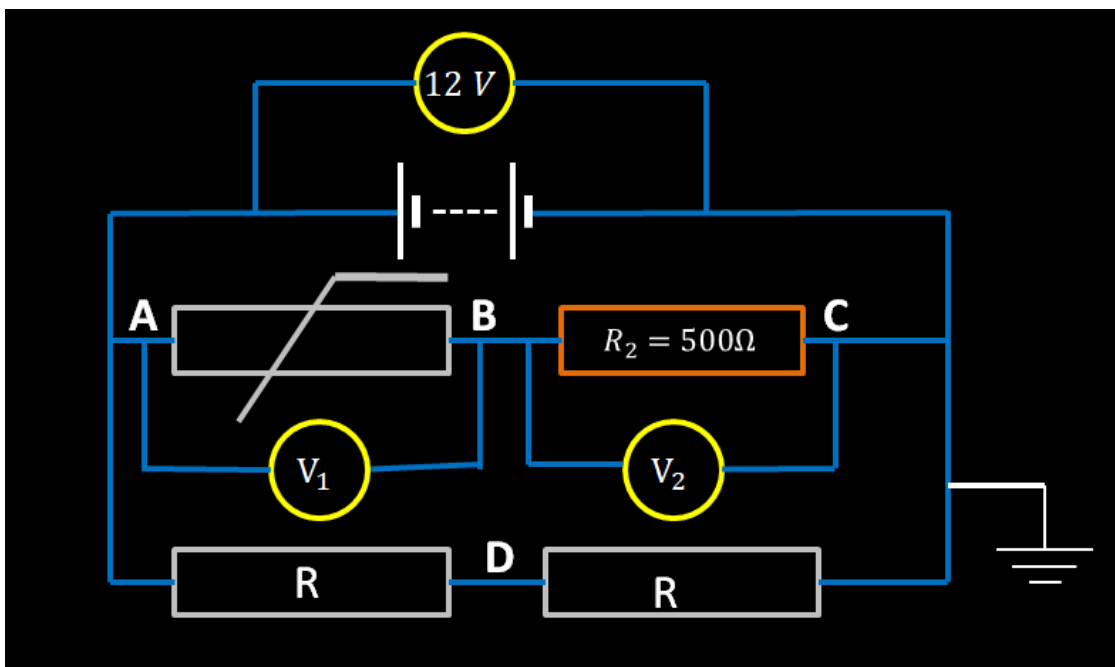


$\theta/^\circ\text{C}$	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70
$R_1$								
$V_A$								
$V_1$								
$V_B$								
$V_2$								
$V_c$								

**CHECK ANSWER TO QUESTION 4**

**Question 5**

A fixed potential divider is **added** to the figure in question 4, as shown below:



- i. What is the potential at point D
- ii. At what temperature is the potential at B equal to potential at point D?
- iii. At what temperature range is the potential at point B higher than potential at point D?
- iv. At what temperature range is the potential at point B lower than potential at point D

**CHECK ANSWER TO QUESTION 5**

## ANSWERS

### Answer to question 1

*A thermistor is a component or transducer whose resistance changes with change in temperature.*

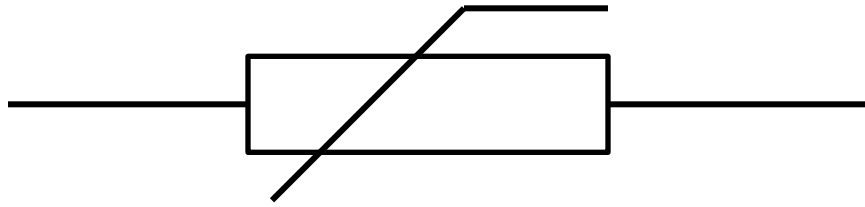
[BACK TO QUESTION 1](#)

## Answer to question 2

The abbreviation “NTCT” stands for “Negative Temperature Coefficient Thermistor” is a thermistor whose resistance decreases with rise in temperature

[BACK TO QUESTION 2](#)

**Answer to question 3**



[BACK TO QUESTION 3](#)

### Answer to question 4

$\theta/^\circ\text{C}$	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70
$R_1$	3200	1900	1350	950	650	450	300	200
$V_A$	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
$V_1$	10.4	9.5	8.6	7.9	6.8	5.7	7.2	3.4
$V_B$	1.6	2.5	3.4	4.1	5.2	6.3	4.8	8.6
$V_2$	1.6	2.5	3.4	4.1	5.2	6.3	4.8	8.6
$V_C$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- i. As temperature rises the potential at point B also rises also (as evidenced from the table above)
- ii. This trend can be reversed with rise in temperature by interchanging the position of the thermistor with that of the 500 – ohm resistor
- iii. For potential at point B to be 6 V (i.e. half of the total supply voltage) then the resistance of the thermistor must be equal to that of the 500-ohm resistor. That is, the resistance of thermistor must be 500 ohms. From the graph it can be shown that the thermistor has a resistance of 500 ohms at a temperature of 47°C.

**BACK TO QUESTION 4**

### Answer to question 5

- i. Potential at point D is 6 V
- ii. 47 °C
- iii. Potential at point B will be higher than potential at point D for temperatures less than 47 °C
- iv. Potential at point B will be less than potential at point D for temperatures greater than 47 °C

[BACK TO QUESTION 5](#)