

Thermodynamics · supported focus

Supported focus · HL

Supported scope

- Supported HL focus. First assessment 2025; full Physics guide acquired (84 PDF pages). Remaining guide, assessment and practical requirements retain their recorded holds.
- State model conditions and distinguish fictional data from measurements.

Thermodynamics · 1.1

Reasoning

Compressing a gas can warm it even without a heater. Work is another path for energy transfer into the system. Start with a prediction. State the quantities or features you would compare, then decide what evidence could distinguish two explanations.

Thermodynamics · 2.1

Reasoning

Internal energy is a property of the chosen system. Heat and work describe energy transfer across its boundary. For an ideal monatomic gas, internal energy depends on temperature and amount. adiabatic : A process with no heat transfer; internal energy: Total microscopic kinetic and potential energy of a system.

Thermodynamics · 3.1

Reasoning

State a sign convention before using the first law. Here change in internal energy equals heat into the system minus work done by the system. Expansion work can reduce internal energy when no heat enters. Identify whether a process is isothermal, adiabatic or at constant volume. On a pressure-volume graph, area under the process curve gives work done by the gas. The path matters for work even when endpoints match.

Thermodynamics · 4.1

Reasoning

State the known values and their units. Choose the relation because its assumptions fit this case, then rearrange before substitution. Known: gas gains 300 J by heating and does 120 J of work. With $\Delta U = Q - W$, $\Delta U = 300 - 120 = 180$ J. For adiabatic compression, $Q = 0$ and work done by the gas is negative, so ΔU is positive.

Thermodynamics · 4.2

Reasoning

A gas gains 500 J of heat and does 200 J work. Find internal-energy change. Use the same sequence: known quantities $\rightarrow$ model $\rightarrow$ relation $\rightarrow$ substitution $\rightarrow$ unit and interpretation.

Thermodynamics · 5.1

Reasoning

Adiabatic does not mean constant temperature. Use the stated sign convention; some courses write work done on the gas with the opposite sign. Return to the original observation. Explain what the result supports, which conditions it assumes, and one way to test a competing explanation.

Thermodynamics · 5.2

Reasoning

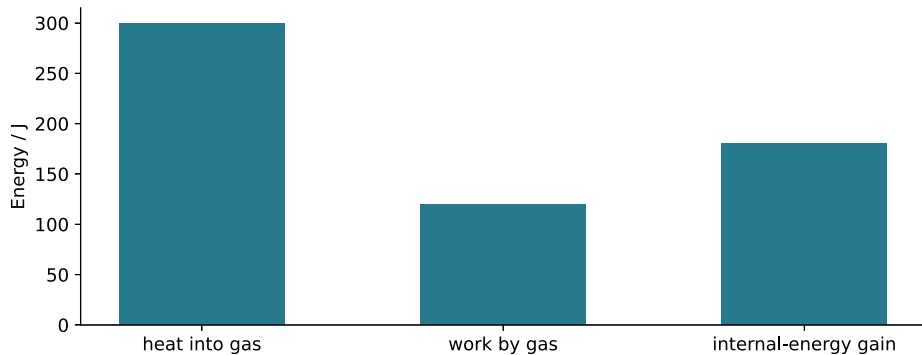
Every adiabatic process has constant temperature. This claim is false: Adiabatic does not mean constant temperature. Use the stated sign convention; some courses write work done on the gas with the opposite sign.

Thermodynamics · 5.3

Reasoning

Thermodynamic systems and energy accounts: State a sign convention before using the first law. Here change in internal energy equals heat into the system minus work done by the system. Expansion work can reduce internal energy when no heat enters.

Thermodynamics · diagram



- Original teaching diagram: Thermodynamic systems and energy accounts
- Use the labels and the stated model together.

Thermodynamics · original transfer

Your turn

A gas is compressed adiabatically by 150 J, then releases 40 J heat at fixed volume. Find total internal-energy change using work done by gas positive.

Thermodynamics · transfer reasoning

Method and interpretation

Compression has $Q=0, W=-150$ J, giving $+150$ J. Cooling has $Q=-40$ J, $W=0$, giving -40 J. Total change $=+110$ J. Keep one sign convention throughout.

Check yourself

- Explain internal energy using the stated model.
- Explain adiabatic using the stated model.
- Change one value in the original transfer; explain which assumption still matters.