

Question #177

Two candles, shown in the photograph at the left below, are lit and then covered by a plastic tube, sealed at the top, as seen in the photograph at the right. In the apparatus as pictured the tube is about 50 cm tall and 10 cm in diameter, and the upper candle is about 30 cm from the bottom.



After some period of time, as the oxygen in the tube is consumed by the candle flames, the candles will both cease to burn. The question involves the order in which the candles will go out.

Which of the following statements is true?

- (a) The top candle will go out first, then the bottom candle.
- (b) The bottom candle will go out first, then the top candle.
- (c) Both candles will go out at the same time.

Click here for [Answer #177](#) after March 1, 2003.

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For questions and comments regarding the *Question of the Week* contact [Dr. Richard E. Berg](#) by e-mail or using phone number or regular mail address given on the [Lecture-Demonstration Home Page](#).