

Q- A capacitor stores 135 J of energy when it is charged to 300 V

(a) What is the capacitance of the capacitor?

(b) How much charge must be transferred from one plate to the other to store this energy?

The energy stored in a capacitor is given by

$$U = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 = \frac{Q^2}{2C} = \frac{1}{2}QV$$

(a) Here $U = 135 \text{ J}$

And $V = 300 \text{ V}$

Thus $U = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$ gives

$$C = \frac{2U}{V^2} = \frac{2 \times 135}{300^2} = \mathbf{3 * 10^{-3} F}$$

(b) The charge on the capacitor plates is given by

$$Q = CV = 3 \times 10^{-3} \times 300 = \mathbf{0.9 C}$$