Question 7

A student wants to determine the concentration of H_2O_2 in a solution of $H_2O_2(aq)$. The student can use one of two titrants, either dichromate ion, $Cr_2O_7^{2-}(aq)$, or cobalt(II) ion, $Co^{2+}(aq)$. The balanced chemical equations for the two titration reactions are shown below.

Dichromate as titrant: $Cr_2O_7^{2-}(aq) + 3\ H_2O_2(aq) + 8\ H^+(aq) \rightarrow 2\ Cr^{3+}(aq) + 3\ O_2(g) + 7\ H_2O(l)$

Cobalt(II) as titrant: $2\ Co^{2+}(aq) + H_2O_2(aq) + 2\ H^+(aq) \rightarrow 2\ Co^{3+}(aq) + 2\ H_2O(l)$
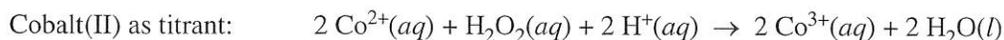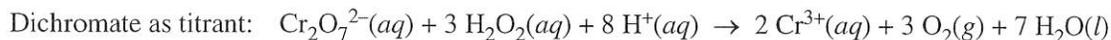
The half-reactions and the $E°$ values for the systems related to the titrations above are given in the following table.

Half-Reaction	$E°$ (V) at 298 K
$Co^{3+}(aq) + e^- \rightarrow Co^{2+}(aq)$	1.84
$H_2O_2(aq) + 2\ H^+(aq) + 2\ e^- \rightarrow 2\ H_2O(l)$	1.77
$Cr_2O_7^{2-}(aq) + 14\ H^+(aq) + 6\ e^- \rightarrow 2\ Cr^{3+}(aq) + 7\ H_2O(l)$	1.33
$O_2(g) + 2\ H^+(aq) + 2\ e^- \rightarrow H_2O_2(aq)$	0.70

(a) Use the information in the table to calculate the following.

   (i) $E°$ for the reaction between $Cr_2O_7^{2-}(aq)$ and $H_2O_2(aq)$ at 298 K

$E° = 1.33 - 0.70 = 0.63$ V	1 point is earned for correctly combining $E°$ values.

   (ii) $E°$ for the reaction between $Co^{2+}(aq)$ and $H_2O_2(aq)$ at 298 K

$E° = -1.84 + 1.77 = -0.07$ V	1 point is earned for correctly combining $E°$ values.

(b) Based on the calculated values of $E°$, the student must choose the titrant for which the titration reaction is thermodynamically favorable at 298 K.

   (i) Which titrant should the student choose? Explain your reasoning.

The student should use the dichromate ion for the titration because, for the reaction, the value of $E°$ is positive, which means that the reaction is thermodynamically favorable. OR $\Delta G° = -nFE°$ and n, F, and $E°$ are all positive numbers, therefore $\Delta G° < 0$, which means that the reaction is thermodynamically favorable.	1 point is earned for choosing the correct titrant **and** for understanding that a positive $E°$ or a negative $\Delta G°$ is required.

   (ii) Calculate the value of $\Delta G°$, in kJ/mol$_{rxn}$, for the reaction between the chosen titrant and $H_2O_2(aq)$.

$\Delta G° = -nFE° = -6(96{,}485\,\dfrac{C}{mol})(0.63\,\dfrac{J}{C})(\dfrac{1\text{ kJ}}{1000\text{ J}}) = -360\text{ kJ/mol}_{rxn}$	1 point is earned for calculating the value of $\Delta G°$.