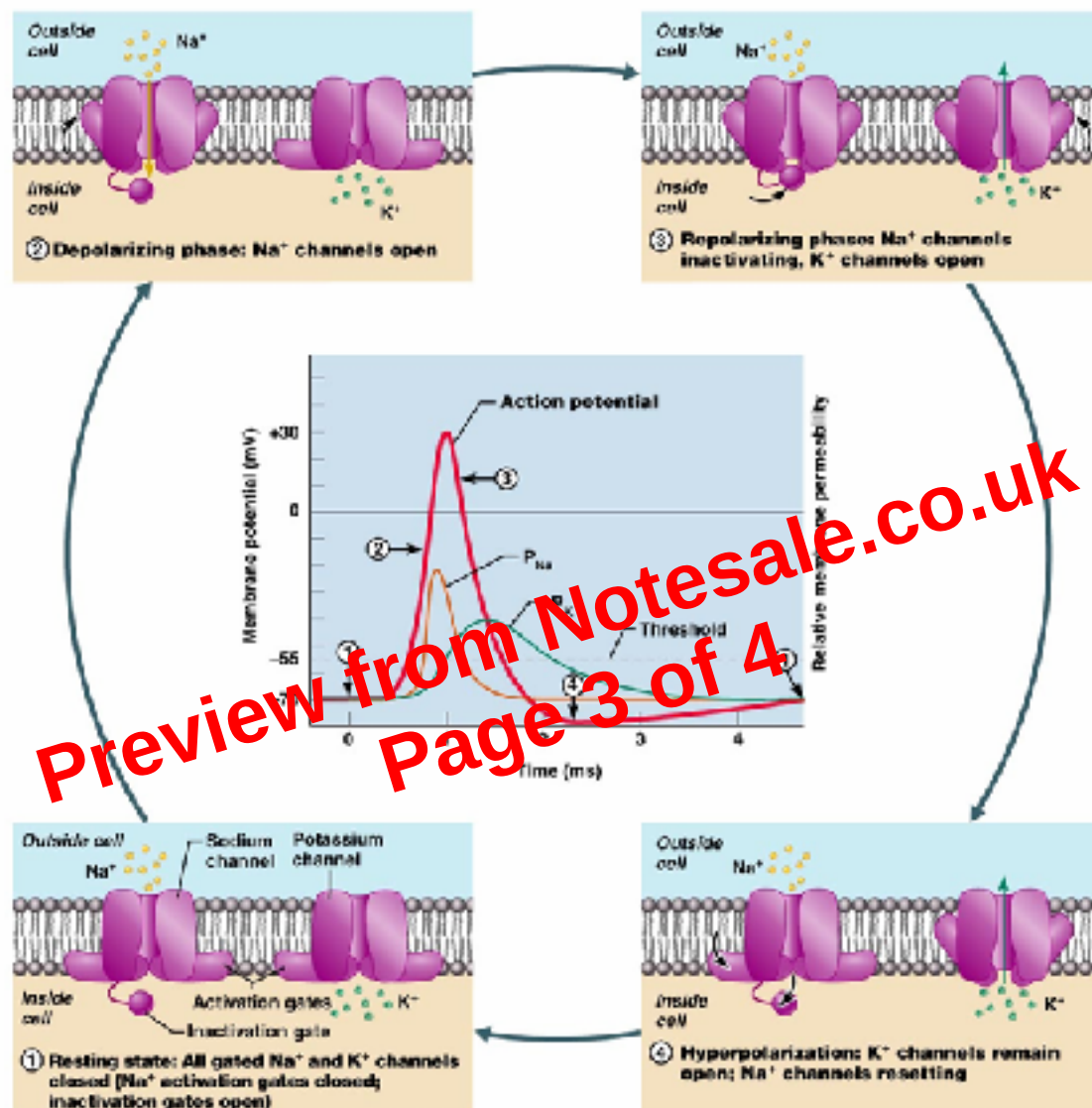


state. It opens in response to depolarisation, but then closes more slowly so Na^+ can enter the cell.

K^+ channels

These open in after depolarisation so that the cell repolarises



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Properties of action potential

All or nothing principle

If depolarisation does not reach the threshold, there is no action potential generated. This is because the channels are voltage gated so will only open if the threshold has been exceeded. If it reaches or exceeds the threshold, the action potential generated is always the same. The threshold for an action potential is