

According to the Coulomb's electrostatic force(F) of attraction or repulsion between two charges is directly proportional to product of charges.

So  $F \propto q_1q_2$

The one of the charges should be negative.

a) IN the first case  $q_1 = -3Q$  and  $q_2 = 5Q$

Now  $F_1 \propto (3Q)(5Q)$

And in the second case when the two charges are touch each other then the common charge on each sphere is

$$q = \frac{-3Q + 5Q}{2} \\ = Q$$

Then  $F_2 \propto (Q)(Q)$

$$\frac{F_2}{F_1} = \frac{(Q)(Q)}{(3Q)(5Q)}$$

Then

$$= 1 / 15$$

Now  $F_2 = (1 / 15)F_1$

$$= (1 / 15)(10N) = 2/3 \text{ N}$$

b)

The nature of force is repulsive