AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.1.3.1

Comparison with Group 1 elements

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**19**
Available paper years	**2007–2025**

Using this booklet

1. Booklet answer numbers match the question booklet.
2. Use the original question number within marking tables.
3. Examiner comments are included where available.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Where a precise marking extract is unavailable, the full source document is included in an appendix. Any missing mark scheme is explicitly identified.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

June 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q2 | Legacy

Two	**A**	gold (Au)	**3**
	B	lithium (Li)	**4**
	C	calcium (Ca)	**1**
	D	sulfur (S)	**2**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

Question 1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	B		1
(a)(ii)	A		1
(a)(iii)	E		1
(a)(iv)	D		1
(b)(i)	Mendeleev and Newlands		1
(b)(ii)	atomic weight		1
(b)(iii)	chemical reactions		1
(b)(iv)	electrons		1
total			8

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

January 2008 | CHY3F | Original Q1 | Legacy

CHY3F

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

November 2009 | CHY1AP | Original Q2 | Legacy

Two	**A**	metal ore	**1**
	B	reactive metal	**4**
	C	transition metal	**3**
	D	metal alloy	**2**

Answer 04 · Mark scheme

November 2009 | CHY1AP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	Calcium (Ca)	**2**
	B	Lithium (Li)	**3**
	C	Gold (Au)	**1**
	D	Iron (Fe)	**4**

	A	**B**	**C**	**D**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

January 2010 | CHY3F | Original Q1 | Legacy

Question 1

question	answers	extra information	mark
1(a)(i)	E		1
1(a)(ii)	B		1
1(a)(iii)	C		1
1(a)(iv)	A		1
1(b)(i)	quickly melted	allow melts in contact with water, allow bp 100 °C (of water) shows mp is low ignore one other piece of information	1
1(b)(ii)	easily cut	ignore one other piece of information	1
1(b)(iii)	effervescence / fizzing / bubbling	ignore named gas ignore one other piece of information	1
Total			**7**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

January 2010 | CHY3F | Original Q1 | Legacy

CHY3F

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2010 | CHY3F | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question 3

question	answers	extra information	mark
3(a)(i)	**A**		1
3(a)(ii)	**F**		1
3(a)(iii)	**E**		1
3(a)(iv)	**C**		1
3(a)(v)	**A or B**		1
3(b)(i)	Rb K Na	allow rubidium, potassium, sodium do **not** accept RB or NA	1
3(b)(ii)	decrease **or** become lower / smaller / less	allow from 180° C to 27° C	1
3(c)	They are harder than Group 1 metals. They have higher melting points than Group 1 metals. They often form coloured compounds but Group 1 compounds are usually white.		1 1 1
Total			**10**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 06 · Mark scheme June 2010 | CHY3F | Original Q3 | Legacy

CHY3F

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

June 2011 | CHY3F | Original Q6 | Legacy

Question 6

question	answers	extra information	mark
6(a)(i)	(copper) stops barnacles / seaweed (sticking)	it = copper accept lead doesn't stop barnacles / seaweed (sticking) ignore all other properties	1
6(a)(ii)	(Muntz Metal) is less expensive / cheaper / cheapest	it = Muntz Metal must be a comparison accept copper is more expensive ignore other properties	1
6(b)(i)	atomic absorption spec(troscopy) / spectrometry **or** mass spec(trometry) / spectroscopy	accept spectroscopy / spectrometry alone allow AAS / MS do **not** allow NMR spectroscopy **or** IR spectrometry **or** chromatography	1
6(b)(ii)	sensitive **or** detect (very) small amounts **or** only small sample needed	it = instrumental method allow (more) precise ignore accurate allow converse for chemical method ignore metal contains small amount / low concentration of iron	1
6(c)	any **two** from: • unreactive / not very reactive • strong / hard • malleable / easy to shape	transition elements (= they) allow does not corrode ignore reference to rust ignore tough / durable / hard wearing ignore ductile / density / melting point	2
Total			**6**

The AQA UMS Conversion Calculator is available on the Results statistics page of the AQA Website

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

Question 3

question	Answers	extra information	Mark
3(a)	number 0	 allow 8	1 1
3(b)	beryllium **or** magnesium **or** strontium **or** barium **or** radium	allow correct symbols	1
3(c)(i)	an alkali metal		1
3(c)(ii)	a transition metal		1
3(d)	for undiscovered elements	accept so elements with similar properties were in the same groups accept so elements fitted the pattern of properties	1
Total			**6**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 09 · Mark scheme June 2014 | CH3FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.	ID
1(a)(i)	atomic weight		1	1 / 3.1.1a	A
1(a)(ii)	groups		1	1 / 3.1.1a	A
1(a)(iii)	left a gap		1	1 / 3.1.1b	A
1(a)(iv)	had not been discovered by 1869		1	3 / 3.1.1b	A
1(b)	protons electrons	*must be in correct order*	1 1	1 / 3.1.2a/b	G
1(c)	sodium and nickel are both metals sodium is more reactive than nickel		1 1	1 / 3.1.3c	A
1(d)(i)	bromine	allow Br_2 / *Br* do **not** allow bromide	1	2 / 3.1.3g	E
1(d)(ii)	iodine is less reactive (than bromine)	*it = iodine* allow converse do **not** allow bromide	1	1 / 3.1.3g	E
Total			**10**		

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 09 · Mark scheme

June 2014 | CH3FP | Original Q1 | Legacy



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 10 · Mark scheme June 2015 | CH1FP | Original Q2 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
2(a)(i)	central block		1	1 / 1.3.3a
2(a)(ii)	conducts electricity		1	1 / 1.3.3a
2(b)	any **two** from: • visual pollution • noise pollution • dust pollution • habitat destruction		2	2 / 1.3.1b
2(c)(i)	to concentrate the ore/copper carbonate **or** to remove / separate the rock		1	2 / 1.3.1b
2(c)(ii)	12 (tonnes)	If answer is incorrect allow one mark for (127 + 132) – 247 or 259 - 247	2	2 / 1.1.3c
2(c)(iii)	any **one** from: • so no reactant is wasted/left unreacted • so they know how much product they will make • need to record/compensate for the carbon dioxide produced	allow so they can work out their carbon footprint	1	3 / 1.1.3c
Total			**8**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 10 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | CH1FP | Original Q2 | Legacy



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Mark scheme

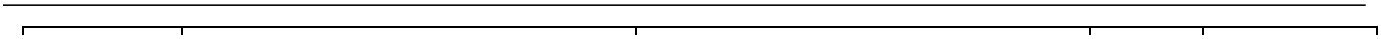
June 2015 | CH3FP | Original Q2 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
2(a)(i)	Na	allow sodium	1	**AO1** 3.1.3.a
2(a)(ii)	Cu	allow copper	1	**AO2** 3.1.3.c
2(a)(iii)	C	allow carbon	1	**AO2** 3.1.2.b
2(a)(iv)	He	allow helium	1	**AO1** 3.1.2.b
2(b)	H	allow hydrogen do **not** allow H_2	1	**AO2** 3.1.2.b
Total			**5**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

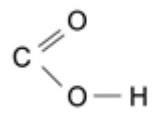
Answer 11 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | CH3FP | Original Q2 | Legacy



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

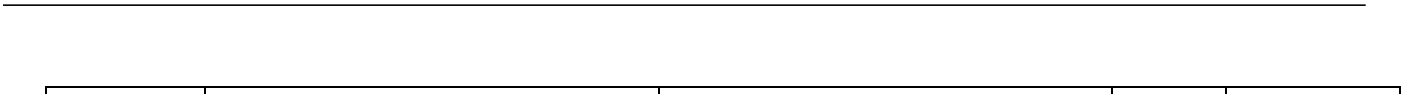
Answer 12 · Mark scheme June 2017 | CH3FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
1 (a)(i)	numbers	allow number allow numbers circled in the box	1	AO1 3.1.2b
1 (a)(ii)	electrons	allow electron allow electrons circled in the box	1	AO1 3.1.2b
1 (b)(i)	Cl/chlorine	allow CL / cL / cl	1	AO1 3.1.3f
1 (b)(ii)	Cu/copper	allow CU / cU / cu	1	AO2 3.1.3c
1 (b)(iii)	7/seven		1	AO1 3.1.3e
1(c)(i)	tick (✓) by: displacement		1	AO1 3.1.3g
1(c)(ii)	tick (✓) by: Fluorine		1	AO3 3.1.3g
1(d)	tick (✓) by: yellow		1	AO1 3.4.1e
1(e)(i)	circle around: 		1	AO2 3.6.2a
1(e)(ii)	carbon dioxide	allow carbon dioxide circled in the box	1	AO2 3.6.2b
1(e)(iii)	esters	allow esters circled in the box allow ethers	1	AO2 3.6.2b
Total			11	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 12 · Mark scheme

June 2017 | CH3FP | Original Q1 | Legacy



Answer 13 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

The full source mark scheme begins on page 33. Follow original question 7 in that document.

Answer 14 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

The full source mark scheme begins on page 33. Follow original question 9 in that document.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 15 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.1	they form ions with different charges		1	AO1 4.1.3.1 4.1.3.2
	they have high melting points		1	
09.2	the (grey) crystals are silver		1	AO3 4.4.1.2
	the copper ions (produced) are blue	allow the copper nitrate / compound (produced) is blue	1	
	(because) copper displaces silver		1	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Question 9 continued

Question	Answers	Mark	AO/ Spec. Ref
09.3	**Level 2:** The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. The key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	3–4	AO1 AO3 4.4.1.2 4.5.1.1 RPA 4
	Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not made clear.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content **Key steps** • add the metals to (dilute) hydrochloric acid • measure temperature change **or** compare rate of bubbling **or** compare colour of resulting solution for copper: • no reaction • shown by no temperature change **or** shown by no bubbles for magnesium and iron: • magnesium increases in temperature more than iron **or** magnesium bubbles faster than iron **or** magnesium forms a colourless solution and iron forms a coloured solution **Control variables** • same concentration / volume of hydrochloric acid • same mass / moles of metal • same particle size of metal • same temperature (of acid if comparing rate of bubbling)		

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 15 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.4	$\frac{(203 \times 30) + (205 \times 70)}{100}$ **or** $\frac{6090 + 14\,350}{100}$ = 204.4	 ignore units	1 1	AO2 4.1.1.6

Total			11

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 16 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.1	D		1	AO3 4.1.2.3

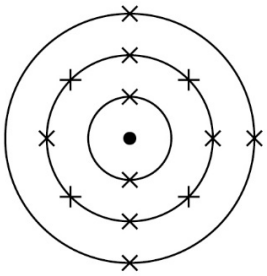
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.2	B		1	AO3 4.1.3.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.3	any **two** from: (Group 1 elements) • have lower melting / boiling points • have lower densities • are less strong • are softer	allow converse statements for transition elements allow (Group 1 elements are) more malleable / ductile allow (Group 1 elements) are not useful as catalysts ignore transition elements form coloured compounds ignore transition elements form ions with different charges ignore references to chemical properties	2	AO1 4.1.3.1 4.1.3.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 16 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.4		allow any combination of x, •, o, $e^{(-)}$ for electrons	1	AO2 4.1.1.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.5	delocalised electrons (the electrons) carry (electrical) charge (the electrons move) through the metal / aluminium / structure	allow free electrons ignore current / electricity for charge ignore throughout for through	1 1 1	AO1 4.2.1.5 4.2.2.8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.6	ionic		1	AO1 4.2.1.1

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 16 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.7	magnesium (atom) loses electrons		1	AO2 4.2.1.1 4.2.1.2
	oxygen (atom) gains electrons		1	
	two electrons (are transferred)		1	
	magnesium ions **and** oxide ions are formed	allow Mg^{2+} (ions) **and** O^{2-} (ions) are formed allow magnesium forms positive ions and oxygen forms negative ions allow (both) form a complete outer shell	1	

Total Question 9		**13**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 17 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	any one from: • unreactive • appearance • easily shaped	 allow does not react with air / water / skin allow does not tarnish allow aesthetic reasons allow malleable allow easily moulded ignore references to cost ignore references to hardness / strength ignore references to melting / boiling point	1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.4.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	any **two** from: • bubbles • moves • floats • melts • disappears	 allow forms a ball allow catches fire	2	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	copper is harder copper is less reactive		1 1	AO1 4.1.3.1

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 17 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Mark	AO/ Spec. Ref
06.4	**Level 2:** Some logically linked reasons are given. There may also be a simple judgement.	3–4	AO3 4.2.2.7 4.2.2.8
	Level 1: Relevant points are made. They are not logically linked.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content • copper is the better conductor • so heats food more quickly • copper has the higher density • so the pan is heavier • copper costs more per kilogram • so the pan is more expensive to buy • simple judgement		

Total Question 6	**9**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 18 · Mark scheme June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q1

Question 1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.1	D		1	AO2 4.1.1.1

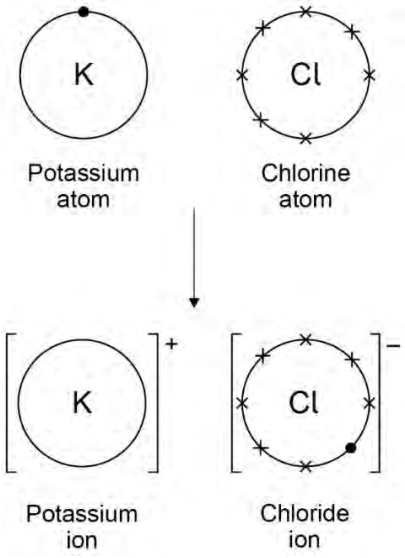
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.2	C		1	AO2 4.1.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.3	sections **A**, **B** and **C**		1	AO1 4.1.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.4	can be bent and shaped good conductor of electricity		1 1	AO1 4.1.2.3 4.1.3.1 4.2.2.7

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 18 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.5		allow any combination of ×, •, ○, $e^{(-)}$ for electrons ignore any inner shells		AO2 4.1.2.5 4.2.1.2
	evidence of the outer electron on the potassium atom moving to leave a potassium ion with no outer electrons	allow potassium ion with eight outer electrons	1	
	chloride ion with eight outer electrons		1	
		an answer of  scores **2** marks		

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.6	B		1	AO2 4.1.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.7	A		1	AO1 4.1.1.2

Total Question 1	**9**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 19 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q10

Question 10

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	(substance reduced) SnO_2	allow tin oxide	1	AO2 4.4.1.1 4.4.1.3
	(reason) (SnO_2) loses oxygen	allow (tin oxide) loses oxygen MP2 is dependent upon MP1 being awarded	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.2	carbon is more reactive than tin	allow tin is less reactive than carbon	1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.4.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.3	(total M_r = 128 + 12 =) 140	allow (total M_r = 112 + 12 + 16 =) 140	1	AO2 4.3.3.2
	(% atom economy =) $\frac{112}{140} \times 100$	allow correct use of an incorrectly determined total M_r	1	
	= 80 (%)		1	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 19 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.4		allow the converse for potassium allow the transition metal for tungsten allow the Group 1 metal for potassium ignore references to atomic structure		
	any **two** from: tungsten • has a higher melting / boiling point • is denser • is harder • is stronger • is less reactive • has ions with different charges • forms coloured compounds • can be a catalyst	 allow is less malleable / ductile allow specific reactions showing difference in reactivity	2	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.1.3.1 4.1.3.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 19 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.5	(sum of relative formula masses on left hand side =) 232 + (3 × 2) = 238 (is equal to sum of relative formula masses on right hand side =) 184 + (3 × 18) = 238	allow (sum of relative formula masses on left hand side =) 232 + 6 = 238 allow (is equal to sum of relative formula masses on right hand side =) 184 + 54 = 238 if no other mark awarded, allow **1** mark for 232 + 6 = 184 + 54 **or** allow **1** mark for both sides = 238	1 1	AO2 4.3.1.1 4.3.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.6	for sustainable development **or** for economic reasons	allow to minimise use of limited resources allow to minimise use of energy allow to minimise waste ignore references to yield	1	AO1 4.3.3.2

Total Question 10	**11**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

AQA

GCSE
CHEMISTRY

8462/1F - PAPER 1 FOUNDATION TIER

Mark scheme

8462

June 2018

Version/Stage: 1.0 Final

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Assessment Writer.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

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4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Information to Examiners

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question
- the total marks available for the question
- the typical answer or answers which are expected
- extra information to help the Examiner make his or her judgement
- the Assessment Objectives and specification content that each question is intended to cover.

The extra information is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example: where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation; or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right-hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

2. Emboldening and underlining

2.1 In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following bullet points is a potential mark.

2.2 A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

2.3 Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **or**. Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; eg allow smooth / free movement.

2.4 Any wording that is underlined is essential for the marking point to be awarded.

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which students have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Each error / contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of error / contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution?

[1 mark]

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	green, 5	0
2	red*, 5	1
3	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name two planets in the solar system.

[2 marks]

Student	Response	Marks awarded
1	Neptune, Mars, Moon	1
2	Neptune, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.2 Use of chemical symbols / formulae

If a student writes a chemical symbol / formula instead of a required chemical name, full credit can be given if the symbol / formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.3 Marking procedure for calculations

Marks should be awarded for each stage of the calculation completed correctly, as students are instructed to show their working. Full marks can, however, be given for a correct numerical answer, without any working shown.

3.4 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

3.5 Errors carried forward

Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward is kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation ecf in the marking scheme.

3.6 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.7 Brackets

(…..) are used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.8 Allow

In the mark scheme additional information, 'allow' is used to indicate creditworthy alternative answers.

3.9 Ignore

Ignore is used when the information given is irrelevant to the question or not enough to gain the marking point. Any further correct amplification could gain the marking point.

3.10 Do not accept

Do **not** accept means that this is a wrong answer which, even if the correct answer is given as well, will still mean that the mark is not awarded.

4. Level of response marking instructions

Extended response questions are marked on level of response mark schemes.

- Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor.
- The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level.
- There are two marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer, read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Step 1: Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer. Do **not** look to penalise small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level.

Use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 2 with a small amount of level 3 material it would be placed in level 2 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 3 content.

Step 2: Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this.

The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

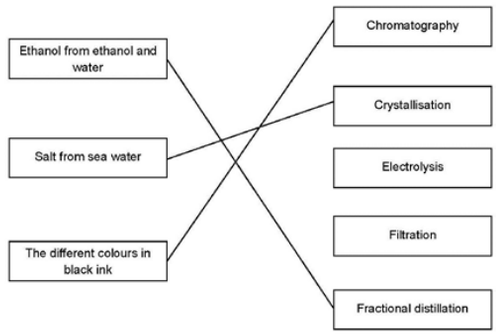
Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do **not** have to cover all of the points mentioned in the indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

You should ignore any irrelevant points made. However, full marks can be awarded only if there are no incorrect statements that contradict a correct response.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.1			1 1 1	AO1 4.1.1.2
01.2	include a (filter) funnel	allow funnel drawn on the diagram ignore clamp stand	1	AO3 4.1.1.2
01.3	evaporate condense	must be this order	1 1	AO1 4.1.1.2
01.4	$\frac{2}{20} \times 100$ = 10 (%)	an answer of 10 (%) scores **2** marks an answer of 11.1(%) **or** 90 (%) scores **1** mark	1 1	AO2 4.2.2.7
01.5	an alloy		1	AO1 4.2.2.7
01.6	the layers in the mixture are distorted		1	AO1 4.2.2.7

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.7	8000 nm^3		1	AO2 4.2.4.1
Total			**11**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	7		1	AO1 4.1.2.6
02.2	small molecule		1	AO2 4.1.2.6 4.2.2.4
02.3	F_2		1	AO1 4.1.1.1 4.1.2.6
02.4	the reactivity decreases (going down Group 7) (because) chlorine displaces bromine and iodine (and) bromine displaces iodine **or** iodine does not react	allow the reactivity decreases from chlorine to iodine allow (because) chlorine has two reactions allow (because) neither bromine nor iodine can displace chlorine allow (and) bromine has one reaction **or** iodine has no reactions allow (and) iodine cannot displace bromine	1 1 1	AO1 4.1.2.6 AO3 4.1.2.6 AO3 4.1.2.6
02.5	80		1	AO2 4.3.1.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.6	(1.2 kg =) 1200 (g) **or** (900 g =) 0.9 (kg)	an answer of 75 (%) scores **2** marks	1	AO2 4.3.3.1
	$(\frac{900}{1200} \times 100) = 75(\%)$ **or** $(\frac{0.9}{1.2} \times 100) = 75(\%)$	allow an answer correctly calculated from: $(\frac{900}{\text{incorrect attempt at conversion of 1.2}} \times 100)$ **or** $(\frac{\text{incorrect attempt at conversion of 900}}{1.2} \times 100)$	1	
Total			**9**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	nucleus neutron neutron electron proton	must be in this order	1 1 1 1 1	AO1 4.1.1.3 4.1.1.4 4.1.1.5
03.2	(A_r) $\frac{(63 \times 70) + (65 \times 30)}{100}$ = 63.6	an answer of 63.6 scores **2** marks	1 1	AO2 4.1.1.6
03.3	copper / Cu	allow ecf from answer to question **03.2**	1	AO2 4.1.1.1
03.4	$\frac{1.2 \times 10^{-10}}{10\,000}$ **or** $1.2 \times 10^{-10} \times 1 \times 10^{-4}$ $= 1.2 \times 10^{-14}$ (m)	an answer of 1.2×10^{-14} (m) scores **2** marks a correct answer not in standard form scores **1** mark	1 1	AO2 4.1.1.5
Total			**10**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	3.6 (cm^3)		1	AO2 4.4.3.4
04.2	hydrogen line only		1	AO3 4.4.3.4
04.3	both lines		1	AO3 4.4.3.4
04.4	graphite has delocalised electrons		1	AO1 4.2.3.2
04.5	**cathode** zinc (1) **anode** chlorine (1) hydrogen (1) bromine (1)	do **not** accept chloride allow **1** mark if chlorine and zinc the wrong way around do **not** accept bromide allow **1** mark if bromine and hydrogen the wrong way around	1+1 1+1	AO2 4.4.3.2 4.4.3.4
Total			**8**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	gas		1	AO1 4.2.2.2
05.2	the gas escapes	allow carbon dioxide escapes do **not** accept references to evaporation	1	AO1 4.3.1.3
05.3	5.12 (g)		1	AO2 4.3.1.3
05.4	4.00 (g) trial 1	allow 2.89 written in either space, or ringed in the table, unless contradicted by mass of copper carbonate or trial number	1	AO3 4.3.1.3
05.5	reheat (and reweigh) until constant mass	 an answer of heat to constant mass scores **2** marks if no other mark scored allow for **1** mark heat for longer **or** (heat at a) higher temperature **alternative approach**: (1) continue heating and pass gas through limewater (1) until the (lime)water stops bubbling **or** until the limewater no longer turns cloudy	1 1	AO3 4.3.1.3

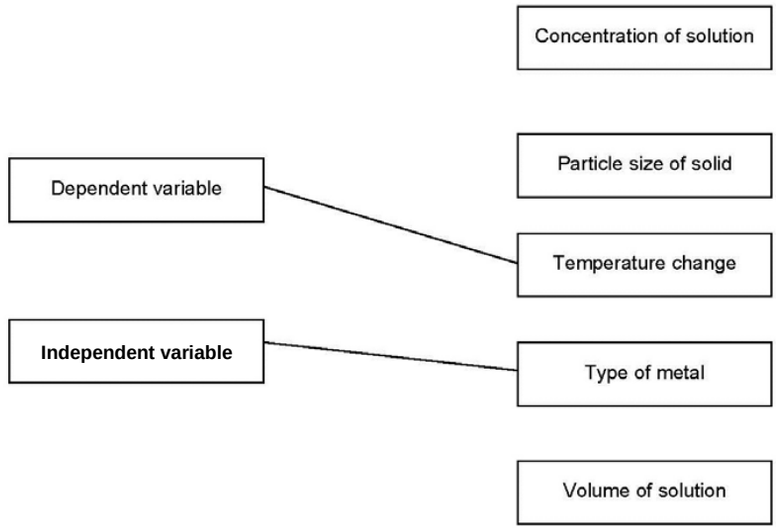
4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.6	straight line of best fit	must touch at least 5 of the 6 plots	1	AO2 4.3.1.3
05.7	correct value read from line of best fit in Figure 8	allow tolerance of ± ½ small square	1	AO2 4.3.1.3
05.8	(mass =) $168 \times \frac{\text{answer from question } \mathbf{05.7}}{8.4}$	a correctly calculated value from their answer to question **05.7** scores **2** marks allow (mass =) answer from question **05.7** × 20	1	AO2 4.3.1.3
	correctly calculated value (g)		1	
Total			**10**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	 allow **one** mark if answers are reversed		1 1	AO1 4.5.1.1
06.2	polystyrene is a better insulator		1	AO3 4.5.1.1
06.3	both bars labelled both bars correctly plotted	 allow tolerance of ± ½ small square ignore width and spacing of bars if no other mark scored, allow **1** mark for any one bar correctly plotted and labelled	1 1	AO2 4.5.1.1

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	temperature increases **or** temperature does not decrease	ignore because it is exothermic allow (because) energy / 'heat' is transferred to the surroundings energy / 'heat' is not taken in from the surroundings allow the energy of the products is less than the energy of the reactants	1	AO3 4.5.1.1
06.5	(most reactive) magnesium (zinc) nickel	this order only	1	AO3 4.5.1.1 4.4.1.2
06.6	suitable method described the observations / measurements required to place in order an indication of how results would be used to place the unknown metal in the reactivity series **approaches that could be used:** **approach 1:** add the unknown metal to copper sulfate solution (1) measure temperature change (1) place the metals in order of temperature change (1)		1 1 1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.5.1.1

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.6 cont.	**approach 2:** add the metal to salt solutions of the other metals **or** heat the metal with oxides of the other metals (1) measure temperature change (only if salt solutions used) **or** observe whether a chemical change occurs (1) compare temperature change or whether there is a reaction to place in correct order (1) **approach 3:** add all of the metals to an acid (1) measure temperature change or means of comparing rate of reaction (1) place the metals in order of temperature change or rate of reaction (1) **approach 4:** set up electrochemical cells with the unknown metal as one electrode and each of the other metals as the other electrode (1) measure the voltage of the cell (1) place the metals in order of voltage (1)			
06.7	D		1	AO1 4.5.1.2
06.8	C		1	AO1 4.5.1.2
Total			**12**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.1	sodium oxide	allow Na_2O	1	AO2 4.1.1.1 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.1
07.2	oxidation		1	AO1 4.4.1.1
07.3	13		1	AO1 4.4.2.4
07.4	sodium hydroxide		1	AO2 4.1.1.1
07.5	OH^-		1	AO1 4.4.2.4
07.6	(volume =) $\frac{250}{1000}$ or ¼ or 0.25 (dm^3) **or** (mass per cm^3 =) $\frac{40}{1000}$ (g) or 0.04 (g) ($\frac{250}{1000}$ × 40 =) 10 (g)	an answer of 10 (g) scores **2** marks	1 1	AO2 4.3.2.5

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.7	all points correct	allow a tolerance of ± ½ a small square allow **1** mark for 3 points correct ignore any attempt at a line of best fit	2	AO2 4.1.2.5
07.8	39 (°C)	allow any value from 34 to 46 (°C)	1	AO2 4.1.2.5
Total			**10**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.1	any **one** from: • metal • (metal) hydroxide • (metal) carbonate • alkali	allow named example allow correct formula ignore base allow ammonium hydroxide allow ammonium carbonate allow soluble base allow ammonia	1	AO1 4.4.2.1 4.4.2.2 4.4.2.3
08.2	$Ca(NO_3)_2$	allow $Ca^{2+}(NO_3^-)_2$	1	AO2 4.4.2.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.3	**Level 3:** The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	5–6	AO1 4.4.2.3
	Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are identified, but the method is not fully logically sequenced.	3–4	
	Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified, but links are not made clear.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content • use magnesium oxide and sulfuric acid • add sulfuric acid to a beaker • warm sulfuric acid • add magnesium oxide • stir • continue adding until magnesium oxide is in excess • filter • using a filter paper and funnel • to remove excess magnesium oxide • heat solution in an evaporating basin • to crystallisation point • leave to crystallise • pat dry with filter paper credit may be given for diagrams		
Total			**8**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.1	FeS_2	do **not** accept equations	1	AO2 4.2.1.3
09.2	26 30 26	must be this order	1 1 1	AO2 4.1.1.4 4.1.1.5
09.3	any **two** from: • iron has a high(er) melting / boiling point • iron is dense(r) • iron is hard(er) • iron is strong(er) • iron is less reactive • iron has ions with different charges • iron forms coloured compounds • iron can be a catalyst	allow the converse statements for sodium allow transition metal for iron allow Group 1 metal for sodium ignore references to atomic structure ignore iron rusts allow iron is less malleable / ductile allow specific reactions showing difference in reactivity allow iron is magnetic	2	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.1.3.1 4.1.3.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.4	carbon is more reactive (than nickel)	allow converse	1	AO1 4.4.1.2 4.4.1.3
	(so) carbon will displace / replace nickel (from nickel oxide) **or** (so) carbon will remove oxygen (from nickel oxide)	allow (so) nickel ions gain electrons allow (so) carbon transfers electrons to nickel (ions)	1	
09.5		an answer of 67.8 (%) scores **3** marks an answer of 67.8160919 (%) or correctly rounded answer to 2, 4 or more sig figs scores **2** marks an incorrect answer for one step does **not** prevent allocation of marks for subsequent steps		AO2 4.3.3.2
	(total M_r of reactants =) 87		1	
	(percentage atom economy) $= \frac{59}{87} \times 100$	allow (percentage atom economy) $= \frac{59}{\text{incorrectly calculated } M_r} \times 100$	1	
	= 67.8 (%)	allow an answer from an incorrect calculation to 3 sig figs	1	
Total			**11**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	copper, zinc, sodium chloride solution		1	AO2 4.5.2.1
10.2	a reactant is used up	allow the reaction stops allow electrolyte / electrode / ions / metal / metal hydroxide / alkali for reactant	1	AO1 4.5.2.1
10.3	the reaction is not reversible		1	AO1 4.5.2.1
10.4	$2H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O$	allow fractions / multiples allow **1** mark for O_2	2	AO1 AO2 4.1.1.1 4.5.2.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

MARK SCHEME – GCSE CHEMISTRY – 8462/1F – JUNE 2018

<table>
<tr><th>Question</th><th>Answers</th><th>Mark</th><th>AO / Spec. Ref.</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">10.5</td><td>Level 3: A judgement, strongly linked and logically supported by a sufficient range of correct reasons, is given.</td><td>5–6</td><td>AO3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 2: Some logically linked reasons are given. There may also be a simple judgement.</td><td>3–4</td><td>AO3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 1: Relevant points are made. This is not logically linked.</td><td>1–2</td><td>AO2</td></tr>
<tr><td>No relevant content</td><td>0</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Indicative content

reasons why fuel cells could be judged as better
<table>
<tr><th>from the table</th><th>from other knowledge</th></tr>
<tr><td>• time for refuelling a fuel cell is faster than recharging
or
a fuel cell does not need to be recharged
• a fuel cell has a greater range</td><td>• hydrogen can be renewable if made by electrolysis using renewable energy
• lithium-ion batteries can catch fire
• produces only water
or
no pollutants produced
• lithium-ion batteries may release toxic chemicals on disposal
• lithium-ion batteries (eventually cannot be recharged so) have a finite life</td></tr>
</table>
reasons why the lithium-ion battery could be judged as better
<table>
<tr><th>from the table</th><th>from other knowledge</th></tr>
<tr><td>• lithium-ion uses energy more efficiently
• cost of lithium-ion car much less
• cost of recharging much less than refuelling with hydrogen</td><td>• hydrogen is often made from fossil fuels so is not renewable
• charging points are more widely available than hydrogen filling stations
• hydrogen takes up a lot of space
or
is difficult to store
• hydrogen can be highly flammable / explosive
• no emissions produced
• (catalyst in the hydrogen fuel-cell eventually becomes poisoned so) have a finite life</td></tr>
</table></td><td></td><td>4.4.3.4
4.5.2.1
4.5.2.2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td></td><td>11</td></tr>
</table>

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 13 · Examiner comments June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

Question 7 (low and standard demand)

07.1 This question was answered well with 80% of students giving the correct name of the product. Some students tried to add in other products such as water or hydrogen.

07.2 85% of students knew this was an oxidation reaction.

07.3 68% of students could relate the colour of the universal indicator to the correct pH. The most common distractor was ‘pH 7’.

07.4 73% of students could name sodium hydroxide correctly.

Answer 13 · Examiner comments June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

07.5 This question assessed recall directly from the specification. 43% of students could identify the OH^- ion as being present in all alkalis.

More than a 25% thought that the Na^+ ion was responsible, with nearly as many opting for the H^+ ion.

07.6 Students found this calculation very difficult, with 7% achieving full marks. 13% of students made no attempt to answer.

It was necessary to convert either the volume to dm^3 or the concentration to mol/cm^3 to gain partial credit, but most students either failed to attempt a conversion or did not know how many cm^3 are in one dm^3.

07.7 58% of students achieved both marks. It was very common to see the scale on the *x*-axis misread so that the plots for sodium and potassium were incorrect. Some students were using a pen or a very thick pencil so were unable to correct their answer or were compromising accuracy.

07.8 This question was answered very well, with 82% of students answering correctly.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 14 · Examiner comments

June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9 (standard demand)

09.1 Because the question asked for the formula rather than the empirical formula, an answer of Fe_9S_{18} was accepted. Even so, 21% of students were able to answer this correctly.

Many students ignored the necessity for correct capital and lower case letters, with a lower case 'f' being seen quite frequently. Others did not count the atoms correctly, or used a large figure '2' in an inappropriate position.

09.2 This question worked very well. 84% of students managed to achieve at least one mark, with 51% achieving two or more. The most frequent error was in the number of neutrons.

09.3 Whilst 56% of students achieved at least one mark, 34% of these students achieved both.

- Many students repeated information in the stem of the question. And some appeared to ignore it as they declared sodium to be a non-metal.
- Many gave differences in the structure of the atoms instead of differences in properties of the substances.
- Some effectively gave the same difference twice, for example writing that sodium is soft on one line and iron is hard on the other.

09.4 26% of students achieved at least one mark on this question, although some very good answers were seen. As with some other questions, students were sometimes prone to imprecise use of language.

Many students thought that carbon is more reactive than oxygen rather than nickel, or said that carbon is reacting with oxygen (it is not, it is reacting with nickel oxide to remove the oxygen). Those who tried to answer in terms of electron transfer often struggled to gain all the marks.

09.5 Students struggled with this calculation; with 9% of students providing a fully correct answer. This question relies on knowledge of the expression for atom economy. Those who quoted the expression often did not know what was meant by 'reactants'.

It was also common to include the M_r of all the products instead of just the nickel, leading to an answer of 100%, which is clearly incorrect as there is more than one product.

There seemed to be trouble with the interpretation of some calculator displays. Many students lost the final mark because they gave an answer of $67.\dot{8}$. This answer is neither correct (it is not 67.8888888…) nor to three significant figures (it is to an infinite number of significant figures). Some even recognised this latter point and rounded, incorrectly, to 67.9.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 16 · Examiner comments June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9 (Standard demand)

09.1 Fewer than a quarter of students recognised that element **Q** must be a non-metal because of the lack of conductivity, and therefore in section **D**. **B** and **C** were both seen more often than the correct answer, though responses were fairly evenly spread across all options.

09.2 This was slightly better answered than the previous question. However, again responses were spread across all options.

09.3 Most students described a property of either a Group 1 element or a transition element without reference to the other; this did not gain credit as a comparison was needed. Of those students who did answer in comparative terms, most knew that Group 1 metals are softer than transition metals, but there was confusion about which had lower melting points. Some students thought that one group or the other would not conduct electricity. Very few students were awarded both marks; about a sixth scored one mark.

09.4 Most students could draw the electronic structure correctly. The most common error was to draw only one electron on the outer shell.

09.5 Most students referred to electrons in their answer as required, but fewer than a third described those electrons as delocalised. Some also referred to the electrons carrying charge. However, very few articulated the idea that the electrons themselves move through the metal in a particular direction. Of those who referred to electrons moving, many implied that the movement was random. Some students incorrectly referred to electrons bumping into other atoms or electrons.

Answer 16 · Examiner comments June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

09.6 Just over half of students correctly identified the type of bonding. The most common incorrect response was covalent.

09.7 Many students gave good descriptions of the transfer of two electrons from a magnesium atom to an oxygen atom to produce magnesium ions and oxide ions. However, some students subsequently referred to electrons being shared. About 40% of students were awarded at least one mark, with about a sixth gaining all four marks.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 17 · Examiner comments June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

Question 6 (low and standard demand)

06.1 Only a third of students gave a property of platinum which was relevant in its use for jewellery. Many gave properties which are not relevant, such as high density, high melting point or high strength.

06.2 The great majority scored at least one mark. Students were asked for observations which could be seen, so those which could be heard did not gain credit. Bubbling and fizzing are the same observation; many gave both terms and no other observation so scored only one mark. Some incorrectly said that the water changes colour (possibly because they have seen the reaction carried out in the presence of an indicator).

06.3 Most students scored at least one mark, with the vast majority knowing that copper is less reactive than sodium. The differences in physical properties were less well known, with many thinking that copper has a lower melting point.

06.4 Three quarters of students could compare the three properties and therefore achieve a mark in level 1. However, far fewer reached level 2, where there needed to be links to these properties, such as a copper pan cooking food more quickly because of copper's higher thermal conductivity. Many students incorrectly linked density to strength or longevity of the pan. Some students referred incorrectly to electrical conductivity: a property which is not relevant here and for which no data were provided. Many students also provided a simple judgement as to which pan is better overall. Many students simply quoted the values in the table, but did not add any value to the data.

Answer 18 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q1

Question 1 (low demand)

01.1 More than two thirds of students identified the pure compound, with the three distractors being approximately equally popular.

01.2 Just over one third of students identified the correct mixture. Distractor **A**, which is a mixture of two compounds, proved more popular than the correct answer.

01.3 More than four fifths of students identified the position of metals in the periodic table. Sections **B**, **C** and **D** was the most popular distractor.

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4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 18 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q1

01.4 Fewer than one third of students scored both marks, with nearly one in ten scoring neither. Low melting point was a popular distractor.

01.5 Over half of students scored both marks. Some students placed the electron from the potassium atom on the chlorine atom, rather than completing the structure of the chloride ion. Some added to the potassium ion diagram unnecessarily. A few showed an electron moving from chlorine to potassium. There were some blank answers, perhaps because the students did not realise there was something to do; students need to read the whole paper, not just the parts above an answer line.

01.6 More than four fifths of students identified the distillation apparatus.

01.7 Nearly all students identified the filtration apparatus. The most popular distractor was diagram **B**.

Answer 19 · Examiner comments June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q10

Question 10 (standard demand)

10.1 Students found this question difficult and fewer than one in ten could give the correct substance. Many gave tin (the result of the reduction) as the answer instead of tin oxide, and many did not appreciate that reduction is loss of oxygen.

10.2 One in six students could give an acceptable answer in terms of reactivity. Students were expected to compare the reactivities of carbon and tin, so both needed to be named. There was some ambiguous use of the word 'it'.

10.3 Whilst a third of students scored one mark, only about one in ten scored all three. Many could not recall the expression for percentage atom economy and therefore did not attempt to find the total M_r of the reactants. A significant minority added the two relative atomic masses provided to give 124 and then divided by 128.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 19 · Examiner comments June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q10

10.4 Nearly a half of students scored at least one mark. Many answers were not comparative so could not gain credit. Some gave two halves of the same comparison as two different differences in properties, e.g. tungsten is hard for one answer and potassium is soft for the other. Answers in terms of atomic structure, rather than properties of the element, did not gain credit.

10.5 Nearly a half of students scored both marks by producing working to show that the total M_r on each side was 238.

10.6 One in five students scored the mark. Common correct responses included minimising waste or making more profit. Common incorrect answers included references to yield, rate or safety.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results Statistics page of the AQA Website.