AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.2.1.3

Ionic compounds

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**18**
Available paper years	**2008–2025**

Using this booklet

1. Answer the questions in order and show your working.
2. Original question numbers and marks are retained.
3. Print at actual size (100%) for measuring questions.
4. Use the companion answer booklet to check your work.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

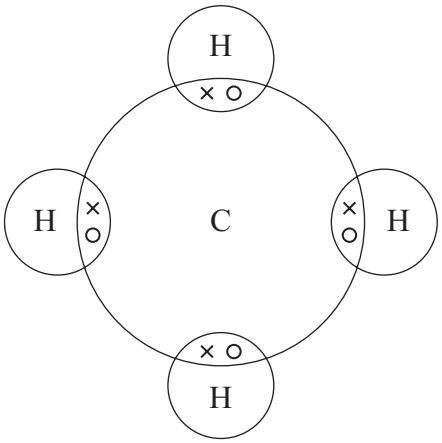
Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 01

January 2008 | CHY2F | Original Q1 | Legacy

1 The diagram represents a particle of methane.



(a) What is the formula of methane? .....

(1 mark)

(b) Choose a word from the box to answer the question.

atom	ion	molecule

Which of the words best describes the methane particle shown in the diagram?

.....

(1 mark)

(c) Choose a word from the box to answer the question.

covalent	ionic	metallic

What is the type of bonding shown in the diagram?

.....

(1 mark)

3

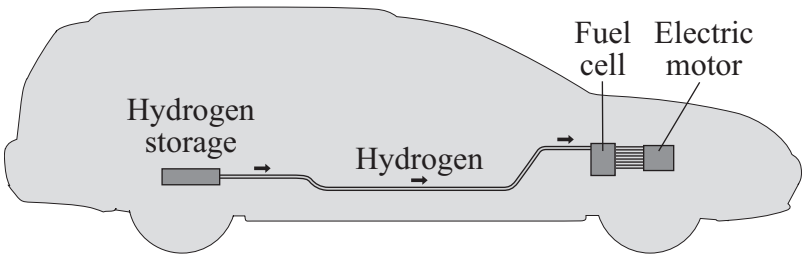
4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 02

June 2009 | CHY2F | Original Q6 | Legacy

6 Read the article and then answer the questions that follow.

Hydrogen fuel for cars?



Hydrogen is an excellent fuel. On combustion it reacts with oxygen from the air to release a large amount of energy. The only product of combustion is water which does not cause pollution. Hydrogen gas can be stored under pressure in a cylinder but a leak of the gas could cause an explosion.

It has been found that lithium nitride can absorb and then release large volumes of hydrogen. Hydrogen stored in lithium nitride will not explode.

The problem is that the rate at which hydrogen is absorbed and then released from normal sized particles of lithium nitride is slow.

Recently scientists have made 'nanosized' particles of lithium nitride. The 'nanosized' particles have the advantage that they absorb and release the hydrogen much faster when needed in the fuel cell.

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 02 · continued

for mark

6 (a) Use information from the article to help you to answer these questions.

6 (a) (i) Give **two** reasons why hydrogen is an excellent fuel.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

(2 marks)

6 (a) (ii) Hydrogen stored in lithium nitride is safer in an accident than a cylinder full of hydrogen gas.

State why.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

6 (a) (iii) What is the advantage of using 'nanosized' particles of lithium nitride instead of normal sized particles for storing hydrogen?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

Question 6 continues on the next page

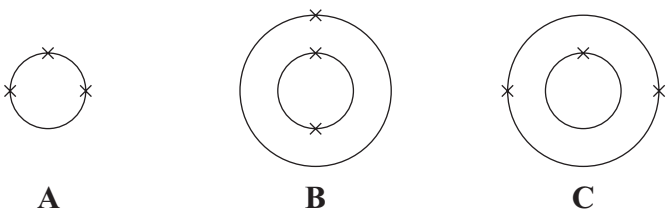
Question 02 · continued

for mark

6 (b) Lithium nitride is an ionic compound that contains lithium ions (Li^+) and nitride ions (N^{3-}).

6 (b) (i) The periodic table on the Data Sheet may help you to answer this question.

Which diagram, **A**, **B** or **C**, represents the electronic structure of a lithium atom?
Write your answer in the box.



A **B** **C**

Diagram ☐

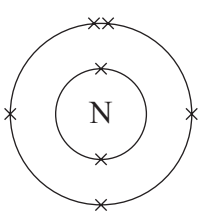
(1 mark)

6 (b) (ii) Tick (✓) the statement which describes how a lithium atom (Li) changes into a lithium ion (Li^+).

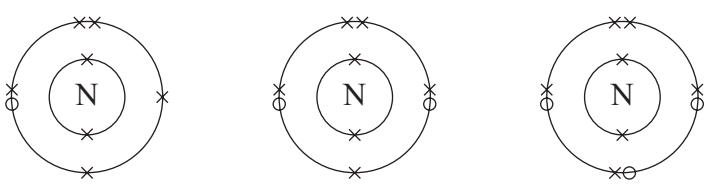
Statement	Tick (✓)
A lithium atom loses a neutron.	
A lithium atom loses an electron.	
A lithium atom loses a proton.	

(1 mark)

6 (b) (iii) The diagram shows the electronic structure of a nitrogen atom.



Which diagram, **A**, **B** or **C**, represents the electronic structure of a nitride ion (N^{3-})?
Write your answer in the box.



A **B** **C**

Diagram ☐

(1 mark)

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 02 · continued June 2009 | CHY2F | Original Q6 | Legacy

for mark

6 (c) The equation for the reaction of lithium nitride with hydrogen is:

$$Li_3N + 2H_2 \rightleftharpoons LiNH_2 + 2LiH$$

What does the $\rightleftharpoons$ symbol mean?

Draw a ring around your answer.

reversible reaction **endothermic reaction** **neutralisation**

(1 mark)

6 (d) Draw a ring around the correct answer in each box to complete the sentences.

6 (d) (i) 'Nanosized' particles of lithium nitride will be

much larger
a little larger
much smaller

than normal sized particles of lithium nitride. *(1 mark)*

6 (d) (ii) One of the reasons why 'nanosized' particles have different properties from normal sized particles is that they have a greater

density
mass
surface area

than normal sized particles of lithium nitride. *(1 mark)*

10

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

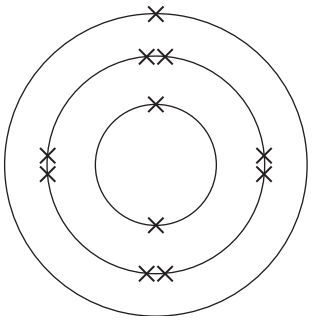
Question 03

7 Sodium chloride is a raw material.

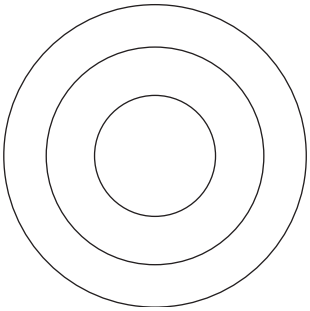
7 (a) The electronic structure of a sodium atom is shown below.

Complete the diagram for the electronic structure of a chlorine atom. A chlorine atom has 17 electrons.

Sodium atom



Chlorine atom



(1 mark)

7 (b) When sodium and chlorine react to form sodium chloride they form sodium ions (Na^+) and chloride ions (Cl^-).

How does a sodium atom change into a sodium ion?

.....

.....

.....

.....

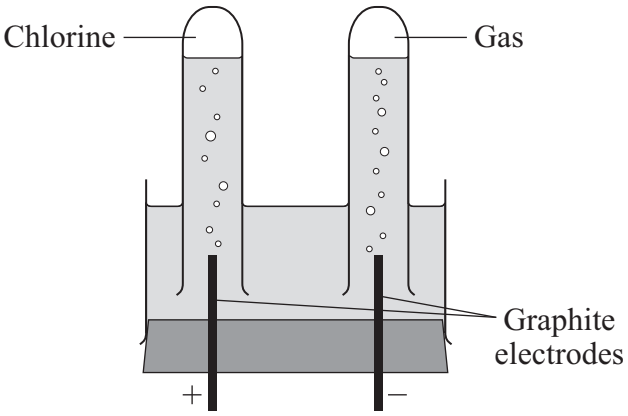
(2 marks)

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 03 · continued

for mark

7 (c) The diagram shows apparatus used in a school laboratory for the electrolysis of sodium chloride solution.



The solution contains sodium ions (Na^+), chloride ions (Cl^-), hydrogen ions (H^+) and hydroxide ions (OH^-).

7 (c) (i) Why do chloride ions move to the positive electrode?

.....

(1 mark)

7 (c) (ii) Name the gas formed at the negative electrode.

.....

(1 mark)

Question 7 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 03 · continued

for mark

7 (d) Chlorine and chlorine compounds are used to bleach wood pulp that is used to make paper.

The article below is from a newspaper.

> Local people have been protesting outside a paper factory. They say:
> 'We want the company to stop using chlorine compounds. Chlorine compounds release poisons into the environment. The company should use safer compounds.'
>
> The company replied:
> 'Chlorine has been used safely for many years to treat drinking water. Only tiny amounts of chlorine are released, which cause no harm. Using other compounds will be more expensive and may put us out of business.'

7 (d) (i) Why are some local people worried about the use of chlorine compounds?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (d) (ii) Why might other local people want the company to continue to use chlorine compounds?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

7 (d) (iii) It is decided to have an enquiry.
Why should this be done by independent scientists?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

8

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 04

June 2013 | CH2FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

1 This question is about lithium and sodium.

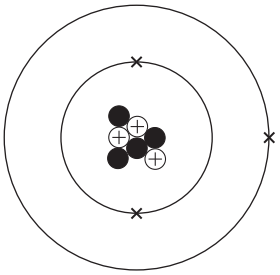
1 (a) Use the Chemistry Data Sheet to help you to answer this question.

In which group of the periodic table are lithium and sodium? Group ☐

(1 mark)

1 (b) A lithium atom can be represented as $^{7}_{3}Li$

The diagram represents the lithium atom.



1 (b) (i) Some particles in the nucleus have a positive charge.

What is the name of these particles? .....

(1 mark)

1 (b) (ii) Some particles in the nucleus have no charge.

What is the name of these particles? .....

(1 mark)

1 (b) (iii) Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

3	4	7

The mass number of this atom of lithium is ☐

(1 mark)

Question 1 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

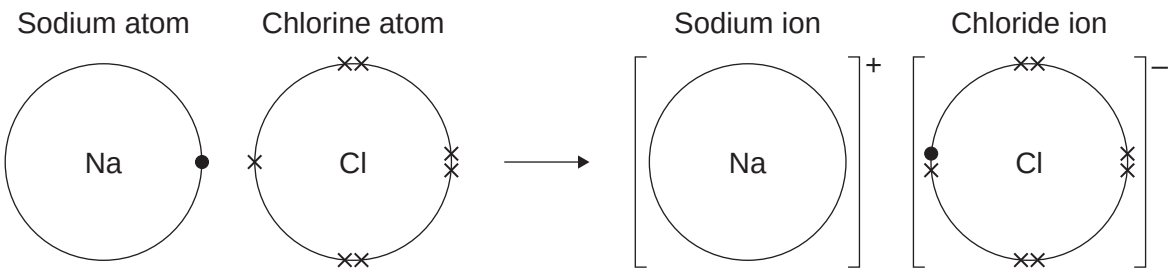
Question 04 · continued

1 (c) Sodium reacts with chlorine to produce sodium chloride.

sodium + chlorine ⟶ sodium chloride

The diagram shows how the reaction happens.

Only the outer electrons are shown.



Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete each sentence.

1 (c) (i) A sodium atom changes into a sodium ion by [gaining / losing / sharing] an electron.

(1 mark)

1 (c) (ii) A sodium ion has [a negative / no / a positive] charge.

(1 mark)

1 (c) (iii) The ions in sodium chloride are held together by strong [covalent / electrostatic / magnetic] forces.

(1 mark)

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 04 · continued

1 (d) Sodium chloride is an ionic compound.

Tick (✓) **two** properties of ionic compounds.

Property	Tick (✓)
Do **not** dissolve in water	
High melting points	
Low boiling points	
Strong bonds	

(2 marks)

1 (e) (i) The formula of sodium chloride is NaCl

Calculate the relative formula mass of sodium chloride.

Relative atomic masses: Na = 23; Cl = 35.5

.....

.....

Relative formula mass = ...

(1 mark)

1 (e) (ii) Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete the sentence.

The relative formula mass of a substance, in grams, is one ion / isotope / mole of the substance.

(1 mark)

1 (f) Nanoparticles of sodium chloride (salt) are used to flavour crisps.

What are nanoparticles?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

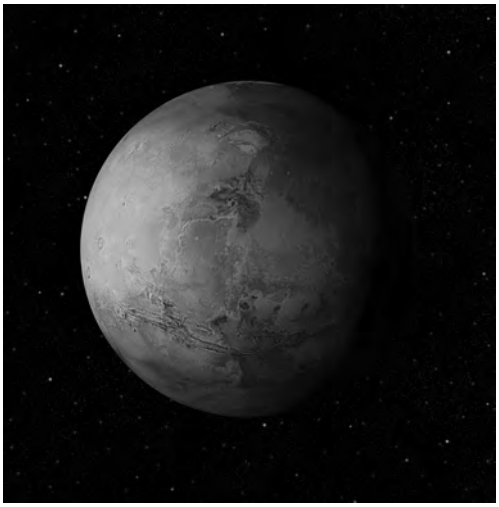
12

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 05

June 2013 | CH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 This question is about the planet Mars.



5 (a) Mars is a red colour in the sky at night.

The red colour of Mars is because of iron oxide.

Iron oxide is an ionic compound.

Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete the sentence.

Ionic compounds are made of

- giant lattices.
- polymer chains.
- simple molecules.

(1 mark)

5 (b) Many spacecraft have been sent to Mars. Parts of these spacecraft are made from polymers.

5 (b) (i) Polymers that behave like shape memory alloys are used in spacecraft.

The shape memory polymers are cooled and compressed. These polymers are stored on the spacecraft until needed.

Suggest how the polymers could be made to return to their original shape.

.....

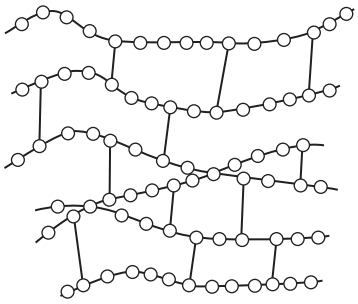
(1 mark)

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 05 · continued

5 (b) (ii) Thermosetting polymers are used for the tiles on the outside of spacecraft.

The diagram shows the structure of a thermosetting polymer.



Explain, in terms of structure, why some polymers are thermosetting.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

5 (c) Instrumental methods such as GC–MS are used to analyse substances found on Mars.

In GC–MS, gas chromatography columns are linked to mass spectrometers.

5 (c) (i) What does gas chromatography do to the substances?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

5 (c) (ii) Give **two** reasons for using instrumental methods for analysis.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

(2 marks)

7

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 06

June 2014 | CH2FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

1 This question is about diamonds.

Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete each sentence.

1 (a) Diamonds are found in meteorites.

1 (a) (i) Meteorites get very hot when they pass through the Earth's atmosphere, but the diamonds do not melt.

Diamond has a [high / low / very low] melting point.

[1 mark]

1 (a) (ii) Most diamonds found in meteorites are nanodiamonds.

A nanodiamond contains a few [hundred / thousand / million] atoms.

[1 mark]

1 (b) Diamonds are used for the cutting end of drill bits.

Diamonds can be used for drill bits because they are [hard. / shiny. / soft.]

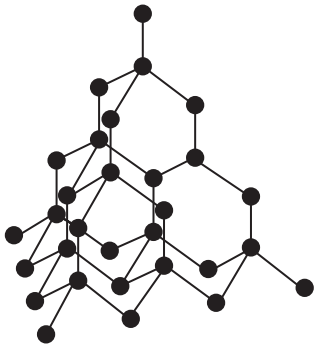
[1 mark]

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 06 · continued

1 (c) **Figure 1** shows the arrangement of atoms in diamond.

Figure 1



1 (c) (i) Diamond is made from [carbon / nitrogen / oxygen] atoms.

[1 mark]

1 (c) (ii) Each atom in diamond is bonded to [three / four / five] other atoms.

[1 mark]

1 (c) (iii) Diamond has a giant [covalent / ionic / metallic] structure.

[1 mark]

1 (c) (iv) In diamond [all / none / some] of the atoms are bonded together.

[1 mark]

7

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 07

June 2014 | CH2FP | Original Q7 | Legacy

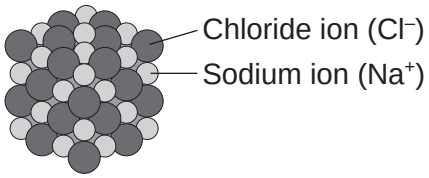
7 **In this question you will be assessed on using good English, organising information clearly and using specialist terms where appropriate.**

Explain why chlorine (Cl_2) is a gas at room temperature, but sodium chloride (NaCl) is a solid at room temperature.

Chlorine

Cl — Cl

Sodium chloride



Include a description of the bonding and structure of chlorine and sodium chloride in your answer.

[6 marks]

.....

.....

.....

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.....

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.....

.....

Extra space .....

.....

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6

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 08

2 This question is about salts.

2 (a) Salt (sodium chloride) is added to many types of food.

Sodium chloride is produced by reacting sodium with chlorine.

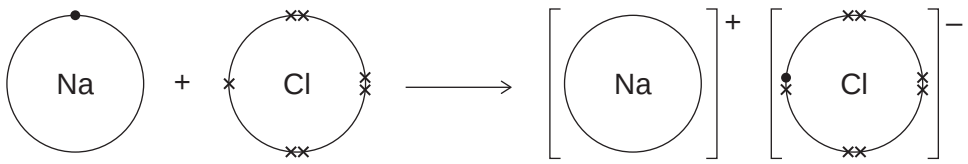
sodium + chlorine ⟶ sodium chloride

Figure 2 shows what happens to atoms of sodium and chlorine in this reaction.

The dots (•) and crosses (×) represent electrons.

Only the outer electrons are shown.

Figure 2



Describe, in terms of electrons, what happens when a sodium atom reacts with a chlorine atom to produce sodium chloride.

[3 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Question 2 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 08 · continued

2 (b) Lack of iodine can affect the learning ability of children.

One idea is that salt (sodium chloride) should have iodine added.

2 (b) (i) Iodine consists of simple molecules.

What is a property of substances that have simple molecules?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Have no overall electric charge ☐

Have high boiling points ☐

Have giant covalent structures ☐

2 (b) (ii) Which one of the following questions cannot be answered by science alone?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

How much sodium chloride is in food? ☐

What harm does a lack of iodine do? ☐

Should iodine be added to salt in food? ☐

Give **one** reason why this question cannot be answered by science alone.

.....

.....

2 (c) A student produced the salt ammonium nitrate by adding an acid to ammonia solution.

2 (c) (i) Name the acid used.

[1 mark]

.....

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 08 · continued

2 (c) (ii) Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

an acid	an alkali	a salt

Ammonia solution (ammonium hydroxide) is ..... .

2 (c) (iii) The student added a few drops of a solution which changed colour when the reaction was complete.

Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

The solution added is an ..... .

2 (d) Farmers buy solid ammonium nitrate in poly(ethene) sacks.

2 (d) (i) How is solid ammonium nitrate made from a solution of ammonium nitrate?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Crystallisation ☐

Decomposition ☐

Electrolysis ☐

2 (d) (ii) Why do farmers use ammonium nitrate on their fields?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

2 (d) (iii) The properties of poly(ethene) depend on the reaction conditions when it is made.

State **one** reaction condition that can be changed when making poly(ethene).

[1 mark]

.....

.....

12

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 09

June 2015 | CH2FP | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 This question is about electrolysis.

4 (a) Metal spoons can be coated with silver.
This is called electroplating.

Suggest **one** reason why spoons are electroplated.

[1 mark]

.....

.....

4 (b) When sodium chloride solution is electrolysed the products are hydrogen and chlorine.

4 (b) (i) What is made from chlorine?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Bleach ☐

Fertiliser ☐

Soap ☐

4 (b) (ii) Sodium chloride solution contains two types of positive ions, hydrogen ions (H^+) and sodium ions (Na^+).

Why is hydrogen produced at the negative electrode and **not** sodium?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrogen is a gas. ☐

Hydrogen is less reactive than sodium. ☐

Hydrogen ions move faster than sodium ions. ☐

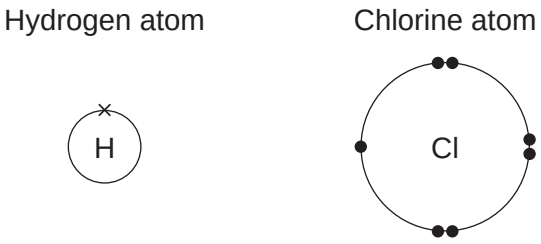
4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

4 (b) (iii) Hydrogen and chlorine can be used to produce hydrogen chloride.

The diagrams in **Figure 4** show how the outer electrons are arranged in an atom of hydrogen and an atom of chlorine.

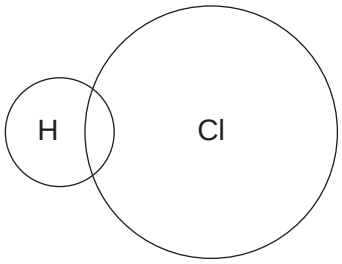
Figure 4



Complete **Figure 5** to show how the outer electrons are arranged in a molecule of hydrogen chloride (HCl).

[1 mark]

Figure 5



4 (b) (iv) What is the type of bond in a molecule of hydrogen chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Covalent ☐

Ionic ☐

Metallic ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

4 (b) (v) Why is hydrogen chloride a gas at room temperature (20 °C)?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

Hydrogen chloride has a low boiling point. ☐

Hydrogen chloride has a high melting point. ☐

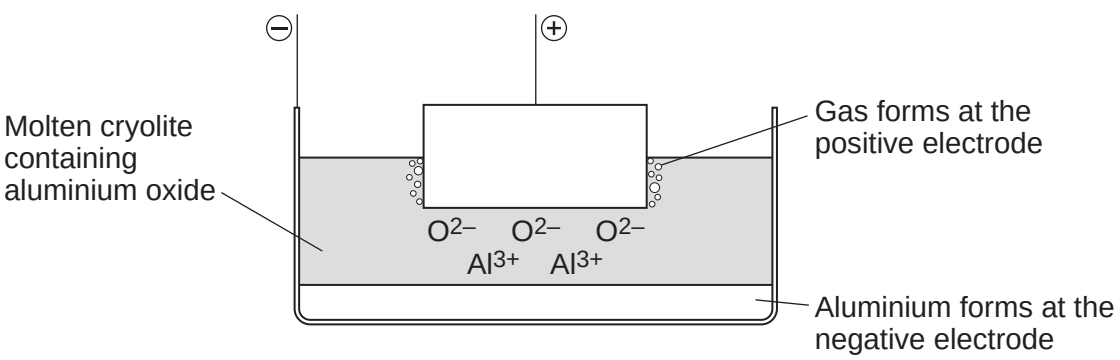
Hydrogen chloride is made of simple molecules. ☐

Hydrogen chloride does not conduct electricity. ☐

Hydrogen chloride has a giant structure. ☐

4 (c) Aluminium is produced by electrolysis of a molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite.
This is shown in **Figure 6**.

Figure 6



4 (c) (i) Name a gas produced at the positive electrode.

[1 mark]

.....

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

4 (c) (ii) Aluminium ions move to the negative electrode.

Explain why.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

4 (c) (iii) At the negative electrode, the aluminium ions gain electrons to produce aluminium.

What is this type of reaction called?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

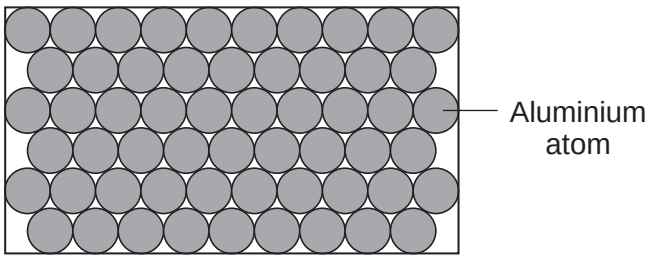
Combustion ☐

Oxidation ☐

Reduction ☐

4 (c) (iv) Aluminium has layers of atoms, as shown in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7



Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

Metals can be bent and shaped because the layers of atoms can ..... .

Question 4 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

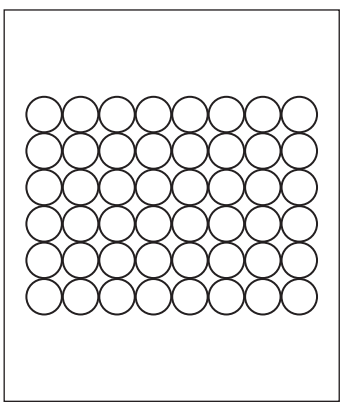
Question 09 · continued

4 (d) Electrodes used in the production of aluminium are made from graphite.

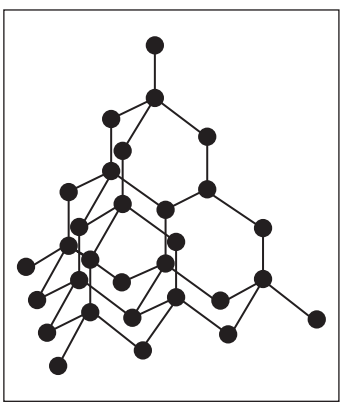
4 (d) (i) Which diagram, **A**, **B** or **C**, shows the structure of graphite?

[1 mark]

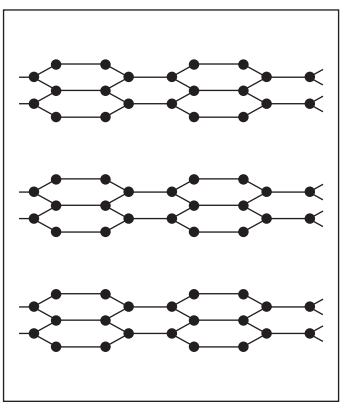
A



B



C



The structure of graphite is shown in diagram ☐.

4 (d) (ii) The temperature for the electrolysis is 950 °C.

Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

cross links	**a giant ionic lattice**	**strong covalent bonds**

The graphite does not melt at 950 °C because

graphite has ..... .

14

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 10

June 2015 | CH3FP | Original Q9 | Legacy

9 This question is about the halogens (Group 7).

9 (a) How do the boiling points of the halogens change down the group from fluorine to iodine?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

9 (b) Sodium bromide is produced by reacting sodium with bromine.

Sodium bromide is an ionic compound.

9 (b) (i) Write down the symbols of the **two** ions in sodium bromide.

[1 mark]

.....

9 (b) (ii) Chlorine reacts with sodium bromide solution to produce bromine and one other product.

Complete the word equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

chlorine + sodium bromide ⟶ bromine + ...

9 (b) (iii) Why does chlorine displace bromine from sodium bromide?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

9 (b) (iv) Use the Chemistry Data Sheet to help you to answer this question.

Suggest which halogen could react with sodium chloride solution to produce chlorine.

[1 mark]

.....

5

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

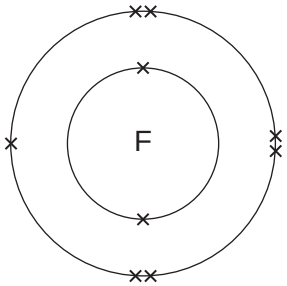
Question 11

June 2016 | CH2FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

1 This question is about fluorine.

1 (a) **Figure 1** shows the arrangement of electrons in a fluorine atom.

Figure 1



1 (a) (i) In which group of the periodic table is fluorine?

[1 mark]

Group _____

1 (a) (ii) Complete **Table 1** to show the particles in an atom and their relative masses.

[2 marks]

Table 1

Name of particle	Relative mass
Proton	
Neutron	1
	Very small

1 (a) (iii) Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

alkalis	**alloys**	**isotopes**

Atoms of fluorine with different numbers of neutrons are called _____ .

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

1 (b) Sodium reacts with fluorine to produce sodium fluoride.

1 (b) (i) Complete the word equation for this reaction.

[1 mark]

sodium + _____ ⟶ _____

1 (b) (ii) Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

Substances in which atoms of two or more different elements are chemically combined are called _____ .

1 (b) (iii) The relative formula mass (M_r) of sodium fluoride is 42.

Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

ion	mole	molecule

The relative formula mass (M_r), in grams, of sodium fluoride is one _____ of the substance.

Question 1 continues on the next page

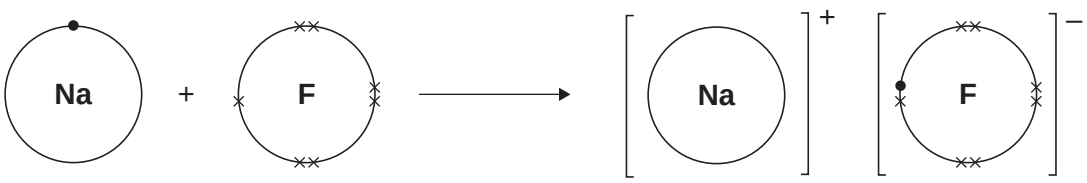
4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

1 (b) (iv) **Figure 2** shows what happens to the electrons in the outer shells when a sodium atom reacts with a fluorine atom.

The dots (•) and crosses (×) represent electrons.

Figure 2



Use **Figure 2** to help you answer this question.

Describe, as fully as you can, what happens when sodium reacts with fluorine to produce sodium fluoride.

[4 marks]

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

1 (b) (v) Sodium fluoride is an ionic substance.

What are **two** properties of ionic substances?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

- Dissolve in water ☐
- Gas at room temperature ☐
- High melting point ☐
- Low boiling point ☐

13

Turn over for the next question

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 12

June 2017 | CH2FP | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 This question is about oxygen and substances containing oxygen.

3 (a) Oxygen is a gas at room temperature.

3 (a) (i) What type of bonding holds the atoms together in oxygen?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Covalent ☐

Ionic ☐

Metallic ☐

3 (a) (ii) Which **two** statements about oxygen are true?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

Oxygen consists of a giant lattice. ☐

Oxygen consists of small molecules. ☐

Oxygen conducts electricity. ☐

Oxygen is an alloy. ☐

Oxygen has a low boiling point. ☐

Question 3 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 12 · continued

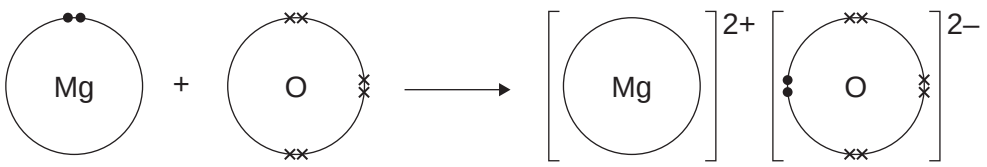
3 (b) Magnesium oxide is produced when magnesium reacts with oxygen.

3 (b) (i) **Figure 6** shows what happens to the electrons in the outer shells when a magnesium atom reacts with an oxygen atom.

The dots (•) and crosses (×) represent electrons.

Only the outer electrons are shown.

Figure 6



Describe, in terms of electrons, what happens when a magnesium atom reacts with an oxygen atom to produce magnesium oxide.

[4 marks]

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 12 · continued

3 (b) (ii) Nanoparticles of magnesium oxide can be made.

Which **two** statements about nanoparticles are true?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

Nanoparticles are very small atoms. ☐

Nanoparticles can return to their original shape after being deformed. ☐

Nanoparticles contain a few hundred atoms. ☐

Nanoparticles contain millions of molecules. ☐

Nanoparticles have a high surface area to volume ratio. ☐

3 (c) Silicon dioxide has a very high melting point.

Silicon dioxide does not conduct electricity when molten.

Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

giant covalent	giant ionic	metallic

The structure of silicon dioxide is _____ .

10

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 13

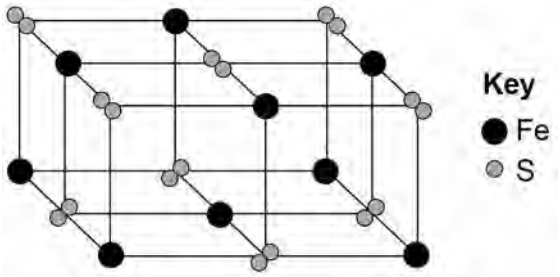
June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

0 9 This question is about metals and metal compounds.

0 9 . 1 Iron pyrites is an ionic compound.

Figure 12 shows a structure for iron pyrites.

Figure 12



Determine the formula of iron pyrites.

Use **Figure 12**.

[1 mark]

0 9 . 2 An atom of iron is represented as $^{56}_{26}Fe$

Give the number of protons, neutrons and electrons in this atom of iron.

[3 marks]

Number of protons _____

Number of neutrons _____

Number of electrons _____

0 9 . 3 Iron is a transition metal.

Sodium is a Group 1 metal.

Give **two** differences between the properties of iron and sodium.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 13 · continued

Nickel is extracted from nickel oxide by reduction with carbon.

0 9 . 4 Explain why carbon can be used to extract nickel from nickel oxide.

[2 marks]

0 9 . 5 An equation for the reaction is:

$$NiO + C \rightarrow Ni + CO$$

Calculate the percentage atom economy for the reaction to produce nickel.

Relative atomic masses (A_r): C = 12 Ni = 59

Relative formula mass (M_r): NiO = 75

Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

[3 marks]

Percentage atom economy = _____ %

11

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 14

November 2020 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

0 8 This question is about structure and bonding.

0 8 . 1 Which **two** substances have intermolecular forces between particles?

[2 marks]

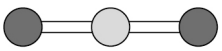
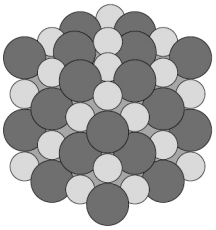
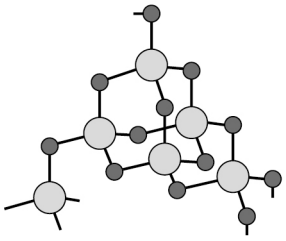
Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

- Diamond ☐
- Magnesium ☐
- Poly(ethene) ☐
- Sodium chloride ☐
- Water ☐

0 8 . 2 **Table 5** shows the structures of three compounds.

Table 5

Diagrams not to scale

Compound	Structure
Carbon dioxide	
Magnesium oxide	
Silicon dioxide	

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 14 · continued

Compare the structure and bonding of the three compounds:

- carbon dioxide
- magnesium oxide
- silicon dioxide.

[6 marks]

8

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 15

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

0 3 This question is about Group 1 elements.

0 3 . 1 Complete **Table 2** to show the electronic structure of a potassium atom.

[1 mark]

Table 2

Atom	Number of electrons	Electronic structure
Sodium	11	2,8,1
Potassium	19	

0 3 . 2 Why do Group 1 elements have similar chemical properties?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

They have the same number of electron shells. ☐

They have the same number of outer shell electrons. ☐

They have two electrons in the first shell. ☐

0 3 . 3 What is the type of bonding in sodium?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Covalent ☐

Ionic ☐

Metallic ☐

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 15 · continued

Table 3 shows observations made when lithium, potassium and rubidium react with water.

Table 3

Element	Observations
Lithium	Bubbles slowly Floats Moves slowly
Sodium	1 _____ 2 _____
Potassium	Bubbles very quickly Melts into a ball Floats Moves very quickly Flame
Rubidium	Sinks Melts into a ball Explodes with a flame

0 3 . 4 Give **two** observations you could make when sodium reacts with water.

Write your answers in **Table 3**.

[2 marks]

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 15 · continued

0 3 . 5 How does the reactivity of the elements change going down Group 1?

[1 mark]

0 3 . 6 Give **two** ways in which the observations in **Table 3** show the change in reactivity going down Group 1.

[2 marks]

1

2

0 3 . 7 Which gas is produced when Group 1 elements react with water?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Carbon dioxide ☐
- Hydrogen ☐
- Nitrogen ☐
- Oxygen ☐

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 15 · continued

0 3 . 8 Sodium fluoride is an ionic compound.

Figure 5 shows dot and cross diagrams for a sodium atom and a fluorine atom.

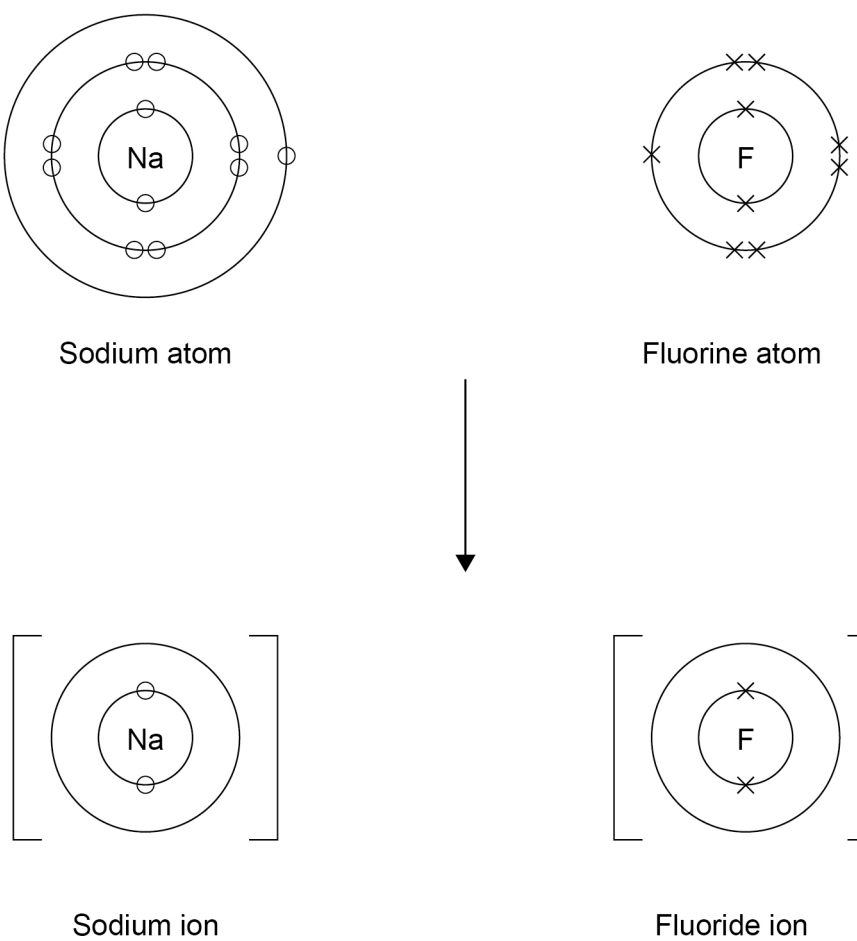
Complete **Figure 5** to show what happens when a sodium atom and a fluorine atom react to produce sodium fluoride.

You should:

- complete the electronic structures of the sodium ion and the fluoride ion
- give the charges on the sodium ion and the fluoride ion.

[3 marks]

Figure 5



12

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 16

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

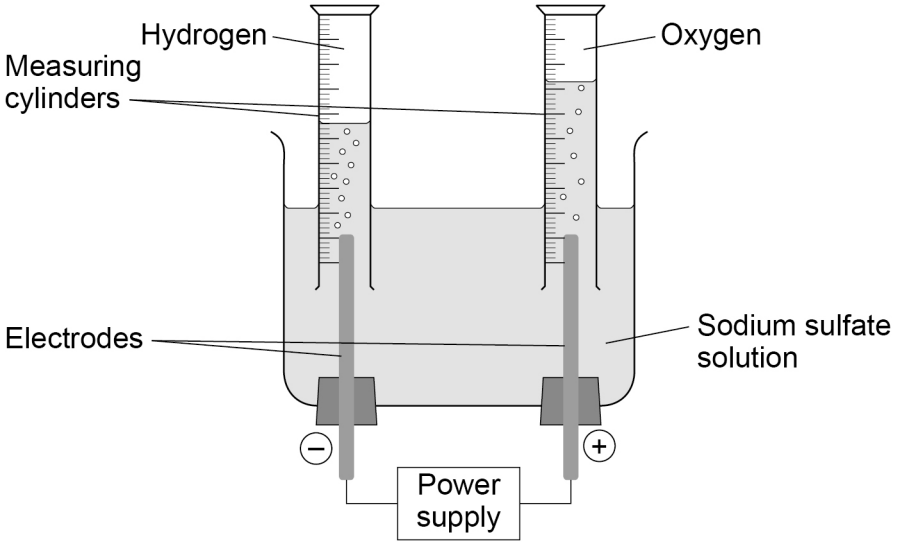
0 8 This question is about electrolysis.

Ionic compounds decompose when they are electrolysed.

A student electrolyses sodium sulfate solution.

Figure 13 shows the apparatus used.

Figure 13



0 8 . 1 Sodium sulfate solution contains:

- hydrogen ions
- hydroxide ions
- sodium ions
- sulfate ions.

Oxygen is produced at the positive electrode.

Which ions are discharged at the positive electrode to produce oxygen?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hydrogen ions ☐

Hydroxide ions ☐

Sodium ions ☐

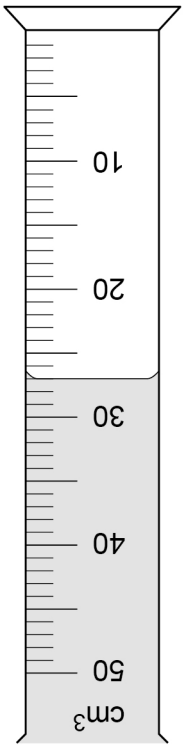
Sulfate ions ☐

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 16 · continued

0 8 . 2 **Figure 14** shows one of the measuring cylinders during the electrolysis.

Figure 14



What is the volume of gas in the measuring cylinder?

[1 mark]

Volume of gas = _____ cm^3

0 8 . 3 Ionic compounds can be electrolysed when molten or dissolved in water.

Why can ionic compounds **not** be electrolysed when solid?

You should answer in terms of ions.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

Question 16 · continued

0 8 . 4 **Table 7** shows the products of electrolysis of two molten compounds.

Table 7

Molten compound	Product at negative electrode	Product at positive electrode
Potassium iodide	Potassium	_____
Zinc bromide	_____	Bromine

Complete **Table 7**.

[2 marks]

0 8 . 5 The electrolysis of molten sodium chloride is used to extract sodium metal.

Why is sodium metal extracted by electrolysis instead of by reduction with carbon?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Carbon conducts electricity. ☐

Carbon is less reactive than sodium. ☐

Carbon reduction uses more energy. ☐

0 8 . 6 What is the state symbol for molten sodium chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

(aq) ☐ (g) ☐ (l) ☐ (s) ☐

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 16 · continued

0 8 . 7 Titanium can be produced from titanium oxide by electrolysis.

The equation for the reaction is:

$$TiO_2 \rightarrow Ti + O_2$$

Calculate the percentage atom economy for the production of titanium from titanium oxide by electrolysis.

Use the equation:

$$\text{Percentage atom economy} = \frac{\text{Relative atomic mass of desired product}}{\text{Relative formula mass of reactant}} \times 100$$

Relative atomic mass (A_r): Ti = 48

Relative formula mass (M_r): TiO_2 = 80

[2 marks]

Percentage atom economy = _____ %

9

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 17

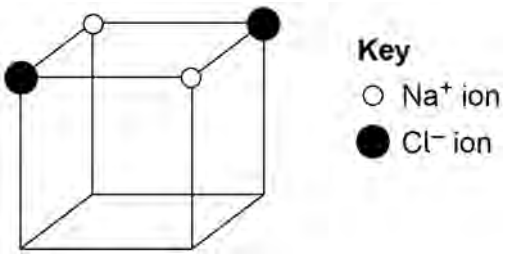
June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

0 7 This question is about ionic compounds and electrolysis.

Sodium chloride is an ionic compound.

0 7 . 1 **Figure 8** represents part of the structure of solid sodium chloride.

Figure 8



Complete **Figure 8**.

[2 marks]

0 7 . 2 Give **one** reason why molten sodium chloride conducts electricity.

Refer to ions in your answer.

[1 mark]

0 7 . 3 **Table 3** shows products of the electrolysis of two molten ionic compounds.

Complete **Table 3**.

[2 marks]

Table 3

Molten compound	Product at the negative electrode	Product at the positive electrode
Magnesium bromide	Magnesium	
Potassium chloride		Chlorine

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 17 · continued

0 7 . 4 Aluminium is extracted by electrolysis.

The electrolyte is a molten mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite.

Why is a mixture used instead of pure aluminium oxide as the electrolyte?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The mixture has a lower melting point than pure aluminium oxide. ☐
- The mixture has the same melting point as pure aluminium oxide. ☐
- The mixture has a higher melting point than pure aluminium oxide. ☐

0 7 . 5 Electrolysis of an aqueous solution of sodium sulfate produces hydrogen and oxygen.

What is the source of the hydrogen and the oxygen produced during the electrolysis of aqueous sodium sulfate solution?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Air ☐
- Sulfate ions ☐
- Water ☐

Question 7 continues on the next page

Question 17 · continued

Electrolysis of an aqueous solution of sodium sulfate produces hydrogen and oxygen.

0 7 . 6 Why is hydrogen produced instead of sodium in the electrolysis of aqueous sodium sulfate solution?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

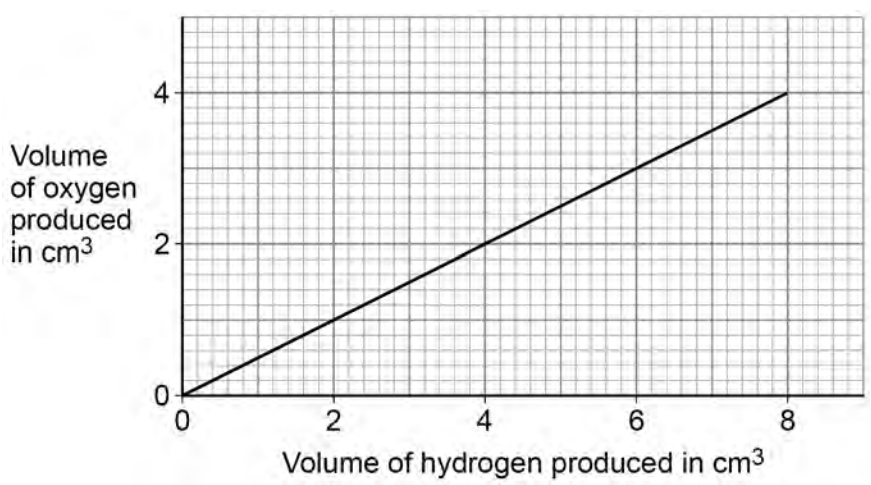
Hydrogen is less reactive than sodium. ☐

Hydrogen has the same reactivity as sodium. ☐

Hydrogen is more reactive than sodium. ☐

0 7 . 7 **Figure 9** shows the relationship between the volume of hydrogen and the volume of oxygen produced during the electrolysis.

Figure 9



Give **one** conclusion that can be made about the volume of hydrogen produced compared to the volume of oxygen produced.

[1 mark]

9

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 18

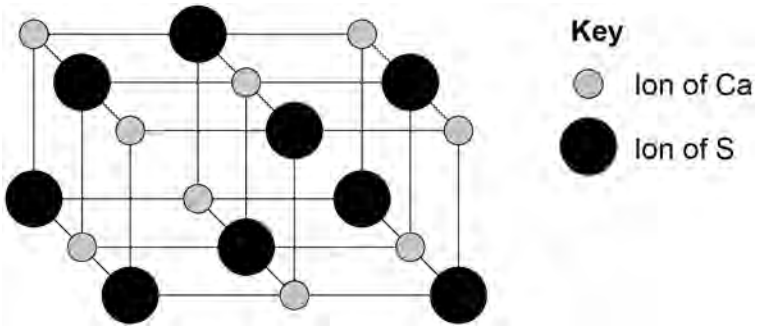
June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

0 9 This question is about structure and bonding.

Calcium sulfide is an ionic compound.

Figure 13 represents the structure of calcium sulfide.

Figure 13



0 9 . 1 Determine the empirical formula of calcium sulfide.

[1 mark]

Empirical formula _____

Question 9 continues on the next page

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 18 · continued

0 9 . 2 Calcium is in Group 2 of the periodic table.

Sulfur is in Group 6 of the periodic table.

Describe what happens when a calcium atom reacts with a sulfur atom.

Answer in terms of electrons and ions.

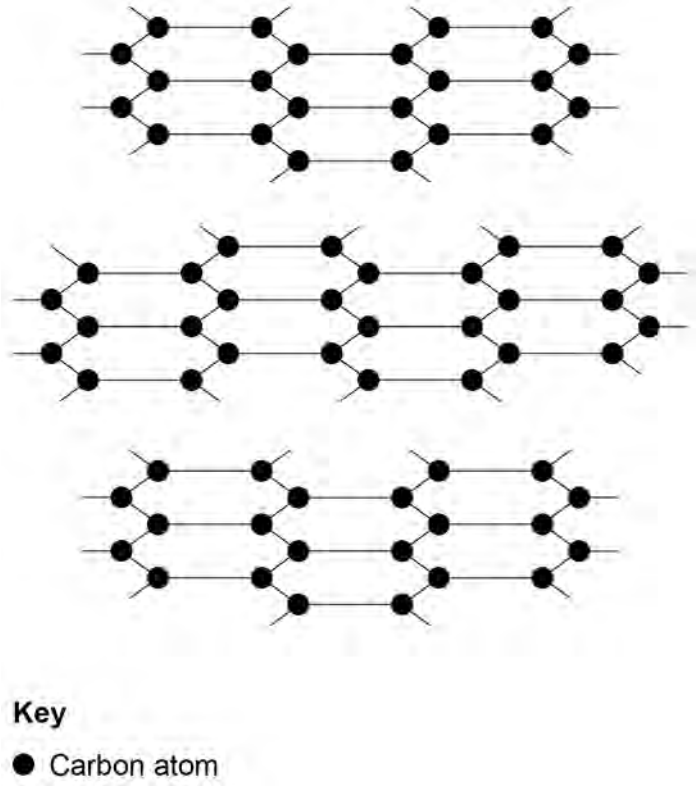
[4 marks]

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 18 · continued

Figure 14 shows the structure of graphite.

Figure 14



0 9 . 3 Describe the structure and bonding of graphite.

[4 marks]

Extra space

4.2.1.3 Ionic compounds

Question 18 · continued

0 9 . 4 Substances that consist of small molecules do **not** conduct electricity.

Give **one** reason why.

[1 mark]

0 9 . 5 Methane consists of small molecules.

Poly(ethene) is a polymer.

Why does poly(ethene) have a higher melting point than methane?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Poly(ethene) has more covalent bonds to break than methane. ☐
- Poly(ethene) has no intermolecular forces to overcome. ☐
- Poly(ethene) has stronger covalent bonds to break than methane. ☐
- Poly(ethene) has stronger intermolecular forces to overcome than methane. ☐

11