AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.2.3.3

Graphene and fullerenes

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**6**
Available paper years	**2010–2024**

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.

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

January 2010 | CHY2F | Original Q4 | Legacy

Question 4

question	answers	extra information	mark
4(a)	the diameter of the tube is very small		1
4(b)(i)	three		1
4(b)(ii)	covalent		1
4(b)(iii)	bonds		1
Total			**4**

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

January 2010 | CHY2F | Original Q4 | Legacy

CHY2F

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2012 | CH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Question 5

question	answers	extra information	Mark
5(a)(i)	covalent	two different answers indicated gains **0** marks	1
5(a)(ii)	carbon	two different answers indicated gains **0** marks	1
5(a)(iii)	3	two different answers indicated gains **0** marks	1
5(b)	layers can slide / slip because there are no bonds between layers **or** so (pieces of) graphite rubs / breaks off **or** graphite left on the paper	 accept because weak forces / bonds between layers	1 1
Total			**5**

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2012 | CH2FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

CH2FP

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 03 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q10

Question 10

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	contain delocalised electrons (so) electrons can move through the structure / nanotube	allow contain free electrons allow (so) electrons can carry charge through the structure / nanotube ignore throughout for through ignore current / electricity for charge	1 1	AO1 4.2.3.3

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.2	**Level 2:** Some logically linked reasons are given. There may also be a simple judgement.	3–4	AO3 4.2.3.3 4.2.2.7
	Level 1: Relevant points are made. They are not logically linked.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content • wood is the least dense so lightest to use • aluminium is the most dense so will make the racket too heavy • carbon nanotube is the strongest so least likely to break • wood / aluminium are too weak so the racket will break more easily • carbon nanotube is the stiffest so least likely to bend out of shape • wood / aluminium are not very stiff so could bend out of shape • justified conclusion		

Question 10 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.3		an answer of 4.0 x 10^4 (nm^2) scores **3** marks an answer of 40344 (nm^2) scores **2** marks		AO2 4.2.4.1
	(82^2 =) 6724 (nm^2)		1	
	(6 x 6724 =) 40344 (nm^2)	allow 40344 (nm^2) correctly rounded to any number of significant figures allow correct calculation using incorrectly calculated value of area of one face from step 1	1	
	= 4.0 x 10^4 (nm^2)	allow 4.0344 x 10^4 (nm^2) correctly rounded to 1 or more significant figures allow a correctly calculated and rounded conversion to standard form of an incorrect calculation of surface area	1	
10.4	any **one** from: • less can be used (for the same effect) • greater surface area (to volume ratio)	allow converse statements about fine particles ignore nanoparticles are smaller	1	AO3 4.2.4.2
Total			**10**	

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

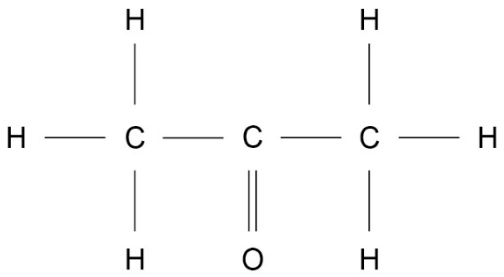
Answer 04 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

Question 8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.1	spherical	allow ball-shaped ignore round / circular	1	AO1 4.2.3.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.2	any **one** from: • drug delivery (round the body) • hydrogen storage • anti-oxidants • reduction of bacterial growth • catalysts • (cylindrical fullerenes for) strengthening materials • (spherical fullerenes for) lubricants		1	AO1 4.2.3.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.3			1	AO2 4.2.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.4	C_3H_6O	allow CH_3COCH_3 allow elements in any order	1	AO2 4.2.1.4

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Question 8 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.5	the intermolecular forces are weak		1	AO1 4.2.2.1 4.2.2.4

Question	Answers	Mark	AO/ Spec. Ref
08.6	**Level 3**: Relevant points (reasons/causes) are identified, given in detail and logically linked to form a clear account.	5–6	AO1 4.2.2.6 4.2.3.2
	Level 2: Relevant points (reasons/causes) are identified, and there are attempts at logical linking. The resulting account is not fully clear.	3–4	
	Level 1: Points are identified and stated simply, but their relevance is not clear and there is no attempt at logical linking.	1–2	
	No relevant content	0	
	Indicative content • bonds are covalent • giant / macromolecular structure • three (covalent) bonds per carbon atom **or** only three electrons per carbon atom used in (covalent) bonds • so one electron per carbon atom (is delocalised) • these delocalised electrons • can move through the structure • carrying (electrical) charge • so graphite conducts electricity • layered structure • of (interlocking) hexagonal rings • with weak (intermolecular) forces between layers **or** no (covalent) bonds between layers • so the layers can slide over each other • so graphite is soft and slippery		

Total			11

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	element		1	AO1 4.1.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	protons neutrons	must be in this order allow electrons	1 1	AO1 4.1.1.5

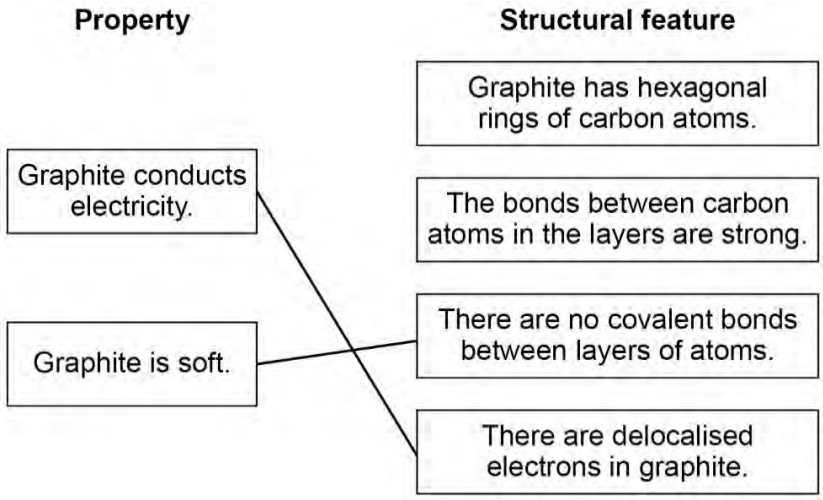
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	$\frac{12}{6.02 \times 10^{23}}$		1	AO2 4.1.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	B		1	AO1 4.2.3.3

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 05 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	 do **not** accept more than **one** line from a box on the left	1 1	AO1 4.2.3.2

Total Question 3	7

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q5

Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	6		1	AO2 4.1.1.5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.2	7		1	AO2 4.1.1.5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.3	6		1	AO2 4.1.1.5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.4	C_2F_6		1	AO2 4.2.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.5	only intermolecular forces are weak		1	AO1 4.2.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.6	spherical		1	AO1 4.2.3.3

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.7	3		1	AO1 4.2.3.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.8	giant structure	allow lattice	1	AO1 4.2.3.1
	(of atoms joined by) covalent bonds		1	
	each carbon / atom forms four bonds		1	

Total Question 5	**10**

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 03 · Examiner comments

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q10

Question 10 (standard demand)

10.1 Approximately a third of students scored a mark for referring to the presence of delocalised electrons in carbon nanotubes.

Very few scored the mark for explaining the role of these electrons in the conduction of electricity.

10.2 Most students understood that they needed to compare the properties of the three materials. However, a few did not add value and just quoted data from the table, which is insufficient to be credited.

Approximately 45% of students achieved a Level 2 mark by giving a consequence of one of the stated differences in properties. Some gave a justified conclusion in referencing the most suitable material for a racket frame.

For some students, there was a misunderstanding that a high density was good because it made the racket strong, despite strength being one of the other properties given.

10.3 Almost a quarter of students scored full marks for this calculation. A similar proportion correctly calculated the surface area as 40344 nm^2 but did not score the mark for converting this answer to standard form.

Some students calculated the volume of the nanoparticle rather than the surface area.

Even if the answer to their calculation was incorrect, a mark could still be scored for correctly converting this answer to standard form, provided that an attempt to calculate the surface area had been made.

10.4 Students found it difficult to give a reason why it costs less to use nanoparticles in sun-cream with only approximately 10% scoring the mark.

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 03 · Examiner comments

Common responses seen that were not credited included:

- nanoparticles are smaller
- nanoparticles are easier to make.

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Use of statistics

Statistics used in this report may be taken from incomplete processing data. However, this data still gives a true account on how students have performed for each question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 05 · Examiner comments

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3 (low and standard demand)

03.1 Three quarters of students recognised that carbon is an element. Most of the others thought carbon is a compound.

03.2 A third of students scored both marks, with another third scoring just one. Few students chose ions or molecules, but many could not select the correct sub-atomic particles for the correct space. Protons and neutrons were often seen the wrong way round.

03.3 A third of students gave the correct answer on this standard demand question. The most common incorrect response was the inverted expression.

03.4 Only a half of students recognised diagram B as buckminsterfullerene, with nearly as many selecting **C**, which was a diagram of a nanotube.

Answer 05 · Examiner comments

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

03.5 The majority of students scored at least one mark. The role of the delocalised electrons in electrical conduction was well known. The lack of covalent bonds between layers causing the softness was less well known, with many opting for the hexagonal rings being the cause.

4.2.3.3 Graphene and fullerenes

Answer 06 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q5

Question 5 (low and standard demand)

05.1 Nearly four fifths of students identified the number of protons. 13 was the most common distractor.

05.1 Over a half of students identified the number of neutrons. 6 was the most common distractor.

05.1 Over a half of students identified the number of electrons. 13 was the most common distractor.

05.4 Nearly three fifths of students scored the mark. Although the vast majority counted 2 carbon and 6 fluorine atoms, many could not write the formula correctly, with numbers discernibly smaller than the letters.

05.5 Only about a third of students identified that only intermolecular forces are weak. The most popular response was that both covalent bonds and intermolecular forces are weak. The myth that covalent bonds are weak is a difficult one to dispel.

05.6 More than a half of students knew that Buckminsterfullerene is spherical. The most common distractor was cylindrical, with the students possibly thinking of nanotubes.

05.7 Just under three quarters of students identified the number of bonds formed by a carbon atom in graphite. The most common distractor was 4.

05.8 Students found this standard demand question difficult, with fewer than one in twenty scoring all three marks, although more than a half did score one mark. Many did not mention the giant structure, or did not state that each carbon atom forms 4 bonds (despite having counted the bonds per atom in graphite in the previous question). Many did mention covalent bonds but then contradicted themselves by referring to intermolecular forces; these are not present, so the type of bonding mark could not be awarded. Many students gave properties of diamond, which were not asked for and gained no credit.