AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.4.1.2

The reactivity series

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**36**
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.

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 01 · Mark scheme March 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	aluminium	**4**
	B	calcium	**2**
	C	sodium	**1**
	D	zinc	**3**

Answer 02 · Mark scheme March 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q7 | Legacy

Seven	**3**	**2**	**4**	**2**

Answer 03 · Mark scheme June 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q7 | Legacy

Five	**A**	one	**2**
	B	four	**3**
	C	five	**1**
	D	seven	**4**
Six	**A**	hard	**3**
	B	resistant to corrosion	**4**
	C	easily shaped	**2**
	D	brittle	**1**

	A	**B**	**C**	**D**
Seven	**2**	**4**	**3**	**2**

Answer 04 · Mark scheme June 2007 | CHY1B | Original Q4 | Legacy

Four	**A**	boiling point	**4**
	B	colour	**2**
	C	density	**3**
	D	reactivity	**1**

Answer 05 · Mark scheme November 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	Metal **A**	**3**
	B	Metal **B**	**2**
	C	Metal **C**	**4**
	D	Metal **D**	**1**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 06 · 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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

January 2008 | CHY3F | Original Q1 | Legacy

CHY3F

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

March 2008 | CHY1AP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	iron	**2**
	B	aluminium	**3**
	C	copper	**4**
	D	gold	**1**

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

June 2008 | CHY1AP | Original Q8 | Legacy

Eight	**1**	**4**	**3**	**1**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 09 · Mark scheme

June 2008 | CHY3F | Original Q2 | Legacy

question	answers	extra information	mark
2(a)(i)	floated / (moved on) surface	accept does not sink ignore it melted	1
2(a)(ii)	melted / molten	ignore heat is given off	1
2(a)(iii)	hydrogen	allow H_2	1
2(b)(i)	potassium / rubidium / caesium / francium	accept: K / Rb / Cs / Fr	1
2(b)(ii)	they are metals they form ions with a 1+ charge		1 1
2(c)(i)	atomic weight		1
2(c)(ii)	similar		1
2(c)(iii)	groups		1
2(d)	left gaps owtte		1
Total			**10**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 09 · Mark scheme

June 2008 | CHY3F | Original Q2 | Legacy

COMPONENT NUMBER: CHY3F

COMPONENT NAME: Chemistry

STATUS: Final

DATE: June 2008

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 10 · Mark scheme

June 2009 | CHY1F | Original Q1 | Legacy

Question 1

question	answers	extra information	mark
1(a)	conducts (electricity) **or** allows electrons / current to flow	accept flexible ignore conducts heat	1
1(b)	electron		1
1(c)(i)	lithium>copper>tungsten **or** Li>Cu>W	all correct allow **1** mark for one metal in the correct position	2
1(c)(ii)	has high / highest melting point **or** can withstand the highest temperature	accept has high / highest boiling point	1
1(d)	unreactive		1
Total			**6**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 10 · Mark scheme June 2009 | CHY1F | Original Q1 | Legacy

CHY1F

Answer 11 · 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**

Answer 12 · Mark scheme March 2010 | CHY1BP | Original Q6 | Legacy

Six	**2**	**2**	**2**	**4**

Answer 13 · Mark scheme June 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q6 | Legacy

Six	**2**	**3**	**1**	**1**

Answer 14 · Mark scheme November 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q1 | Legacy

Question	Key		
One	**A**	Iron	**1**
	B	Aluminium	**2**
	C	Copper	**4**
	D	Calcium	**3**

Answer 15 · Mark scheme November 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	uses another metal		**3**
	B	does **not** use a chemical reaction		**2**
	C	could be done in a blast furnace		**4**
	D	is called electrolysis		**1**
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**

Answer 16 · Mark scheme March 2011 | CHY1AP | Original Q3 | Legacy

Three	**A**	Carbon	**1**
	B	Gold	**2**
	C	Magnesium	**4**
	D	Zinc	**3**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 17 · Mark scheme

June 2011 | CHY1AP | Original Q2 | Legacy

Two	**A**	compounds	**4**
	B	groups	**2**
	C	properties	**3**
	D	symbols	**1**

Answer 18 · Mark scheme

November 2011 | CHY1BP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	abundance	**4**
	B	colour	**2**
	C	density	**3**
	D	reactivity	**1**

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 19 · Mark scheme

June 2013 | CH3FP | Original Q7 | Legacy

Question 7

question	Answers	extra information	Mark
7(a)(i)	hydrogen	accept H_2 allow H	1
7(a)(ii)	hydroxide	accept OH^- allow OH do **not** accept lithium hydroxide	1
7(b)	any **two** from: potassium: • reacts / dissolves faster • bubbles / fizzes faster • moves faster (on the surface) • melts • produces (lilac / purple) flame	'it' = potassium accept converse for lithium allow reacts more vigorously / quickly / violently / explodes ignore reacts more allow fizzes more allow more gas allow moves more allow forms a sphere allow catches fire / ignites do **not** accept other colours	2
Total			**4**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 20 · Mark scheme June 2014 | CH1FP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.	ID
5(a)(i)	economical		1	1 / 1.3.1a	A
5(a)(ii)	phytomining		1	1 / 1.3.1g	A
5(a)(iii)	carbon dioxide		1	1 / 1.3.1d/f	A
5(b)(i)	copper / Cu iron sulfate / $FeSO_4$		1 1	2 / 1.3.1h	E
5(b)(ii)	copper/ ions have a positive charge	it = copper ions allow copper ions have a different charge accept copper / ions are free to move accept to gain electrons accept copper / ions are attracted to the negative electrode **or** opposite charges attract	1	1 / 1.3.1h	E
5(c)	any **two** from: • copper ores are limited / running out • copper can be recycled • copper can be reused • copper is expensive • landfill sites are filling up • copper compounds are toxic	ignore not biodegradable or does not decay allow copper is running out allow copper is toxic	2	3 / 1.3.1j	E
Total			**8**		

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 20 · Mark scheme

June 2014 | CH1FP | Original Q5 | Legacy



4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 21 · Mark scheme

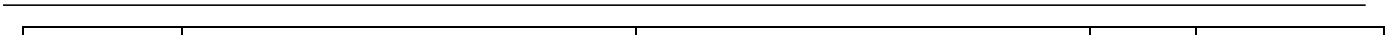
June 2015 | CH3FP | Original Q9 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
9(a)	increase		1	**AO1** 3.1.3.f
9(b)(i)	Na^+ **and** Br^-	both required	1	**AO1** 3.1.3.a/e
9(b)(ii)	sodium chloride	allow NaCl do **not** allow sodium chlorine	1	**AO2** 3.1.3.g
9(b)(iii)	chlorine is more reactive than bromine	allow converse argument allow symbols Cl, Cl_2, Br and Br_2 allow chlorine / it is more reactive. do **not** allow chloride **or** bromide	1	**AO1** 3.1.3.g
9(b)(iv)	fluorine	allow F / F_2. do **not** allow fluoride.	1	**AO2** 3.1.3.g
Total			**5**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 21 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | CH3FP | Original Q9 | Legacy



4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 22 · Mark scheme

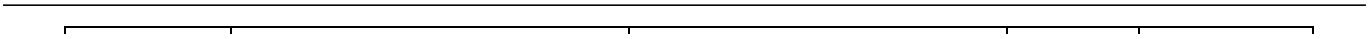
June 2016 | CH2FP | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / SpecRef
3(a)	electricity	allow an electric current	1	AO1 2.7.1a; 2.2.2b
3(b)(i)	chlorine/Cl_2	do **not** accept chloride	1	AO2 2.7.1b
3(b)(ii)	(zinc ions are) positive and (opposite charges) attract	ignore to gain electrons	1 1	AO1/AO2 2.7.1c
3(b)(iii)	reduction		1	AO1 2.7.1e
3(c)(i)	in alloy: different sized atoms/particles **or** no layers/rows so cannot slide	accept converse accept layers distorted	 1 1	AO1/AO2 2.2.4b,c
3(c)(ii)	shape memory (alloys)	accept smart	1	AO1 2.2.4d
Total			**8**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 22 · Mark scheme

June 2016 | CH2FP | Original Q3 | Legacy



4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 23 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / SpecRef
1(a)	atomic weights electrons proton numbers	must be in this order	1 1 1	AO1 3.1.1a, 3.1.2a
1(b)(i)	H/hydrogen	allow H_2 or h	1	AO3 3.1.3b,c
1(b)(ii)	one / 1	allow alkali metals	1	AO2 3.1.3a
1(b)(iii)	Potassium (K)		1	AO1 3.1.3b
1(b)(iv)	Iron has a higher density than potassium Iron forms ions that have different charges		1 1	AO1/AO2 3.1.3c,d
1(c)	any **three** from: • melts • fizzes / bubbles / effervesces • sodium floats • size of the sodium decreases • sodium moves	allow gas produced allow dissolves / disappears allow two marks for moves around on the surface of the water	3	2AO1 / 1AO2 3.1.3a
Total			**11**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 24 · Mark scheme June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q2

The full source mark scheme begins on page 43. Follow original question 2 in that document.

Answer 25 · Mark scheme June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

The full source mark scheme begins on page 43. Follow original question 6 in that document.

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 26 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q4

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	concentration (of solution / electrolyte) temperature (of solution / electrolyte)	 ignore room temperature allow volume (of solution / electrolyte) allow size of electrodes allow distance between electrodes do **not** accept electrode **X** unqualified do **not** accept (measured) voltage	1 1	AO3 4.5.2.1
04.2	(most reactive) magnesium zinc (least reactive) cobalt	allow Mg allow Zn allow Co	1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.5.2.1
04.3	0 (volts) two different metals are needed to produce a voltage	 dependent on voltage being given as 0 volts allow the two electrodes are the same metal allow there is no difference in reactivity (between the electrodes)	1 1	AO3 4.5.2.1
04.4	connect cells (in series) use $\left(\frac{12}{1.5} =\right)$ 8 cells	ignore putting cells together	1 1	AO1 AO2 4.5.2.1
04.5	electric toy		1	AO3 4.5.2.1 4.5.2.2

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 26 · Mark scheme

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q4

Question 4 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.6	(advantage) any **one** from: • faster to refuel (than recharging) • can travel further (before refuelling) • hydrogen can be renewable • produces a constant voltage • no toxic chemicals released after disposal (disadvantage) any **one** from: • hydrogen is made from fossil fuels • hydrogen is made from non-renewable resources • hydrogen is difficult to store • hydrogen is flammable / explosive • costs more to refuel (than recharging) • costs more to manufacture • not many hydrogen filling stations	allow lasts longer allow hydrogen is renewable allow the only product is water ignore no emissions ignore expensive unqualified	1 1	AO3 4.5.2.1 4.5.2.2
Total			**10**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 27 · 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	

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)		

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 27 · 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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 28 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q2

Question 2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	(zinc-carbon) cheap(est) (alkaline) long(est) lasting (nickel-metal hydride) rechargeable	 allow do not have to be thrown away	1 1 1	AO3 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.2	any **one** from: • (metal / alkaline waste) can be toxic / harmful / corrosive • (metal / alkaline waste) could cause pollution in landfill sites • recycling would save resources	 allow (batteries) can ignite / explode ignore dangerous	1	AO3 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.3	copper and iron		1	AO2 4.5.2.1

Question 2 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.4	any **one** from: • temperature (of electrolyte / solution) • concentration (of electrolyte / solution)	ignore type of electrode / electrolyte allow size / mass / length of electrode allow surface area of electrode allow distance between electrodes allow volume of solution / electrolyte	1	AO3 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.5	hydrogen oxygen	allow H_2 allow O_2	1 1	AO2 4.5.2.2

Total			8

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 29 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	2,8,8,1		1	AO2 4.1.1.7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	they have the same number of outer shell electrons		1	AO1 4.1.2.1 4.1.2.5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	metallic		1	AO1 4.2.1.5 1-3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	any **two** from: • bubbles (very) quickly • melts (into a ball) • floats • moves (very) quickly	allow flame	2	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	(reactivity) increases (down the group)		1	AO1 4.1.2.5

Question 3 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	any **two** from: • increasing speed of movement • increasing rate of bubble production • doesn't melt → melts • no flame → flame **or** flame → explosion		2	AO3 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.7	hydrogen		1	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.2

Question 3 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.8	sodium ion structure 2,8 fluoride ion structure 2,8 + charge on sodium ion **and** – charge on fluoride ion	allow any combination of circles, dots, crosses or $e^{(-)}$	1 1 1	AO2 4.2.1.2
	an answer of  sodium ion fluoride ion scores **3** marks			

Total		12

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 30 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8462/1F | Original Q4

Question 4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.1	$\frac{54 + 50 + 55}{3}$ = 53 (°C)	if no other mark awarded allow **1** mark for $\frac{54 + 50 + 37 + 55}{4}$ = 49 (°C)	1 1	AO3 AO2 4.4.1.2 4.5.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.2	(most reactive) magnesium zinc (least reactive) cobalt	allow ecf from question **04.1**	1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.5.1.1 RPA4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.3	(18 ±) 2 (°C)		1	AO2 4.3.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.4	control		1	AO1 4.4.1.2 4.5.1.1 RPA4

Question 4 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.5	use the same mass of metal / powder		1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.5.1.1 RPA4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
04.6	(A) progress of reaction (B) activation energy (C) products		1 1 1	AO1 4.5.1.2

Total			9

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 31 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	B		1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	C		1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	zinc (oxide) sulfuric (acid)	allow ZnO allow H_2SO_4	1 1	AO2 4.4.2.2

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 31 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	pH 1 7 Colour of universal indicator Blue Green Purple Red Yellow do **not** accept more than one line from a box on the left		1 1	AO1 4.4.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	neutralisation		1	AO1 4.4.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	burette		1	AO1 4.4.2.5 RPA2

Total Question 3		8

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 32 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

Question 8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.1	Fe_2O_3 + 3 C → **2** Fe + **3** CO	allow multiples allow **1** mark for 2 Fe **or** allow **1** mark for 3 CO	2	AO2 4.1.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.2	(iron oxide) loses oxygen	ignore references to gain of electrons	1	AO2 4.4.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.3	(M_r =) (2 × 56) + (3 × 16) = 160	allow 112 + 48	1 1	AO2 4.3.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.4	(percentage atom economy =) $\frac{63.5}{2 + 79.5} \times 100$ = 77.9 (%)	 allow 77.914110 (%) correctly rounded to at least 2 significant figures	1 1	AO2 4.3.3.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.5	any **one** from: • colour change (in solution) • colour change (in metal) • change of temperature	 allow bubbles	1	AO3 4.1.1.1 4.4.1.2

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 32 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.6	(most reactive) **D** **B** **A** (least reactive) **C** (reason) more reactive (metals) displace less reactive (metals)	 allow **D** has most (displacement) reactions **and C** does not react allow the more reactive metals have more (displacement) reactions	1 1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Total Question 8	10

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 33 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	ions can move through the molten substance to the electrodes		1	AO1 4.4.3.1

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	<table><tr><th>Molten compound</th><th>Product at negative electrode</th><th>Product at positive electrode</th></tr><tr><td>Lead chloride</td><td>Lead</td><td>Chlorine</td></tr><tr><td>Potassium iodide</td><td>Potassium</td><td>Iodine</td></tr><tr><td>Zinc bromide</td><td>Zinc</td><td>Bromine</td></tr></table>	1 1 1	AO2 4.4.3.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	$2Al_2O_3 \rightarrow 4Al + 3O_2$	allow **1** mark for 4 Al allow **1** mark for 3 O_2	2	AO2 4.1.1.1 4.4.3.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	(M_r =) (27 × 2) + (16 × 3) = 102		1 1	AO2 4.3.1.2

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 33 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	(by electrolysis) any **one** from: • potassium / K • lithium / Li	allow aluminium / Al allow sodium / Na allow calcium / Ca allow magnesium / Mg	1	AO3 4.4.1.2 4.4.1.3 4.4.3.3
	(by carbon reduction) any **one** from: • zinc / Zn • tin / Sn	allow iron / Fe allow copper / Cu	1	

Total Question 6	10

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 34 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

Question 7

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.1	6 (V)		1	AO2 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.2	sodium chloride solution		1	AO3 4.4.3.1 4.5.2.1

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 34 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
07.3	**Level 3:** The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. The key steps are identified and logically sequenced.	5–6	AO3 4.5.2.1
	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 • set up a cell • **add an electrolyte** • into a beaker • **add two (different) metals** • **measure the voltage** • using a voltmeter • **repeat using different metals** • same volume of electrolyte • same concentration of electrolyte • same type of electrolyte • one metal kept the same each time		

Total Question 7	8

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 35 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.1	(similarity) both have one outer (shell) electron	allow energy level for shell allow same number of outer (shell) electrons	1	AO1 4.1.2.1
	(difference) sodium has 3 shells but potassium has 4 shells	allow potassium has more shells allow (different) number of shells	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.2	any **two** from: • effervescence / bubbles / fizzing • (potassium) floats • (potassium) moves around • (potassium) becomes smaller • (potassium) melts • flame • explosion	ignore gas produced allow (potassium) forms a ball ignore colour of flame	2	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.3	blue / violet / purple		1	AO2
	(the solution is) alkaline	allow (the solution) contains OH^- (ions) allow (the solution) contains hydroxide ions allow the solution is basic	1	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.4.2.4

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 35 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.4	all five points correctly plotted	allow a tolerance of ± ½ a small square allow **1** mark for three or four points correctly plotted	2	AO2 4.1.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.5	3.4 (mg/cm^3)	allow a value in the range 3.0 to 3.8 (mg/cm^3)	1	AO3 4.1.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.6	chlorine and potassium bromide		1	AO2 4.1.2.6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
09.7	relative molecular mass increases and boiling point increases		1	AO1 4.1.2.6

Total Question 9	**11**

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 36 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	sodium chloride solution		1	AO2 4.4.3.1 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	(metal) **B** (reason) the two metals must be different (to produce a voltage)	 allow the voltage is 0.0 V MP2 is dependent upon the award of MP1	1 1	AO3 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	(most reactive) **D** **A** **C** (least reactive) **B**		1	AO3 4.5.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	(number of cells =) $\frac{14.4}{3.6}$ = 4		1 1	AO2 4.5.2.1

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 36 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	water		1	AO1 4.5.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	reversed	ignore faster	1	AO1 4.5.2.1

Total Question 3	8

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

AQA

GCSE
CHEMISTRY

8462/1F - PAPER 1 FOUNDATION TIER

Mark scheme

8462

June 2018

Version/Stage: 1.0 Final

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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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PMT

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.

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.

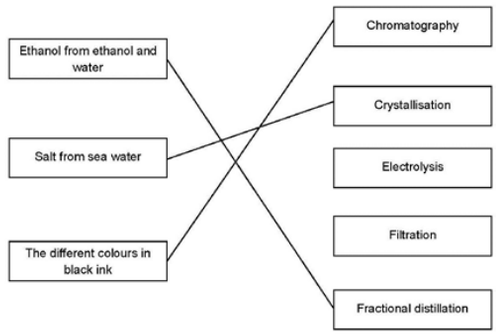
Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do **not** have to cover all of the points mentioned in the indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

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.

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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)	allow the reactivity decreases from chlorine to iodine	1	AO1 4.1.2.6
	(because) chlorine displaces bromine and iodine	allow (because) chlorine has two reactions allow (because) neither bromine nor iodine can displace chlorine	1	AO3 4.1.2.6
	(and) bromine displaces iodine **or** iodine does not react	allow (and) bromine has one reaction **or** iodine has no reactions allow (and) iodine cannot displace bromine	1	AO3 4.1.2.6
02.5	80		1	AO2 4.3.1.2

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

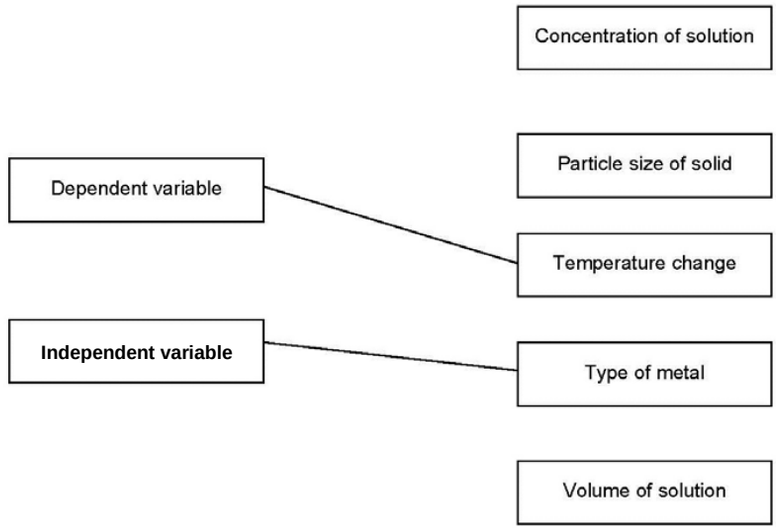
4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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**	

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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>

Answer 24 · Examiner comments

June 2018 | 8462/1F | Original Q2

Question 2 (low and standard demand)

02.1 42% of students did not realise that the number of outer shell electrons would be the same as the Group number.

02.2 19% of students were able to deduce that hydrogen bromide exists as small molecules. The majority of answers were fairly evenly split between giant covalent and ionic lattice.

02.3 59% of students were able to select F_2 as the correct formula for fluorine, with most of the others opting for F.

02.4 26% of students scored two or more marks, usually for giving the correct trend in reactivity and stating that iodine had no reactions or no changes.

Very few students could articulate their reasoning in terms of displacement. Several tried to answer in terms of reactivity of the potassium halides rather than the halogens, or were misusing the term ‘halide’ instead of ‘halogen’, making it difficult to gain any credit. Others thought that darkness of colour was an indication of reactivity, whilst some referred to melting or boiling points, which were not relevant.

Some students tried to answer in terms of ease of gaining an electron, rather than by using the information in the table as intended. Those who did so were given credit, with the most common mark being for a description of the iodine atom being larger than the chlorine atom.

02.5 74% of students were able to calculate the M_r of TiO_2 correctly. Of those who didn’t gain credit, often they didn’t recognise that there are two oxygen atoms, giving an answer of 64

02.6 This question discriminated well with 32% of students achieving both marks. Many students could convert 1.2 kg to 1200 g. However, many used the mass of reactant, 500 g, as either the numerator or denominator in the percentage yield expression. Others inverted the % yield expression or tried to subtract values.

Answer 25 · Examiner comments

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Question 6 (low and standard demand)

06.1 25% of students could identify both variables, with 41% identifying one. This was usually the independent variable.

Many thought that the concentration of the solution was the dependent variable. A compensatory mark was awarded to those who identified the two correct variables but had them the wrong way round.

06.2 86% of students understood the reason for using a polystyrene cup in this required practical activity.

06.3 This question was very well done, with 83% of students able to draw a bar chart correctly. Of those who achieved a single mark, forgetting to label the bars was more common than mis-use of the scale.

06.4 50% of students answered correctly. Of the unsuccessful attempts, many failed to express their ideas coherently. Some confused endothermic with exothermic, eg saying the temperature decreased, ignoring the evidence in front of them.

There was confusion between heat and temperature: heat is not increasing, and temperature is not given out. Some students thought ‘taking in heat’ means the temperature would rise. This shows a common misunderstanding of endothermic reactions: students think that heat energy is moving, rather than being converted from heat energy to chemical energy.

06.5 81% of students were able to give the correct order of reactivity.

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

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06.6 Students found this question difficult to answer. 19% of students achieved all three marks, although47% achieved at least one mark. 14% of students did not attempt the question.

Students answer in terms of repeating the experiment using the unknown metal, and reorder the four elements according to the temperature change. However, many decided to use a different method, with varying degrees of success.

Alternative approaches that were accepted were:

- reacting all four metals with an acid and assessing the rate of reaction or temperature change
- carrying out a series of displacement reactions, either by adding the unknown metal to salt solutions of the other three metals, or by heating the unknown metal with oxides of the others
- using the unknown as the test electrode in a series of electrochemical cells and measuring the voltage.

Approaches that were not accepted included:

- trying to react the metal with the other metals
- measuring melting or boiling point
- looking at the periodic table.

06.7 53% of students could identify line D as the correct answer. A decent number of students confused products with reactants.

06.8 This was well done, with 75% of students able to identify the activation energy on the reaction profile.

Answer 26 · Examiner comments

June 2019 | 8462/1F | Original Q4

Question 4 (low and standard demand)

04.1 Students found the identification of control variables very difficult with almost two-thirds of students scoring 0 marks.

Students were quite often imprecise in their description of the control variables. The use of the word amount is unlikely to gain credit and students should be encouraged to use scientific terminology such as 'volume'.

The most common control variables given were the volume of solution and the concentration of solution.

04.2 Almost 90% of students were able to use the voltages to place the metals in the correct order of reactivity.

04.3 Students found this question difficult. Approximately 15% of students gained one mark for predicting that the voltage of the cell would be 0 V. Only 7% of students were then able to give a reason why the voltage would be 0V and score the second mark.

04.4 Approximately a half of students scored the mark for using 8 cells to make the battery. However, less than a quarter scored the mark for connecting them together. Alternative terms for 'connect' were often too imprecise.

04.5 Over 90% of students identified an electric toy as the most suitable use for a non-rechargeable cell.

04.6 Students found this question very difficult with almost two-thirds of students scoring 0 marks.

The most common correct responses were:

- lasts longer (advantage of hydrogen fuel cell)
- hydrogen is flammable / explosive (disadvantage).

A common misconception was that a hydrogen fuel cell is single use, often expressed as 'cannot be recharged'.

Responses that did not include sufficient detail to be credited included:

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- better for the environment
- cheaper
- more expensive (unqualified).

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 31 · Examiner comments — June 2022 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3 (Low and standard demand)

03.1 This question was answered correctly by the majority of students, who recognised that copper would not react. Incorrect responses were almost equally divided between **A** and **D**.

03.2 This question was answered correctly by nearly all students.

03.3 Fewer than half of students scored both marks, although three quarters named one substance correctly. Most students realised that the appropriate metal oxide would be zinc oxide. However, fewer could correctly name the acid, with hydrochloric acid being a popular response.

03.4 Nearly three-quarters of students scored at least one mark, with nearly half scoring both.

03.5 Nearly 80% of students identified the correct type of reaction.

03.6 Over 80% of students correctly identified the apparatus as a burette. The majority of the rest gave a response of pipette.

Answer 32 · Examiner comments — June 2023 | 8462/1F | Original Q8

Question 8 (low and standard demand)

08.1 The great majority of students scored at least one mark, with three-fifths scoring both. Most could give the correct coefficient for Fe, but that for CO proved to be more challenging, with values of 5 or 6 being seen quite frequently. This question discriminated well.

08.2 Just over a quarter of students were able to articulate that iron oxide loses oxygen. Many expressed their answer as if decomposition of iron oxide were occurring.

08.3 There were many correct answers, with three fifths of students scoring both marks. However, many students do not realise that all they have to do is add the relative atomic masses of two Fe and three O atoms. 56 x 112 was frequently seen. Some students used three Fe atoms and two O instead of the other way round, misunderstanding the subscripts in the formula. Those who made an arithmetic error but had shown their working were able to score one mark. The question discriminated well.

08.4 This question also discriminated well. Most students could substitute the values correctly into the given expression. However, some did not know how to evaluate that expression and some incorrectly rounded a value of 77.9% to 77% instead of 78%.

08.5 About two thirds of students gave an acceptable observation**.** The majority of students gave bubbling as an observation. This was accepted as bubbles do form as a side reaction to the main displacement reaction. The expected observations of a colour change in either the metal or the solution, or a temperature change, were more rarely seen.

08.6 About three-quarters of students placed the metals in the correct order, but fewer could give a coherent reason. It was common to see the metals listed in reverse order. Students sometimes did not understand the difference between a metal and a metal sulfate, giving incorrect statements such as ‘C had most ticks’.

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 33 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

Question 6 (low and standard demand)

06.1 Fewer than a half of students identified the reason why molten substances can be electrolysed. The incorrect distractor that electrons can move through the substance was almost as popular.

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Answer 33 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q6

06.2 Nearly three quarters of students could name all three substances correctly. The most common errors were iodide instead of iodine and zinc bromine instead of zinc bromide.

06.3 Nearly a half of students gave a completely balanced equation. The oxygen was correctly balanced more often than the aluminium.

06.4 Nearly three fifths of students set out their work clearly and obtained the correct answer. The most common incorrect answers were 27 + 16 = 43 and 27 × 16 = 432.

06.5 Fewer than two thirds of students scored one or two marks, with fewer than one third scoring both marks. It was expected that students would chose appropriate metals from the list provided, but other correct answers were accepted. Gold was not given credit, since students should know that gold is found in the Earth as the metal itself, so does not need chemical extraction. Carbon was often given as a response.

Answer 34 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q7

Question 7 (low and standard demand)

07.1 The great majority of students realised that the voltage would be 4 times that of a single cell.

07.2 Two thirds of students identified sodium chloride solution as the correct substance to be an electrolyte. The two distractors, pure water and solid lead bromide, were equally popular.

07.3 Very few students managed to reach Level 3, which required mention of a control variable to make the outcome valid. However, two fifths of students managed to reach level 2 by mentioning some key steps in the procedure. Nearly one quarter of students did not attempt the question even though a diagram of a cell had been provided as a prompt.

There was much confusion with electrolysis, and with 'watching to see if there is a reaction.' Many students thought that a voltmeter produces a voltage rather than measuring it. Many students did not understand what a chemical cell is, despite the diagram, and many used electrodes of the same metal, or even just one electrode. Some referred to a power pack, not realising that the cell itself is the source of the voltage.

4.4.1.2 The reactivity series

Answer 35 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

Question 9 (standard demand)

09.1 This question discriminated well, with one in six students scoring both marks and more than two fifths scoring at least one. Many students did not read the question fully and gave similarities and differences in properties rather than electronic structures. These responses gained no credit. Of those who did reference the electronic structure, most stated correctly that both have one electron on the outer shell, but were less successful in giving a correct difference. Sometimes the wrong number of shells was given for the two elements: usually 2 shells for sodium and 3 for potassium. Some stated that potassium has more outer shells than sodium. This is not correct as the phrase 'outer shell' is always taken to mean the single outermost shell.

09.2 More than a third of students could give two correct observations, and more than four fifths could give one, with bubbling, floating and a flame being the most popular. 'Gas produced' did not gain credit as it is not an observation but a deduction from the observation of bubbling. 'Fizzing' is taken to mean effervescence, so fizzing and bubbling are the same thing rather than two different observations. Credit was not given for any observation requiring extra equipment such as a thermometer or an indicator.

09.3 Only two fifths of students could give a correct colour and even fewer could express the reason in terms of the solution being alkaline; many thought it would be neutral. Some students gave purple as the colour, but gave potassium burning with a purple flame as their reason.

09.4 Nearly three fifths of students scored both marks for plotting the data, with the vast majority scoring at least one. The most commonly mis-plotted point was (86, 9.1) which was often plotted at (92, 9.1). There was no expectation that a line of best fit would be drawn.

09.5 Students were good at estimating the missing value, with nearly three quarters scoring the mark. Sometimes incorrect and inappropriate methods were seen which produced values in the allowed range, such as averaging all five values, or finding the difference between the points adjacent to the missing one. These were not given credit.

09.6 Over a third of students identified the reagents. There was an even distribution of incorrect responses.

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Answer 35 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8462/1F | Original Q9

09.7 Two fifths of students identified the correct pair of trends. The most popular error was to identify that the boiling point decreases down the group.

Answer 36 · Examiner comments

June 2025 | 8462/1F | Original Q3

Question 3 (low and standard demand)

03.1 Two thirds of students were able to identify sodium chloride solution as the only possible electrolyte. Water was the more popular distractor, but a surprising number chose solid potassium bromide.

03.2 This was answered less successfully, with only an eighth of students scoring both marks. Even those who identified **B** as copper were often unable to give a correct reason for their choice. Many students chose **D** on the grounds that it has the highest voltage, completely missing the point that the two metals must be different in order to produce a voltage. Others suggested **D** on the grounds that it is a good conductor. A surprising number thought that a voltage of zero meant that the metal was a non-conductor. Those who did give the correct answer usually gave the reason that it does not produce a voltage, which was an acceptable alternative to the voltage being 0.0 V.

03.3 This was very well answered, with 5 sixths of students giving the correct order. A few reversed the order and some swapped **A** and **C**.

03.4 This was answered correctly by the vast majority of students. There was a multitude of ways of establishing that 4 cells were needed, rather than simply dividing the total voltage required by the voltage produced by one cell.

03.5 Fewer than a half of students knew that the product is water, with all three options being chosen many times.

03.6 Fewer than one in six students knew that the reaction would be reversed. 'Reversible' was also accepted. Most tried to answer in terms of endothermic or exothermic, without anything to base that choice on, and many gave the name of a substance, often ammonia, perhaps referring back to the previous question.