AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.1.2.2

Development of the periodic table

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**12**
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:** _____

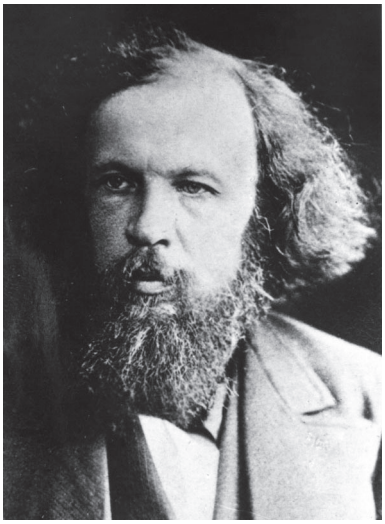
Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 01

January 2008 | CHY3H | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 Read the information about the periodic table.



When the Russian chemist Dimitri Mendeleev put forward his periodic table in 1869, the atomic structure of elements was unknown.

Mendeleev tried to arrange the elements in a meaningful way based on their chemical reactions. First he put the elements in order of their increasing atomic weight. He then put elements with similar properties in the same column.

However, he left gaps, and sometimes did not follow the order of increasing atomic weight – for example, he placed iodine (atomic weight 127) after tellurium (atomic weight 128).

Within a few years there was sufficient evidence to prove that Mendeleev was correct.

Our modern periodic table has evolved from Mendeleev's table.

The modern periodic table on the Data Sheet may help you to answer these questions.

(a) (i) State why Mendeleev left gaps.

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(1 mark)

(ii) State why some elements were **not** placed in order of increasing atomic weight.

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(1 mark)

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 01 · continued

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(b) (i) The periodic table is now based on atomic structure.

Explain how.

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(3 marks)

(ii) Suggest why it is impossible to have an undiscovered element that would fit between sodium and magnesium.

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(1 mark)

(c) Explain, in terms of electrons, why fluorine is the most reactive element in Group 7.

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(3 marks)

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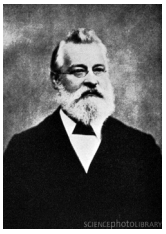
4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 02

January 2011 | CHY3H | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 The periodic table on the Data Sheet may help you answer these questions.

4 (a) Many chemists have contributed to the development of the periodic table.



John Newlands was one of the first chemists who attempted to classify elements in a systematic way based on atomic weight. In 1866 he suggested that there was a repeating pattern of elements with similar properties every eighth element.
Part of Newlands' periodic table is shown below.

H	Li	Be	B	C	N	O
F	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S
Cl	K	Ca	Cr	Ti	Mn	Fe
Co, Ni	Cu	Zn	Y	In	As	Se
Br	Rb	Sr	Ce, La	Zr	Di, Mo	Ro, Ru

Many chemists in 1866 did not accept Newlands' periodic table.

4 (a) (i) Give **one** piece of evidence which supports Newlands' ideas.

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(1 mark)

4 (a) (ii) Suggest **two** reasons why many chemists in 1866 did not accept Newlands' ideas.

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(2 marks)

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 02 · continued

4 (b) Chlorine, bromine and iodine are Group 7 elements.

A student investigated the reactivity of these elements.
The student added:

- aqueous chlorine to potassium bromide and potassium iodide solutions
- aqueous bromine to potassium chloride and potassium iodide solutions
- aqueous iodine to potassium chloride and potassium bromide solutions.

The student's results are shown below.

Solution	Potassium chloride	Potassium bromide	Potassium iodide
Chlorine		Solution turned orange-brown	Solution turned brown
Bromine	No reaction		Solution turned brown
Iodine	No reaction	No reaction	

4 (b) (i) Use these results to state **and** explain the trend in reactivity of these Group 7 elements.

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(2 marks)

4 (b) (ii) Complete the equation below, which represents the reaction between chlorine and potassium bromide.

Cl_2 + 2KBr ⟶ ..... + 2KCl

(1 mark)

4 (b) (iii) In terms of electronic structure, state why chlorine, bromine and iodine are in Group 7.

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(1 mark)

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 02 · continued

4 (c) Lithium, sodium and potassium are Group 1 elements.

Group 1 elements become **more** reactive down the group.

Explain why in terms of electronic structure.

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(3 marks)

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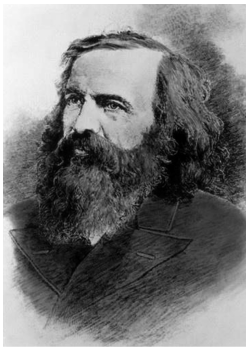
Turn over for the next question

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 03

June 2011 | CHY3H | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 Use the periodic table on the Data Sheet and the information below to help you answer these questions.



Mendeleev was one of the first chemists who classified elements in a systematic way based on atomic weight. He suggested his version of the periodic table in 1869.

He put the elements in order of their atomic weights but reversed the order for some pairs of elements. Then he arranged them in a table so that chemically similar elements were in columns known as Groups. He also left gaps and made predictions.

Part of Mendeleev's table is shown below.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
H						
Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F
Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl
K	Ca	#	Ti	V	Cr	Mn
Cu	Zn	#	#	As	Se	Br
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	#
Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I

The gaps Mendeleev left are shown by #.

3 (a) Which group of elements in the modern periodic table is missing from Mendeleev's table?

.....

(1 mark)

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 03 · continued

3 (b) Mendeleev reversed the order for some pairs of elements. For example, he put tellurium (Te, atomic weight 128) before iodine (I, atomic weight 127), as shown in his table.

Why did he do this?

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(1 mark)

3 (c) In 1869 many chemists did **not** agree with Mendeleev's periodic table.

Suggest **three** reasons why.

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(3 marks)

3 (d) In the 20th century, the arrangement of elements in the periodic table was explained in terms of atomic structure.

Describe the links between atomic structure and the periodic table.

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(2 marks)

7

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 04

June 2014 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 In 1869, Dmitri Mendeleev produced his periodic table of the elements.

Mendeleev placed the alkali metals in the same group.

3 (a) What evidence did Mendeleev use to decide that the alkali metals should be in the same group?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

3 (b) Describe how the elements in the modern periodic table are arranged:

3 (b) (i) in terms of protons

[1 mark]

.....

.....

3 (b) (ii) in terms of electrons.

[1 mark]

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.....

3 (c) State **two** properties of transition elements that make them more useful than alkali metals for making water pipes.

[2 marks]

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4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 04 · continued

3 (d) Describe and explain the trend in reactivity of the alkali metals (Group 1).

[4 marks]

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4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 05

2 In 1866 John Newlands produced an early version of the periodic table.

Part of Newlands' periodic table is shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	H	Li	Be	B	C	N	O
	F	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S
	Cl	K	Ca	Cr	Ti	Mn	Fe

Newlands' periodic table arranged all the known elements into columns in order of their atomic weight.

Newlands was trying to show a pattern by putting the elements into columns.

2 (a) Iron (Fe) does **not** fit the pattern in column 7.

Give a reason why.

[1 mark]

.....

.....

2 (b) In 1869 Dmitri Mendeleev produced his version of the periodic table.

Why did Mendeleev leave gaps for undiscovered elements in his periodic table?

[1 mark]

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.....

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 05 · continued

2 (c) Newlands and Mendeleev placed the elements in order of atomic weight.

Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

The modern periodic table places the elements in order of ..... .

2 (d) Lithium, sodium and potassium are all in Group 1 of the modern periodic table.

Explain why.

[2 marks]

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5

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 06

June 2016 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 This question is about elements and the periodic table.

3 (a) Newlands and Mendeleev both produced early versions of the periodic table.

3 (a) (i) Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

In their periodic tables, Newlands and Mendeleev arranged the elements in order of

_____ .

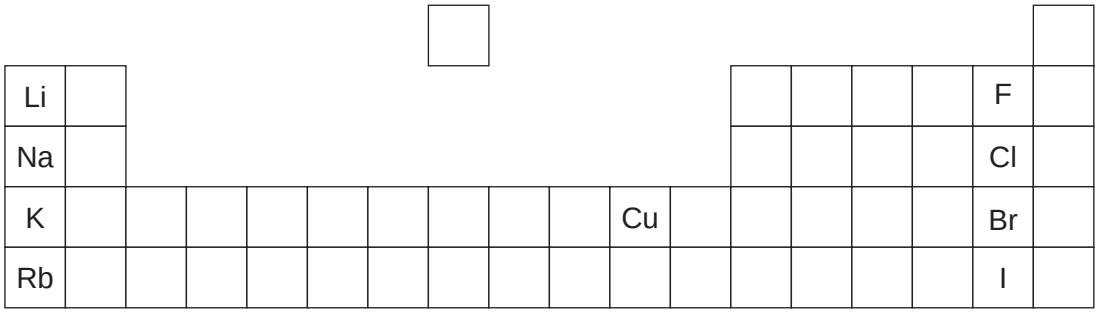
3 (a) (ii) Name the particle that allowed the elements to be arranged in order of their atomic number in the modern periodic table.

[1 mark]

_____

3 (b) **Figure 4** shows the position of nine elements in the modern periodic table.

Figure 4



3 (b) (i) Which **one** of the nine elements shown in **Figure 4** has the lowest boiling point?

[1 mark]

_____

3 (b) (ii) Copper and potassium have different melting points and boiling points.
Give **one other** difference between the properties of copper and potassium.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 06 · continued

3 (b) (iii) Explain why the reactivity of the elements increases going down Group 1 from lithium to rubidium but decreases going down Group 7 from fluorine to iodine.

[4 marks]

8

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 07

June 2017 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 This question is about elements and compounds.

3 (a) In 1869 Mendeleev produced an early version of the periodic table.

Figure 4 shows part of Mendeleev's periodic table.

Figure 4

H						
Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F
Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl
K	Ca		Ti	V	Cr	Mn

3 (a) (i) Why did Mendeleev leave gaps in his periodic table?

[1 mark]

3 (a) (ii) Give **one** reason why the elements Ti, V, Cr and Mn should **not** be where Mendeleev placed them.

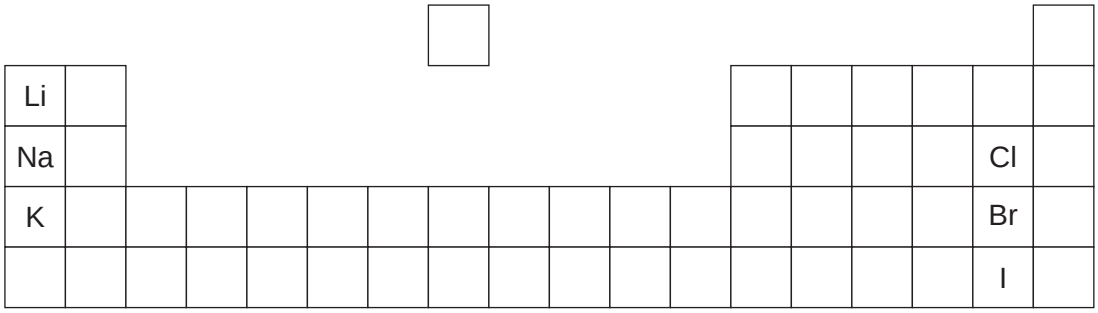
[1 mark]

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 07 · continued

3 (b) **Figure 5** shows an outline of the modern periodic table.

Figure 5



3 (b) (i) Why, in terms of electrons, is bromine in Group 7?

[1 mark]

3 (b) (ii) Bromine reacts with sodium iodide.

The word equation for the reaction is:

bromine + sodium iodide ⟶ sodium bromide + iodine

This reaction shows that bromine is more reactive than iodine.

Explain why, in terms of electrons.

[3 marks]

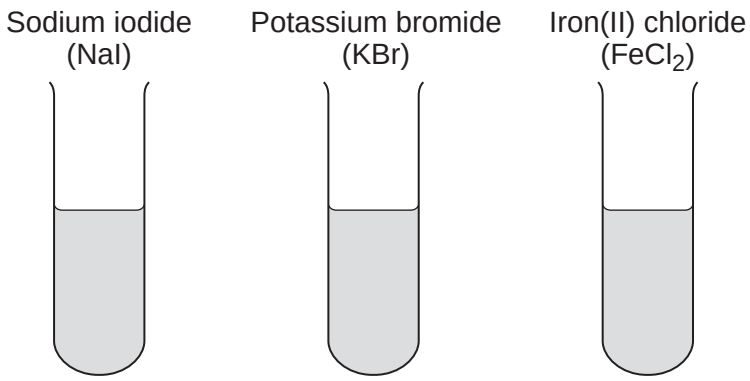
Question 3 continues on the next page

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 07 · continued

3 (c) **Figure 6** shows test tubes containing solutions of sodium iodide, potassium bromide and iron(II) chloride.

Figure 6



3 (c) (i) A student tested each solution with silver nitrate in the presence of dilute nitric acid.

Write the result for sodium iodide solution in **Table 1**.

[1 mark]

Table 1

	Sodium iodide solution	**Potassium bromide solution**	**Iron(II) chloride solution**
Result of adding silver nitrate		Cream precipitate	White precipitate

3 (c) (ii) The student tested new samples of each solution with sodium hydroxide solution.

Write the result for iron(II) chloride solution in **Table 2**.

[1 mark]

Table 2

	Sodium iodide solution	**Potassium bromide solution**	**Iron(II) chloride solution**
Result of adding sodium hydroxide solution	No precipitate	No precipitate	

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 07 · continued

3 (d) A flame test is done on a mixture of sodium iodide and potassium bromide.

Why would a flame test **not** show the presence of both sodium ions and potassium ions in the mixture?

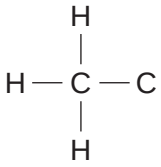
[1 mark]

3 (e) Carboxylic acids are compounds containing carbon.

3 (e) (i) Complete **Figure 7** to show the displayed structure of ethanoic acid.

[1 mark]

Figure 7



3 (e) (ii) Explain why ethanoic acid has a higher pH value than hydrochloric acid of the same concentration.

[2 marks]

12

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 08

June 2019 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about the periodic table.

In the 19th century, some scientists tried to classify the elements by arranging them in order of their atomic weights.

Figure 1 shows the periodic table Mendeleev produced in 1869.

His periodic table was more widely accepted than previous versions.

Figure 1

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
Period 1	H						
Period 2	Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F
Period 3	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl
Period 4	K Cu	Ca Zn	* *	Ti *	V As	Cr Se	Mn Br
Period 5	Rb Ag	Sr Cd	Y In	Zr Sn	Nb Sb	Mo Te	* I

0 1 . 1 The atomic weight of tellurium (Te) is 128 and that of iodine (I) is 127

Why did Mendeleev reverse the order of these two elements?

[1 mark]

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 08 · continued

0 1 . 2 Mendeleev left spaces marked with an asterisk *

He left these spaces because he thought missing elements belonged there.

Why did Mendeleev's periodic table become more widely accepted than previous versions?

[3 marks]

0 1 . 3 Mendeleev arranged the elements in order of their atomic weight.

What is the modern name for atomic weight?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Atomic number ☐
- Mass number ☐
- Relative atomic mass ☐
- Relative formula mass ☐

0 1 . 4 Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

In the modern periodic table, the elements are arranged in order of

_____.

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 08 · continued

Chlorine, iodine and astatine are in Group 7 of the modern periodic table.

0 1 . 5 Astatine (At) is below iodine in Group 7.

Predict:

- the formula of an astatine molecule
- the state of astatine at room temperature.

[2 marks]

Formula of astatine molecule _____

State at room temperature _____

0 1 . 6 Sodium is in Group 1 of the modern periodic table.

Describe what you would see when sodium reacts with chlorine.

[2 marks]

_____

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_____

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4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

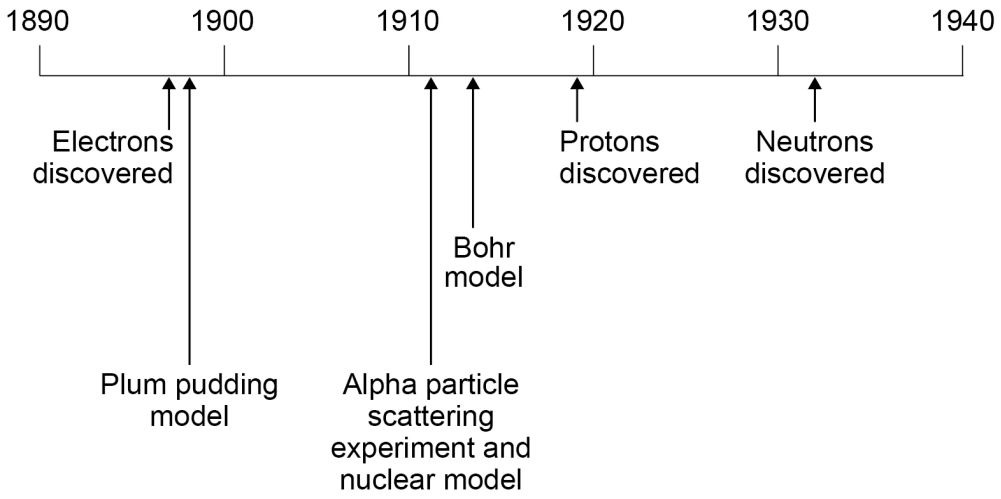
Question 09

November 2020 | 8462/1H | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about the development of scientific theories.

Figure 2 shows a timeline of some important steps in the development of the model of the atom.

Figure 2



0 5 . 1 The plum pudding model did not have a nucleus.

Describe **three** other differences between the nuclear model of the atom and the plum pudding model.

[3 marks]

1 _____

_____

_____

2 _____

_____

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3 _____

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_____

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 09 · continued

0 5 . 2 Niels Bohr adapted the nuclear model.

Describe the change that Bohr made to the nuclear model.

[2 marks]

0 5 . 3 Mendeleev published his periodic table in 1869.

Mendeleev arranged the elements in order of atomic weight.

Mendeleev then reversed the order of some pairs of elements.

A student suggested Mendeleev's reason for reversing the order was to arrange the elements in order of atomic number.

Explain why the student's suggestion **cannot** be correct.

Use **Figure 2**.

[2 marks]

0 5 . 4 Give the correct reason why Mendeleev reversed the order of some pairs of elements.

[1 mark]

8

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 10

November 2021 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about atomic structure and the periodic table.

Gallium (Ga) is an element that has two isotopes.

0 2 . 1 Give the meaning of 'isotopes'.

You should answer in terms of subatomic particles.

[2 marks]

0 2 . 2 **Table 1** shows the mass numbers and percentage abundances of the isotopes of gallium.

Table 1

Mass number	Percentage abundance (%)
69	60
71	40

Calculate the relative atomic mass (A_r) of gallium.

Give your answer to 1 decimal place.

[2 marks]

Relative atomic mass (1 decimal place) = _____

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 10 · continued

Gallium (Ga) is in Group 3 of the modern periodic table.

0 2 . 3 Give the numbers of electrons and neutrons in an atom of the isotope $^{69}_{31}Ga$

[2 marks]

Number of electrons _____

Number of neutrons _____

0 2 . 4 What is the most likely formula of a gallium ion?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Ga^{+} ☐
- Ga^{-} ☐
- Ga^{3+} ☐
- Ga^{3-} ☐

0 2 . 5 Gallium was discovered six years after Mendeleev published his periodic table.

Give **two** reasons why the discovery of gallium helped Mendeleev's periodic table to become accepted.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

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4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 11

June 2023 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

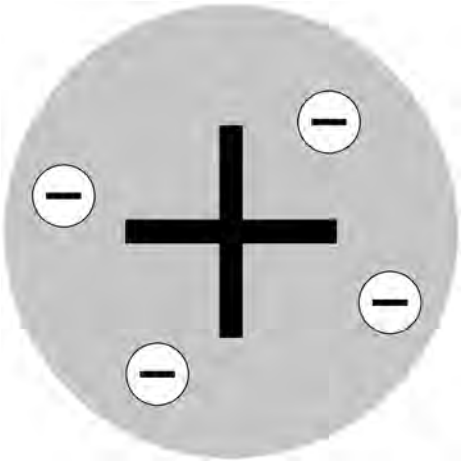
0 1 Discoveries in chemistry led to a better understanding of atomic structure.

0 1 . 1 Atoms were originally thought to be tiny spheres that could not be divided.

The plum pudding model of the atom was then developed.

Figure 1 represents the plum pudding model of the atom.

Figure 1



Describe the plum pudding model of the atom.

[2 marks]

0 1 . 2 Atoms contain electrons, neutrons and protons.

Write these three particles in order of their discovery.

[1 mark]

Earliest _____

_____

Latest _____

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 11 · continued

Very few atoms of the element tennessine (Ts) have ever been identified.

The atomic number of tennessine is 117

0 1 . 3 Predict the number of outer shell electrons in an atom of tennessine.

Give **one** reason for your answer.

Use the periodic table.

[2 marks]

Number of outer shell electrons _____

Reason _____

_____

0 1 . 4 Tennessine was first identified by a small group of scientists in 2010.

Suggest **one** reason why tennessine was **not** accepted as a new element by other scientists until 2015.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

Question 1 continues on the next page

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 11 · continued

0 1 . 5 The discovery of isotopes explained why some relative atomic masses are not whole numbers.

Element **R** has two isotopes.

Table 1 shows the mass numbers and percentage abundances of the isotopes of element **R**.

Table 1

Mass number	Percentage abundance (%)
6	7.6
7	92.4

Calculate the relative atomic mass (A_r) of element **R**.

Give your answer to 1 decimal place.

[3 marks]

Relative atomic mass (1 decimal place) = _____

9

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 12

June 2025 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about elements in the periodic table.

0 1 . 1 Describe where the non-metallic elements are found in the periodic table.

[1 mark]

0 1 . 2 Gallium (Ga) is a metallic element in Group 3.

Which of these properties of gallium is **not** typical of most metals?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- A boiling point above 1000 °C ☐
- A melting point below 100 °C ☐
- Conducts electricity when solid ☐
- Forms positive ions ☐

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

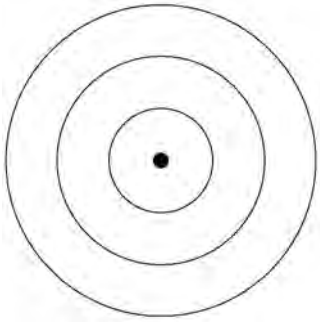
Question 12 · continued

0 1 . 3 A sodium atom can be represented as $^{23}_{11}Na$

Complete **Figure 1** to show the electronic structure of a sodium atom.

[1 mark]

Figure 1



0 1 . 4 Mendeleev created an early periodic table.

Mendeleev placed most of the elements in order of atomic weight.

Tellurium and iodine were not placed in order of atomic weight.

Why did Mendeleev **not** place tellurium and iodine in order of atomic weight?

[1 mark]

0 1 . 5 Argon is an element in Group 0 of the periodic table.

Explain why argon is unreactive.

[2 marks]

4.1.2.2 Development of the periodic table

Question 12 · continued

An element **X** consists of two isotopes.

0 1 . 6 What is meant by 'isotopes'?

Answer in terms of subatomic particles.

[2 marks]

0 1 . 7 **Table 1** shows the mass numbers and percentage abundances of the isotopes of **X**.

Table 1

Mass number	Percentage abundance (%)
113	4
115	96

Which is the closest estimate to the relative atomic mass of **X**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

~113 ☐ ~114 ☐ ~115 ☐

9