AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.1.3.1

Comparison with Group 1 elements

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**14**
Available paper years	**2007–2025**

Using this booklet

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

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 01 · Mark scheme June 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q8 | Legacy

Eight	**1**	**3**	**2**	**3**

Answer 02 · Mark scheme November 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q6 | Legacy

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

Answer 03 · Mark scheme November 2009 | CHY1AP | Original Q1 | Legacy

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

Answer 04 · Mark scheme March 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q8 | Legacy

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

Answer 05 · Mark scheme June 2010 | CHY1AP | Original Q2 | Legacy

Two	**A**	Substance **A**	**3**	
	B	Substance **B**	**2**	
	C	Substance **C**	**4**	
	D	Substance **D**	**1**	

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 06 · Mark scheme June 2011 | CHY3H | Original Q2 | Legacy

Question 2

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

June 2011 | CHY3H | Original Q2 | Legacy

CHY3H

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 07 · Mark scheme June 2014 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.	ID
3(a)	similar properties	*allow same properties* allow correct example of property ignore answers in terms of atomic structure	1	1 / 3.1.1a	E
3(b)(i)	in order of atomic / *proton* number	*allow increasing number (of protons)*	1	1 / 3.1.2a	E
3(b)(ii)	elements in same group have same number *(of electrons)* in outer shell **or** *highest energy level*	*allow number (of electrons) increases across a period*	1	1 / 3.1.2b	E
3(c)	any **two** from: • stronger / harder • less reactive • higher melting points	*statements must be comparative* *ignore higher densities* *ignore boiling point*	2	2 / 3.1.3c	E
3(d)	*reactivity increases down group* *outer electron is further from nucleus* *less attraction between outer electron and nucleus* *therefore outer electron lost more easily*	*allow converse throughout* *for next three marks, outer electron needs to be mentioned once otherwise max = **2*** *allow more energy levels / shells* *allow larger atoms* *allow more shielding*	1 1 1 1	1 / 3.1.3b/h	E
Total			**9**		

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 07 · Mark scheme

June 2014 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 08 · Mark scheme June 2015 | CH1HP | Original Q4 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
4(a)	The ore is not pure or contains impurities or the ore does not contain 100% of the metal compound rock / other compounds need to be removed / separated	allow to concentrate the metal or metal compound	1 1	2+3 / 1.3.1b
4(b)(i)	(cast iron is) brittle	allow not strong ignore weak	1	1 / 1.3.2a
4(b)(ii)	the oxygen reacts with carbon reducing the percentage of carbon in the mixture **or** producing carbon dioxide	allow carbon burns in oxygen or is oxidised	1 1	2 / 1.3.2b
4(c)(i)	aluminium has a low density		1	2 / 1.3.3c
4(c)(ii)	(because copper) is in the central/middle (block of the periodic table) whereas aluminium is in Group 3 (of the periodic table)		1 1	1 / 1.3.3a
4(c)(iii)	iron is more reactive (than copper) so copper is displaced/reduced	ignore cost	1 1	1+2 / 1.3.1h/i
Total			**10**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

June 2015 | CH1HP | Original Q4 | Legacy



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

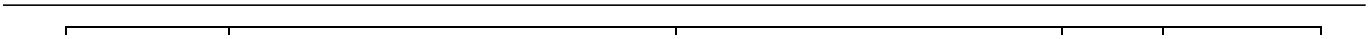
Answer 09 · Mark scheme June 2016 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / SpecRef
3(a)(i)	atomic weights	allow atomic masses	1	AO1 3.1.1a
3(a)(ii)	proton	allow proton number	1	AO1 3.1.2a
3(b)(i)	F/fluorine	allow F_2	1	AO3 3.1.3a,b,f
3(b)(ii)	any **one** from: • copper has a higher density • copper is stronger • copper is harder • copper is less reactive	allow converse for potassium allow named property ignore colour, conductivity, melting point and boiling point	1	AO1 3.1.3c
3(b)(iii)	relative distance from nucleus relative attraction to nucleus relative ease of gain or loss of electron opposite explanation of ease of gain or loss of electron for other group	max 3 marks if 'outer' not mentioned allow more / fewer energy levels / shells or larger / smaller atom allow more / less shielding	1 1 1 1	2AO1 / 1AO2 / 1AO3 3.1.3b,f,h
Total			**8**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 09 · Mark scheme

June 2016 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 10 · Mark scheme June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	FeS_2	do **not** accept equations	1	AO2 4.2.1.3
02.2	26 30 26	must be this order	1 1 1	AO2 4.1.1.4 4.1.1.5
02.3	any **two** from: • iron has a high(er) melting / boiling point • iron is dense(r) • iron is hard(er) • iron is strong(er) • iron is less reactive • iron has ions with different charges • iron forms coloured compounds • iron can be a catalyst	allow the converse statements for sodium allow transition metal for iron allow Group 1 metal for sodium ignore references to atomic structure ignore iron rusts allow iron is less malleable / ductile allow specific reactions showing difference in reactivity allow iron is magnetic	2	AO1 4.1.2.5 4.1.3.1 4.1.3.2

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

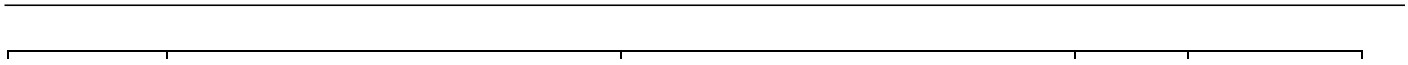
Answer 10 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.4	carbon is more reactive (than nickel) (so) carbon will displace / replace nickel (from nickel oxide) **or** (so) carbon will remove oxygen (from nickel oxide)	allow converse allow (so) nickel ions gain electrons allow (so) carbon transfers electrons to nickel (ions)	1 1	AO1 4.4.1.2 4.4.1.3
02.5	(total M_r of reactants =) 87 (percentage atom economy) $= \frac{59}{87} \times 100$ = 67.8 (%)	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 allow (percentage atom economy) $= \frac{59}{\text{incorrectly calculated } M_r} \times 100$ allow an answer from an incorrect calculation to 3 sig figs	1 1 1	AO2 4.3.3.2
Total			**11**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 10 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q2



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Mark scheme June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.1	chlorine is toxic	allow carbon monoxide is toxic allow poisonous for toxic ignore harmful / deadly / dangerous allow a poisonous gas is used / produced allow titanium chloride is corrosive	1	AO3 4.1.2.6 4.4.1.3
08.2	any **one** from: • very exothermic reaction • produces a corrosive solution • produces hydrogen, which is explosive / flammable	 allow explosive allow violent reaction ignore vigorous reaction ignore sodium is very reactive allow caustic for corrosive ignore alkaline allow flames produced ignore sodium burns	1	AO3 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.3
08.3	argon is unreactive / inert oxygen (from air) would react with sodium / titanium **or** water vapour (from air) would react with sodium / titanium	allow argon will not react (with reactants / products / elements) allow elements / reactants / products for sodium / titanium	1 1	AO3 4.1.2.4 4.1.2.5 4.4.1.1 4.4.1.3

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.4	metal chlorides are usually ionic	allow titanium chloride is ionic	1	AO1 4.1.2.6 4.1.3.1
	(so)(metal chlorides) are solid at room temperature **or** (so)(metal chlorides) have high melting points	allow titanium chloride for metal chlorides	1	4.2.1.2 4.2.2.3 4.2.2.4
	(because) they have strong (electrostatic) forces between the ions **or** (but) must be a small molecule or covalent	ignore strong ionic bonds allow molecular allow alternative approach: titanium chloride must be covalent **or** has small molecules (1) with weak forces between molecules do **not** accept bonds unless intermolecular bonds(1) (but) metal chlorides are usually ionic (1)	1	
08.5	sodium (atoms) lose electrons	do **not** accept references to oxygen	1	AO1 4.4.1.4
08.6	Na → $Na^+ + e^-$	do **not** accept e for e^-	1	AO2 4.1.1.1 4.4.1.4

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Mark scheme June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.7	(M_r of $TiCl_4$ =) 190 (moles Na) = $\frac{20\,000}{23}$ =) 870 (mol $\left(\text{moles } TiCl_4 = \frac{40\,000}{190} =\right)$ 211 (mol) **either** (sodium is in excess because) 870 mol Na is more than the 844 mol needed **or** (because) 211 mol $TiCl_4$ is less than the 217.5 mol needed	an incorrect answer for one step does **not** prevent allocation of marks for subsequent steps allow **1** mark for 0.870 mol Na **and** 0.211 mol $TiCl_4$ allow use of incorrectly calculated M_r from step 1 the mark is for correct application of the factor of 4 other correct reasoning showing, with values of moles or mass, an excess of sodium or insufficient $TiCl_4$ is acceptable allow use of incorrect number of moles from steps 2 and / or 3 alternative approaches: **approach 1:** (M_r of $TiCl_4$ =) 190(1) (40 kg $TiCl_4$ needs) $\frac{40}{190} \times 4 \times 23$ (kg Na) (1) (=) 19.4 (kg) (1) so 20 kg is an excess (1) **approach 2:** (M_r of $TiCl_4$ =) 190(1) (20 kg Na needs) $\frac{20}{4 \times 23} \times 190$ (kg $TiCl_4$) (1) (=) 41.3 (kg) (1) so 40 kg is not enough (1)	1 1 1 1	AO2 4.3.1.2 4.3.2.1 4.3.2.2 4.3.2.4

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Mark scheme

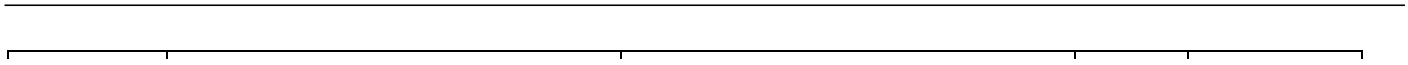
June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
08.8	(actual mass =) $\frac{92.3}{100} \times 13.5$ **or** (actual mass =) 0.923×13.5 = 12.5 (kg)	an answer 12.5 (kg) scores **2** marks allow 12 / 12.46 / 12.461 / 12.4605 (kg)	1 1	AO2 4.3.3.1
Total			**15**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8



4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 12 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

Question 2

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Question 2 continued

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 12 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

Question 2 continued

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.4	$\frac{(203 \times 30) + (205 \times 70)}{100}$ **or** $\frac{6090 + 14\,350}{100}$		1	AO2 4.1.1.6
	= 204.4	ignore units	1	
Total			**11**	

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 13 · Mark scheme

June 2022 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

Question 1

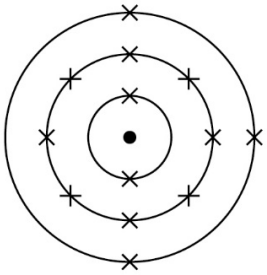
Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
01.1	**D**		1	AO3 4.1.2.3

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

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 13 · Mark scheme

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

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

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 13 · Mark scheme

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

Total Question 1		**13**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 14 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8462/1H | Original Q3

Question 3

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

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

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 14 · Mark scheme

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

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

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

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

Total Question 3	**11**

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 10 · Examiner comments June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

Question 2 (standard demand)

02.1 Because the question asked for the formula rather than the empirical formula, an answer of Fe_9S_{18} was accepted. Even so, 51% of students could not count the atoms and produce a ratio of 1:2. A formula was required, not an equation which some students provided.

02.2 This was very well answered, with 88% of students achieving all three marks.

02.3 57% of students achieved both marks. However, some repeated information in the stem of the question, and some contradicted it by saying sodium is not a metal. Some gave differences in the structure of the atoms instead of differences in properties of the substances.

02.4 This was well answered, with 32% of students achieving one mark, and 57% achieving both.

A common error was to say that carbon is reacting with oxygen (it is not; it is reacting with nickel oxide to remove the oxygen). Those who tried to answer in terms of electron transfer often struggled to gain all the marks.

Answer 10 · Examiner comments June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

02.5 This question was well answered, with 60% of students achieving all three marks. However, interpretation of calculator displays did cause a bit of trouble for some students. Some students lost the final mark because they gave an answer of 67.$\dot{8}$. This answer is neither correct (it is not 67.8888888…) nor to three significant figures (it is to an infinite number of significant figures). Some even recognised this latter point and rounded, incorrectly, to 67.9.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Examiner comments

June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8

Question 8 (standard / high and high demand)

08.1 42% of students could answer this correctly. A hazard was asked for, and it was expected that students would use the correct chemical term for such a hazard; hence the idea that chlorine or carbon monoxide is **toxic** was required. Many did not use the correct term, referring instead to it being harmful (incorrect – it can kill, not merely make one ill), or dangerous or deadly (in what way?). Some students misread the equation and referred to carbon dioxide.

08.2 40**%** of students achieved the mark here. Many did not realise that their observations of a vigorous reaction with a small piece of sodium in the lab would be magnified enormously on an industrial scale. Hence the reaction would be **very** violent or explosive, not just vigorous.

08.3 There were many good attempts at this question, with 73% of students scoring at least one mark. Many students referred to the lack of reactivity of the metals with argon, but some forgot to refer to air. Then some students did not express themselves clearly, referring to one or both metals reacting with air in general, or even with gases not present in the air, such as hydrogen.

08.4 There were some excellent attempts at this difficult question, which discriminated well. 8% of students achieved full marks with 43% achieving at least one mark. Full credit could be gained by those who started with the premise that titanium chloride must be ionic so should have a high melting point; very few started from the true situation, which is that titanium chloride must exist as small molecules as its melting point is low.

The mark that was scored least often was for the explanation of the bonding and how it leads to the actual, or predicted, melting point. Some spoiled an otherwise good description of ionic bonding by also referring to ‘strong intermolecular forces’. Many referred to ‘strong electrostatic forces’ but failed to mention that those forces were between ions.

A significant number of students answered solely in terms of the separate elements, particularly titanium, rather than the compound.

08.5 51% of students achieved the mark for this question. Whilst the definition of oxidation in terms of electrons is well known, the question asked why **this** reaction is oxidation. So, it was necessary to refer to the sodium atoms losing electrons rather than giving a generalised answer. Some students referred to ‘it’ losing electrons, without specifying what ‘it’ referred to, while others referred to oxygen, which is not present.

08.6 54% of students achieved the mark here. It was not uncommon to see ‘$-e^-$’ on the right hand side. A significant number of incorrect responses showed the formation of a doubly charged sodium ion.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 11 · Examiner comments June 2018 | 8462/1H | Original Q8

08.7 This difficult unstructured calculation tested a new area of the specification, and discriminated very well. 74% of students were able to achieve at least one mark, usually for calculating the M_r of $TiCl_4$. 7% of students achieved all four marks, with 12% achieving at least three marks and there were some valiant efforts.

Common errors were:

- using 92 instead of 23 to calculate the number of moles of Na
- omitting the unit conversion from kg to g for the mole calculations
- using the 1:4 mole ratio incorrectly or not at all.

Also, it is not appropriate to leave answers in the form of a fraction, even if this is the default on their calculator. Answers should always be converted to decimal form.

08.8 This was well answered, with 74% of students achieving both marks. A few forgot the 100 in their expression and didn't realise they were making about 1000 kg more than the theoretical maximum.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 12 · Examiner comments November 2020 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

Question 2 (standard demand)

02.1 Nearly all students scored at least one mark. The most commonly seen incorrect response was ‘they form colourless compounds’.

02.2 Whilst many students realised that copper was displacing silver, most were unable to deduce that the grey crystals were silver and the blue solution was copper nitrate or a copper compound. There were many poorly worded answers which did not gain credit, such as ‘it displaced silver’, or ‘copper is blue in solution’. It was not uncommon for the grey crystals to be described as copper nitrate crystallising from the solution.

02.3 Whilst many students included a control variable in their plan, few actually said how they would identify each metal as magnesium, iron or copper, so were unable to access the higher levels.

02.4 This calculation was very well done by most students.

Answer 13 · Examiner comments June 2022 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

Question 1 (Standard demand)

01.1 Students found this question challenging. It was expected that the lack of electrical conductivity and the low melting point would have suggested a non-metal and therefore section **D**. However, fewer than half of students gave this response, with distractors **A** and **C** both proving very attractive to students.

01.2 Nearly two thirds of students recognised element **R** as a transition metal and therefore in area **B**.

01.3 Fewer than 20% of students scored two marks, although more than half scored at least one mark. Students were asked to compare physical properties of Group 1 elements with transition elements. Many students gave chemical properties such as reactivity instead of physical properties. Others referred to atomic structure. Some students described a property of either a Group 1 element or a transition element without reference to the other.

01.4 Nearly all students could draw the electronic structure correctly.

01.5 The great majority of students referred to delocalised electrons in their answer. Many also referred to the electrons carrying charge. However, few articulated the idea that the electrons themselves move through the metal in a particular direction. Many implied that the movement was random by the use of words such as ‘throughout’ rather than ‘through’. Some students incorrectly referred to electrons bumping into other atoms or electrons.

01.6 The great majority of students correctly identified the type of bonding.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 13 · Examiner comments June 2022 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

01.7 The majority of students gave excellent descriptions of the transfer of two electrons from a magnesium atom to an oxygen atom to produce magnesium ions and oxide ions,with more than 80% scoring at least three marks. A few students showed a lack of understanding by subsequently referring to electrons being shared.

4.1.3.1 Comparison with Group 1 elements

Answer 14 · Examiner comments

June 2025 | 8462/1H | Original Q3

Question 3 (standard demand)

03.1 This was answered less successfully, with the majority of students choosing tin as the substance reduced. Tin is the product of the reduction, not the substance which is reduced. Those who did choose the correct substance, SnO_2, were usually able to give a correct reason; one in seven students were awarded both marks. Some tried to answer in terms of electrons, despite the instruction to answer in terms of oxygen. These answers did not gain credit for the second marking point.

03.2 Nearly three quarters of students managed to state succinctly that carbon is more reactive than tin or that tin is less reactive than carbon. However, some answers were vague and used the word 'it' which is problematic as there are three substances named in the question. 'Carbon is more reactive' is insufficient as we do not know what the reactivity is being compared to.

03.3 More than two thirds of students achieved full marks. Some did not calculate a total M_r but used the M_r of CdO instead; these answers were not creditworthy. Others added up all the M_r of reactants and products instead of just the reactants; these gained partial credit.

03.4 The question asked for two differences in properties, so comparative language was necessary (potassium is softer rather than potassium is soft). Three fifths of students scored both marks, choosing from differences in physical properties and properties exhibited by transition metals only. The most common type of error was to describe differences in atomic structure rather than differences in the properties of the metals in bulk.

03.5 The vast majority of students interpreted the equation correctly and showed that the total M_r on both sides was 238.

03.6 More than two thirds of students gave an acceptable response. Most of those who were awarded the mark answered in terms of economic reasons such as lowering the cost of the operation. Fewer answered in terms of sustainable development; of those who did, most referred to a high atom economy producing less waste. Some students confuse a high atom economy with a high yield; references to yield were ignored.