AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.2.1.2

Ionic bonding

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**16**
Available paper years	**2007–2025**

Using this booklet

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

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 01

November 2007 | CHY1A | Original Q6 | Legacy

QUESTION SIX

The diagram shows part of the periodic table.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8
	Be						
Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
	Ca						
	Sr						

The row of substances from sodium (Na) to argon (Ar) is called a period.

6A Magnesium (Mg) and calcium (Ca) are placed in the same group of the periodic table because they . . .

1 have a similar colour.

2 have similar boiling points.

3 have similar chemical properties.

4 are next to each other in the reactivity series.

6B Magnesium (Mg) and sulfur (S) are in the same period.

Which row in the table below correctly shows one similarity and one difference between magnesium and sulfur?

	Similarity	Difference
1	Both are solids.	Magnesium is a non-metal; sulfur is a metal.
2	Both conduct electricity.	Magnesium is a solid; sulfur is a gas.
3	Both are solids.	Magnesium conducts electricity; sulfur does not.
4	Both conduct electricity.	Magnesium is a metal; sulfur is a non-metal.

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 01 · continued

6C Calcium (Ca) is in the periodic table but quicklime is not.

This is because . . .

1 calcium is a metal but quicklime is a non-metal.

2 calcium is an element but quicklime is a compound.

3 calcium is an element but quicklime is an alloy.

4 calcium is a metal but quicklime is a carbonate.

6D The balanced equation which shows the reaction between sodium and chlorine is . . .

1 $Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow NaCl_2$

2 $2Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow Na_2Cl_2$

3 $2Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow 2NaCl$

4 $2Na + 2Cl_2 \rightarrow 2NaCl_2$

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 02

5 Distress flares are used to attract attention in an emergency.



Flares often contain the element magnesium. Magnesium burns to form magnesium oxide.

(a) The distress flare burns with a bright flame because the reaction is very *exothermic*.

State the meaning of *exothermic*.

.....

.....

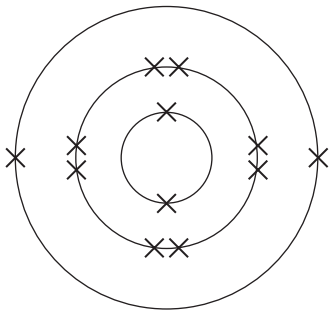
(1 mark)

(b) Write a balanced symbol equation for the reaction between magnesium (Mg) and oxygen (O_2) to form magnesium oxide (MgO).

.....

(1 mark)

(c) The diagram shows the electronic structure of a magnesium atom.
The atomic (proton) number of magnesium is 12.



Magnesium atom

Draw a similar diagram to show the electronic structure of an oxygen atom.
The atomic (proton) number of oxygen is 8.

(1 mark)

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 02 · continued

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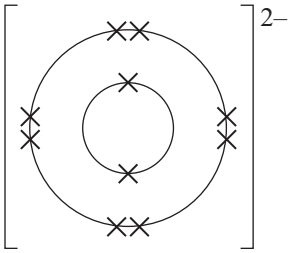
(d) Magnesium ions and oxide ions are formed when magnesium reacts with oxygen.

The diagram shows the electronic structure of an oxide ion.



Oxide ion

Draw a similar diagram to show the electronic structure of a magnesium ion.

(1 mark)

(e) Magnesium oxide is a white solid with a high melting point.

Explain how the ions are held together in solid magnesium oxide.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

(f) Indigestion tablets can be made from magnesium oxide. The magnesium oxide neutralises some of the hydrochloric acid in the stomach.

Complete the word equation for the reaction between magnesium oxide and hydrochloric acid.

hydrochloric acid + magnesium oxide → ..... + water.

(1 mark)

7

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

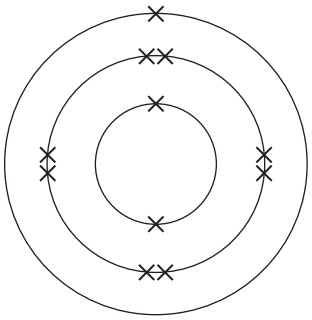
Question 03

1 Sodium chloride is a raw material.

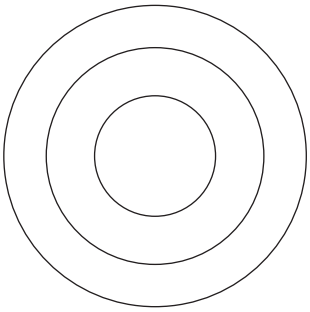
1 (a) The electronic structure of a sodium atom is shown below.

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

Sodium atom



Chlorine atom



(1 mark)

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

How does a sodium atom change into a sodium ion?

.....

.....

.....

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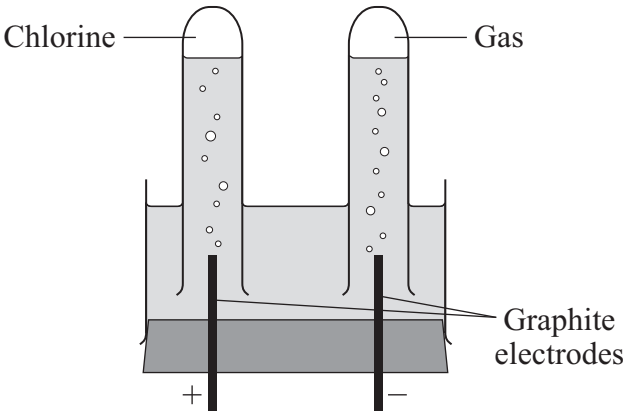
(2 marks)

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 03 · continued

for mark

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



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

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

.....

(1 mark)

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

.....

(1 mark)

Question 1 continues on the next page

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

for mark

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

The article below is from a newspaper.

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

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

.....

.....

(1 mark)

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

.....

.....

(1 mark)

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

.....

.....

(1 mark)

8

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 04

5 This question is about some compounds of iodine.

5 (a) Lead iodide can be made by mixing a solution containing lead ions with a solution containing iodide ions.

Lead iodide is formed as a precipitate.

$$Pb^{2+}(aq) + 2I^{-}(aq) \rightarrow PbI_2(s)$$

5 (a) (i) The table below gives information about the solubility of some compounds.

Soluble compounds	Insoluble compounds
all sodium and potassium salts	
all nitrates	
most chlorides, bromides and iodides	silver and lead chlorides, bromides and iodides

Use the table to help you name:

a soluble compound which contains lead ions .....

a soluble compound which contains iodide ions .....

(2 marks)

5 (a) (ii) Suggest a method of separating the lead iodide from the solution.

.....

(1 mark)

5 (b) Magnesium iodide can be made by reacting magnesium with iodine.

$$Mg + I_2 \rightarrow MgI_2$$

Magnesium iodide is an ionic compound. It contains magnesium ions (Mg^{2+}) and iodide ions (I^{-}).

Describe, in terms of electrons, what happens when magnesium reacts with iodine.

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4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 04 · continued

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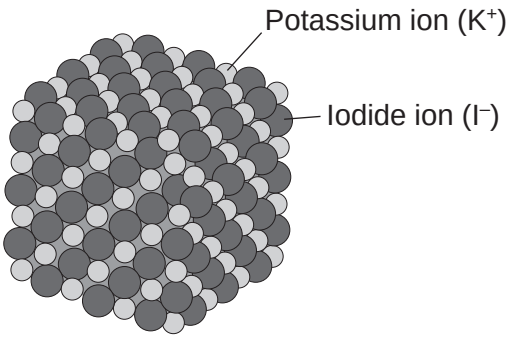
(4 marks)

5 (c) The diagram shows the structure of potassium iodide.



Explain why a high temperature is needed to melt potassium iodide.

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.....

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(2 marks)

9

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 05

January 2011 | CHY1H | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 Titanium is used for replacement hip joints because it has a low density, is strong and does not corrode.
Titanium is extracted from titanium dioxide (TiO_2) in three stages.

4 (a) **Stage 1**
Titanium dioxide is converted into titanium chloride ($TiCl_4$) because the metal cannot be extracted from its oxide by *reduction* with carbon.

4 (a) (i) What does *reduction* mean?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4 (a) (ii) Balance the chemical equation for the conversion of titanium dioxide to titanium chloride.

TiO_2 + Cl_2 + C → $TiCl_4$ + CO_2

(1 mark)

4 (a) (iii) Chemical equations are always balanced. Explain why.

.....

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4 (b) **Stage 2**
Titanium is extracted from the titanium chloride by reacting it with sodium at 1000 °C in a reactor.
The only other substance in the reactor is argon gas.

$TiCl_4$ + 4Na → Ti + 4NaCl

4 (b) (i) What does this tell you about the reactivity of sodium compared with titanium?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4 (b) (ii) Suggest why the reactor contains argon and **not** air.

.....

.....

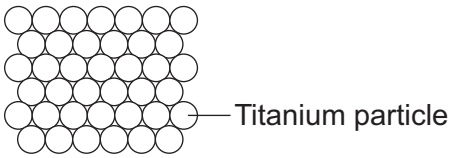
(1 mark)

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

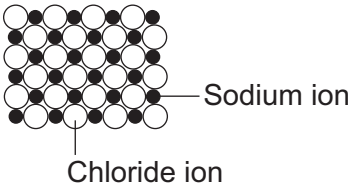
Question 05 · continued

4 (c) **Stage 3**
After **Stage 2** the titanium is separated from the products by washing out the sodium chloride with water.
The diagrams show sections through the lattice of titanium metal and the lattice of sodium chloride.

Titanium



Sodium chloride



How do the diagrams show that:

4 (c) (i) titanium is an element

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4 (c) (ii) sodium chloride is a compound?

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

8

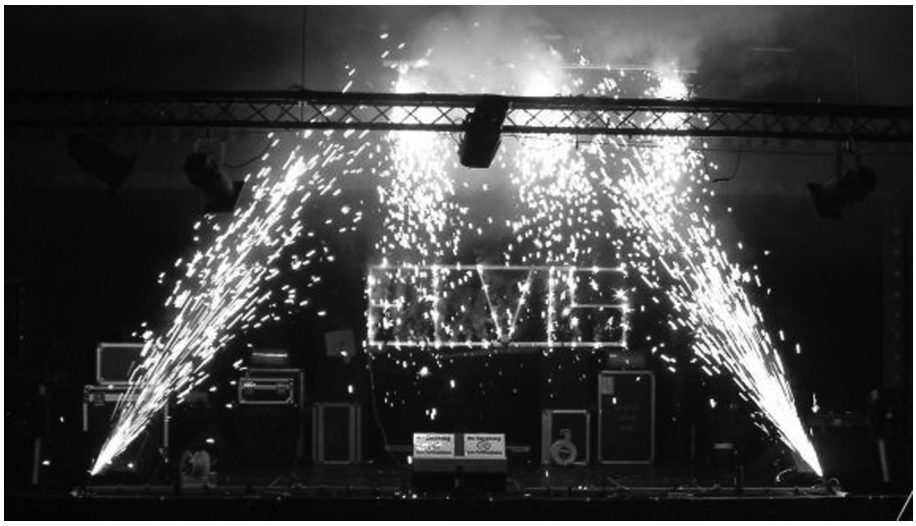
4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 06

June 2011 | CHY2H | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 Read the information in the box.

Flash powder is used to produce special effects at pop concerts.



Flash powder contains aluminium. The powder burns with a bright white flame and gives out lots of heat and light. It also produces white smoke.

The flash powder is placed on stage in a special container. At the bottom of the container there is a thin piece of wire. When the flash is needed, electricity is passed through the wire. The wire gets hot and starts the aluminium burning.

4 (a) When aluminium burns the reaction is *exothermic*.

What is the meaning of *exothermic?*

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4 (b) The hot wire provides energy to start the aluminium burning.

What is the name given to the heat energy needed to start a chemical reaction?

..... energy

(1 mark)

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 06 · continued

4 (c) The white smoke produced is aluminium oxide.

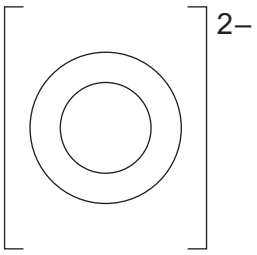
Aluminium oxide contains aluminium ions (Al^{3+}) and oxide ions (O^{2-}).

4 (c) (i) Complete the diagram to show the electronic structure of an oxide ion.

The atomic number of oxygen = 8

Use crosses (x) to represent the electrons.

oxide ion



(1 mark)

4 (c) (ii) The bonding in aluminium oxide is ionic.

What causes the aluminium ions and oxide ions to be held together strongly?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07

June 2013 | CH2HP | Original Q4 | Legacy

4 This question is about potassium.

4 (a) Humphrey Davy was a professor of chemistry.

In 1807 Davy did an electrolysis experiment to produce potassium.

4 (a) (i) Davy first tried to electrolyse a solid potassium salt to produce potassium.

Explain why this electrolysis did **not** work.

.....

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(2 marks)

4 (a) (ii) Humphrey Davy was the first person to produce potassium.

Humphrey Davy's experiment to produce this new element was quickly accepted by other scientists.

Suggest why.

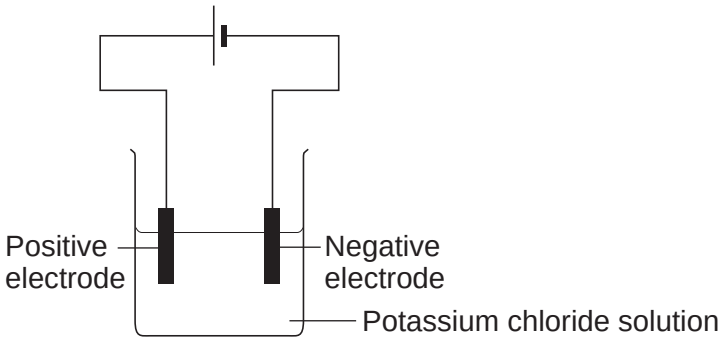
.....

.....

(1 mark)

4 (b) A student dissolved some potassium chloride in water.
The student tried to electrolyse the potassium chloride solution to produce potassium.

The apparatus the student used is shown in the diagram.



4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07 · continued

The student expected to see potassium metal at the negative electrode, but instead saw bubbles of a gas.

- Name the gas produced at the negative electrode.
- Explain why this gas was produced at the negative electrode **and** why potassium was not produced.

The reactivity series of metals on the Chemistry Data Sheet may help you to answer this question.

.....

.....

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.....

(3 marks)

4 (c) The student tried to electrolyse molten potassium chloride to produce potassium.

4 (c) (i) Potassium metal was produced at the negative electrode.

Describe how potassium atoms are formed from potassium ions.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

Question 4 continues on the next page

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

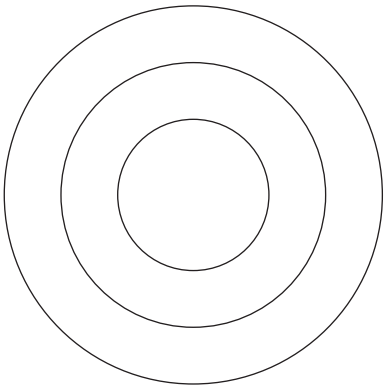
Question 07 · continued

4 (c) (ii) Complete and balance the equation for the reaction at the positive electrode.

.....Cl^- $\longrightarrow$ Cl_2 + ...

(1 mark)

4 (c) (iii) Complete the diagram to show the electronic structure of a chloride ion (Cl^-).



(1 mark)

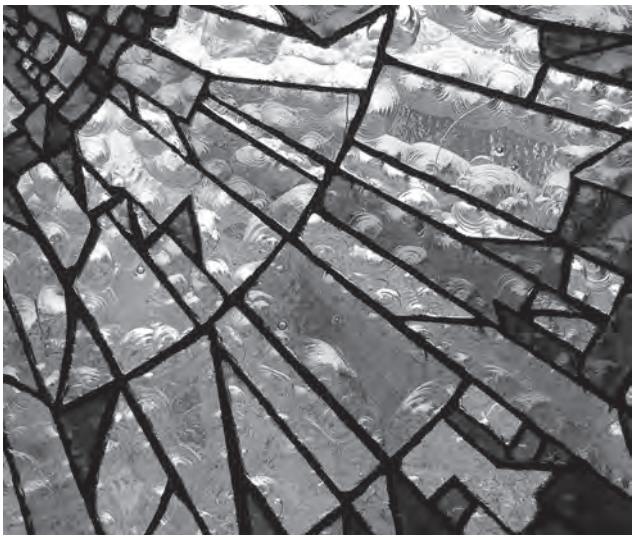
10

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 08

June 2014 | CH2HP | Original Q7 | Legacy

7 Glass is made from silicon dioxide.



7 (a) Silicon dioxide has a very high melting point.

Other substances are added to silicon dioxide to make glass. Glass melts at a lower temperature than silicon dioxide.

Suggest why.

[1 mark]

.....

.....

7 (b) Sodium oxide is one of the substances added to silicon dioxide to make glass.

7 (b) (i) Sodium oxide contains Na^+ ions and O^{2-} ions.

Give the formula of sodium oxide.

[1 mark]

.....

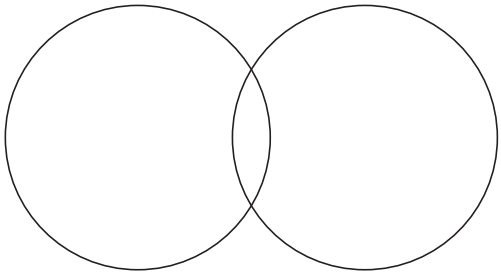
4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 08 · continued

7 (b) (ii) Sodium oxide is made by heating sodium metal in oxygen gas.

Complete the diagram to show the outer electrons in an oxygen molecule (O_2).

[2 marks]



7 (c) Glass can be coloured using tiny particles of gold. Gold is a metal.

Describe the structure of a metal.

[3 marks]

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7

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 09

June 2015 | CH1HP | Original Q1 | Legacy

1 This question is about atomic structure and elements.

1 (a) Complete the sentences.

1 (a) (i) The atomic number of an atom is the number of ..... .

[1 mark]

1 (a) (ii) The mass number of an atom is the number of .....

..... .

[1 mark]

1 (b) Explain why an atom has no overall charge.

Use the relative electrical charges of sub-atomic particles in your explanation.

[2 marks]

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.....

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.....

1 (c) Explain why fluorine and chlorine are in the same group of the periodic table.

Give the electronic structures of fluorine and chlorine in your explanation.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

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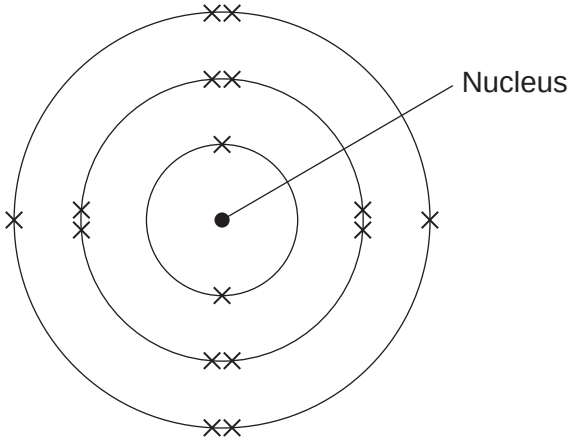
.....

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 09 · continued

1 (d) **Figure 1** shows the electronic structure of an atom of a non-metal.

Figure 1



What is the chemical symbol of this non-metal?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Ar ☐

O ☐

S ☐

Si ☐

1 (e) When elements react, their atoms join with other atoms to form compounds.

Complete the sentences.

1 (e) (i) Compounds formed when non-metals react with metals consist of

particles called ..... .

[1 mark]

1 (e) (ii) Compounds formed from only non-metals consist of

particles called ..... .

[1 mark]

9

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

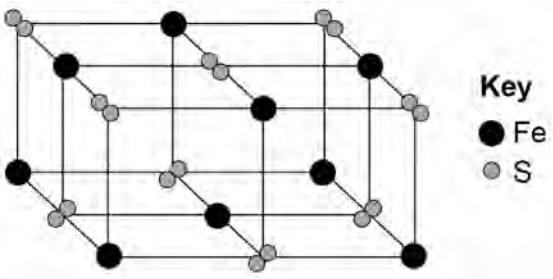
Question 10

0 2 This question is about metals and metal compounds.

0 2 . 1 Iron pyrites is an ionic compound.

Figure 1 shows a structure for iron pyrites.

Figure 1



Determine the formula of iron pyrites.

Use **Figure 1**.

[1 mark]

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

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

[3 marks]

Number of protons _____

Number of neutrons _____

Number of electrons _____

0 2 . 3 Iron is a transition metal.

Sodium is a Group 1 metal.

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

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 10 · continued

Nickel is extracted from nickel oxide by reduction with carbon.

0 2 . 4 Explain why carbon can be used to extract nickel from nickel oxide.

[2 marks]

0 2 . 5 An equation for the reaction is:

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

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

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

Relative formula mass (M_r): NiO = 75

Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

[3 marks]

Percentage atom economy = _____ %

11

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 11

November 2020 | 8462/1H | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about structure and bonding.

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

[2 marks]

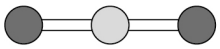
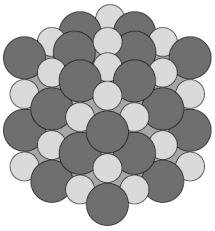
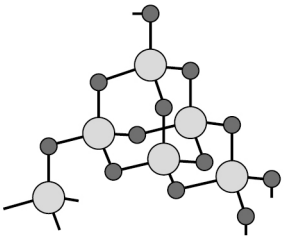
Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

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

0 1 . 2 **Table 1** shows the structures of three compounds.

Table 1

Diagrams not to scale

Compound	Structure
Carbon dioxide	
Magnesium oxide	
Silicon dioxide	

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 11 · continued

Compare the structure and bonding of the three compounds:

- carbon dioxide
- magnesium oxide
- silicon dioxide.

[6 marks]

8

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 12

November 2020 | 8462/2H | Original Q3

0 3 This question is about hydrocarbons.

Hexane and hexene are hydrocarbons containing six carbon atoms in each molecule.

Hexane is an alkane and hexene is an alkene.

0 3 . 1 Draw **one** line from each hydrocarbon to the formula of that hydrocarbon.

[2 marks]

Hydrocarbon	Formula
	C_6H_8
Hexane	C_6H_{10}
	C_6H_{12}
Hexene	C_6H_{14}
	C_6H_{16}

0 3 . 2 Bromine water is added to hexane and to hexene.

What would be observed when bromine water is added to hexane and to hexene?

[2 marks]

Hexane _____

_____

Hexene _____

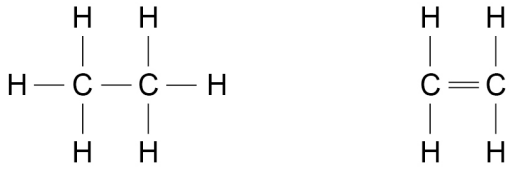
_____

Question 12 · continued

0 3 . 3 Ethane is an alkane and ethene is an alkene.

Figure 1 shows the displayed structural formulae of ethane and of ethene.

Figure 1



Ethane **Ethene**

Compare ethane with ethene.

You should refer to:

- their structure and bonding
- their reactions.

[6 marks]

10

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 13

November 2021 | 8462/1H | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about Group 1 elements.

0 4 . 1 Give **two** observations you could make when a small piece of potassium is added to water.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

0 4 . 2 Complete the equation for the reaction of potassium with water.

You should balance the equation.

[2 marks]

$$K + \qquad H_2O \rightarrow \qquad +$$

0 4 . 3 Explain why the reactivity of elements changes going down Group 1.

[4 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 13 · continued

Sodium reacts with oxygen to produce the ionic compound sodium oxide.

Oxygen is a Group 6 element.

0 4 . 4 Draw a dot and cross diagram to show what happens when atoms of sodium and oxygen react to produce sodium oxide.

[4 marks]

Diagram

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 13 · continued

0 4 . 5 Why is oxygen described as being reduced in the reaction between sodium and oxygen?

[1 mark]

0 4 . 6 Explain why sodium oxide has a high melting point.

[3 marks]

16

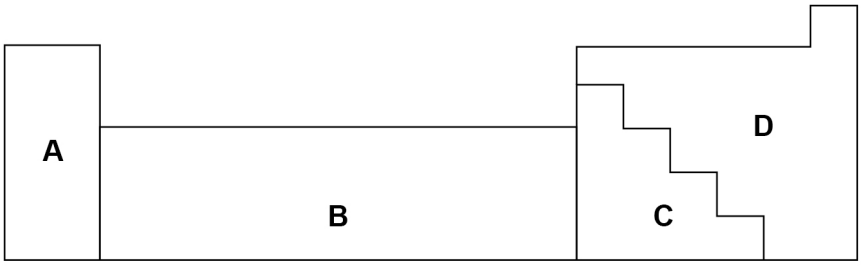
4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 14

0 1 This question is about metals and non-metals.

Figure 1 shows an outline of part of the periodic table.

Figure 1



0 1 . 1 Element **Q** is a dull solid with a melting point of 44 °C.

Element **Q** does not conduct electricity.

Which section of the periodic table in **Figure 1** is most likely to contain element **Q**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

A ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐

0 1 . 2 Element **R** forms ions of formula R^{2+} and R^{3+}

Which section of the periodic table in **Figure 1** is most likely to contain element **R**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

A ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐

0 1 . 3 Give **two** differences between the physical properties of the elements in Group 1 and those of the transition elements.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

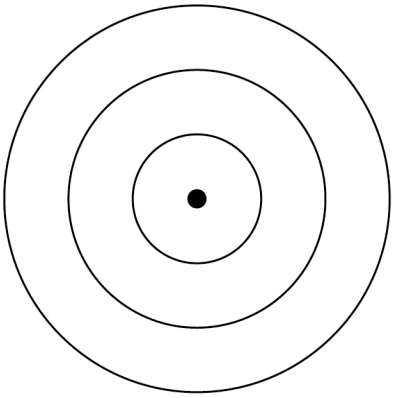
Question 14 · continued

0 1 . 4 Complete **Figure 2** to show the electronic structure of an aluminium atom.

Use the periodic table.

[1 mark]

Figure 2



0 1 . 5 Aluminium is a metal.

Describe how metals conduct electricity.

Answer in terms of electrons.

[3 marks]

0 1 . 6 Name the type of bonding in compounds formed between metals and non-metals.

[1 mark]

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 14 · continued

0 1 . 7 Magnesium oxide is a compound formed from the metal magnesium and the non-metal oxygen.

Describe what happens when a magnesium atom reacts with an oxygen atom.

You should refer to electrons in your answer.

[4 marks]

13

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 15

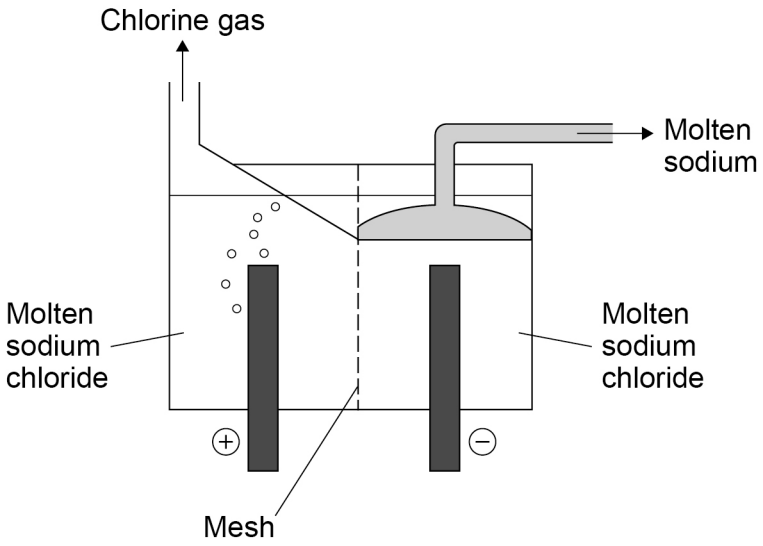
June 2022 | 8462/1H | Original Q6

0 6 This question is about electrolysis.

Molten sodium chloride is electrolysed in an industrial process to produce sodium.

Figure 8 shows a simplified version of the electrolysis cell used.

Figure 8



0 6 . 1 Which is the correct half equation for the production of sodium?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$Na + e^- \rightarrow Na^+$ ☐

$Na \rightarrow Na^+ + e^-$ ☐

$Na^+ + e^- \rightarrow Na$ ☐

$Na^+ \rightarrow Na + e^-$ ☐

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 15 · continued

A mesh is used to keep the products of the electrolysis apart.

0 6 . 2 Suggest **one** reason why the products of the electrolysis must be kept apart.

[1 mark]

0 6 . 3 Which type of particle passes through the mesh in the electrolysis of molten sodium chloride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Atom ☐
- Electron ☐
- Ion ☐
- Molecule ☐

Question 6 continues on the next page

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 15 · continued

Aqueous sodium chloride solution is electrolysed in a different industrial process.

Two gases and an alkaline solution are produced.

0 6 . 4 Which **two** ions are present in aqueous sodium chloride solution in addition to sodium ions and chloride ions?

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

0 6 . 5 Name the alkaline solution produced.

[1 mark]

_____

0 6 . 6 Explain how the alkaline solution is produced.

You should refer to the processes at the electrodes.

[3 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

9

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 16

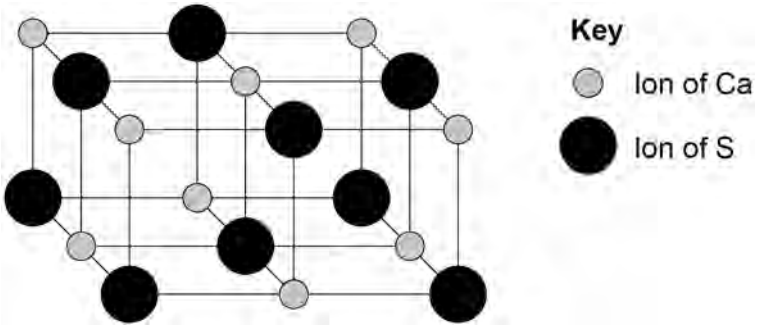
June 2025 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about structure and bonding.

Calcium sulfide is an ionic compound.

Figure 2 represents the structure of calcium sulfide.

Figure 2



0 2 . 1 Determine the empirical formula of calcium sulfide.

[1 mark]

Empirical formula _____

Question 2 continues on the next page

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 16 · continued

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

Sulfur is in Group 6 of the periodic table.

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

Answer in terms of electrons and ions.

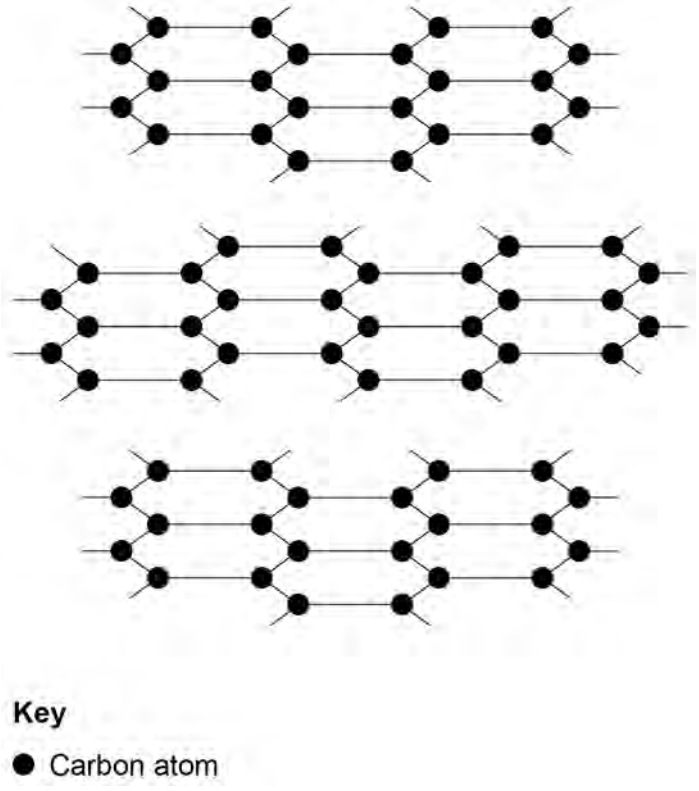
[4 marks]

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 16 · continued

Figure 3 shows the structure of graphite.

Figure 3



0 2 . 3 Describe the structure and bonding of graphite.

[4 marks]

Extra space

4.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 16 · continued

0 2 . 4 Substances that consist of small molecules do **not** conduct electricity.

Give **one** reason why.

[1 mark]

0 2 . 5 Methane consists of small molecules.

Poly(ethene) is a polymer.

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

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

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

11