AQA GCSE Chemistry | 8462

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.2.2.3

Properties of ionic compounds

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**12**
Available paper years	**2009–2025**

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.

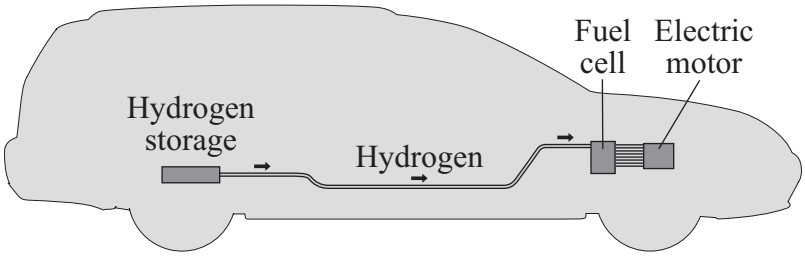
4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 01

June 2009 | CHY2H | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 Read the article and then answer the questions that follow.

Hydrogen fuel for cars?



Hydrogen is an excellent fuel. It can be made by the electrolysis of potassium hydroxide solution.

Hydrogen gas can be stored under pressure in a cylinder but a leak of the gas could cause an explosion.

It has been found that lithium nitride can absorb and then release large volumes of hydrogen. A chemical reaction takes place between the hydrogen and the lithium nitride. The hydrogen is held in the resulting compounds by chemical bonds.

The problem is that the rate at which hydrogen is absorbed and then released from normal sized particles of lithium nitride is slow.

Recently scientists have made 'nanosized' particles of lithium nitride. These particles absorb hydrogen in the same way as normal sized lithium nitride particles. The 'nanosized' particles have the advantage that they absorb and release the hydrogen much faster when needed in the fuel cell.

It is hoped that 'nanosized' particles of lithium nitride may provide a safe method of storing hydrogen in the future.

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 01 · continued

for mark

5 (a) Hydrogen is produced at the negative electrode during the electrolysis of potassium hydroxide solution.

5 (a) (i) Why are hydrogen ions attracted to the negative electrode?

.....

.....

.....

(1 mark)

5 (a) (ii) Potassium ions are also attracted to the negative electrode.

Explain why hydrogen gas is formed but not potassium.

.....

.....

.....

(1 mark)

5 (b) Lithium nitride is made by reacting lithium with nitrogen.

Balance the equation for this reaction.

..... Li + N_2 → ..... Li_3N

(1 mark)

Question 5 continues on the next page

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 01 · continued June 2009 | CHY2H | Original Q5 | Legacy

for mark

5 (c) (i) The equation for the reaction of lithium nitride with hydrogen is:

$$Li_3N + 2H_2 \rightleftharpoons LiNH_2 + 2LiH$$

What feature of this reaction allows the hydrogen to be released?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

5 (c) (ii) Hydrogen stored in a fuel tank filled with lithium nitride would be safer in an accident than a cylinder full of hydrogen.

Suggest and explain why.

.....

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.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

5 (d) (i) State how 'nanosized' particles will be different from normal sized particles of lithium nitride.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

5 (d) (ii) Suggest why the 'nanosized' particles of lithium nitride absorb and release the hydrogen more quickly than normal sized particles.

.....

.....

.....

(1 mark)

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 01 · continued

for mark

5 (e) Lithium nitride is an ionic compound which contains lithium ions (Li^{+}) and nitride ions (N^{3-}).

5 (e) (i) The formation of a lithium ion from a lithium atom is an oxidation reaction.

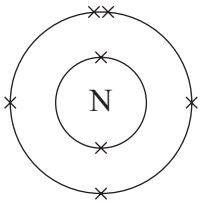
Explain why.

.....

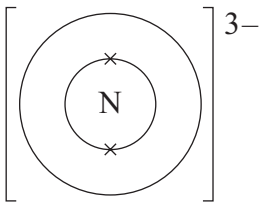
.....

(1 mark)

5 (e) (ii) The diagram shows the electronic structure of a nitrogen atom.



Complete the diagram below to show the electronic structure of a nitride ion (N^{3-}).



(1 mark)

10

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 02

June 2010 | CHY2H | Original Q5 | Legacy

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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4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 02 · continued

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.....

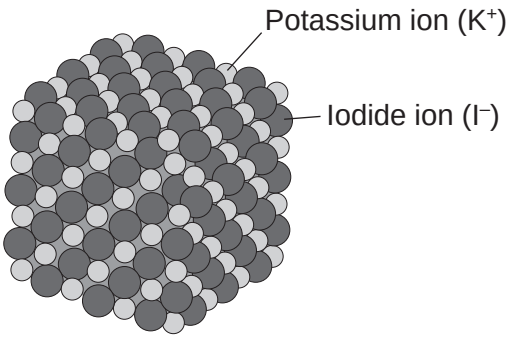
.....

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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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(2 marks)

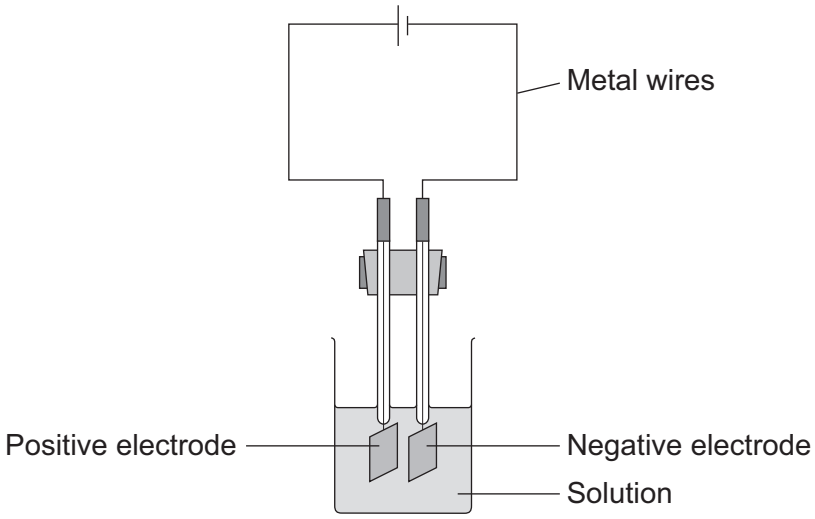
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4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 03

June 2011 | CHY2H | Original Q5 | Legacy

5 The diagram shows apparatus used by a student to investigate electrolysis.



The student was given a solution by the teacher. The solution contained a mixture of ionic compounds.

5 (a) Name the particles which carry the electric current through:

5 (a) (i) the metal wires.....

(1 mark)

5 (a) (ii) the solution. .....

(1 mark)

5 (b) The table shows the ions in the solution.

Positive ions in the solution	Negative ions in the solution
Zinc ion (Zn^{2+})	Chloride ion (Cl^-)
Iron(III) ion (Fe^{3+})	Hydroxide ion (OH^-)
Hydrogen ion (H^+)	Nitrate ion (NO_3^-)
Copper(II) ion (Cu^{2+})	Sulfate ion (SO_4^{2-})

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

5 (b) (i) Which element is most likely to be formed at the negative electrode?

.....

(1 mark)

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 03 · continued

5 (b) (ii) Explain, as fully as you can, why you have chosen this element.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

5 (c) The electrolysis of sodium chloride solution is an industrial process.

5 (c) (i) The reaction at one of the electrodes can be represented by the equation shown below.

$$2Cl^- \rightarrow Cl_2 + 2e^-$$

The chloride ions (Cl^-) are oxidised.

Explain why.

.....

.....

(1 mark)

5 (c) (ii) The reaction at the other electrode can be represented by an equation.

Complete and balance the equation for the reaction at the other electrode.

$$H^+ \rightarrow H_2$$

(1 mark)

7

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 04

June 2015 | CH2HP | Original Q6 | Legacy

6 This question is about sodium chloride and iodine.

6 (a) Describe the structure and bonding in sodium chloride.

[4 marks]

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6 (b) When sodium chloride solution is electrolysed, one product is chlorine.

Name the **two** other products from the electrolysis of sodium chloride solution.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

6 (c) Many people do not have enough iodine in their diet.

Sodium chloride is added to many types of food. Some scientists recommend that sodium chloride should have a compound of iodine added.

Give **one** ethical reason why a compound of iodine should **not** be added to sodium chloride used in food.

[1 mark]

.....

.....

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 04 · continued

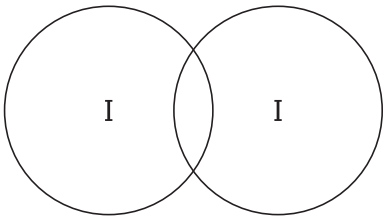
6 (d) The bonding in iodine is similar to the bonding in chlorine.

6 (d) (i) Complete **Figure 4** to show the bonding in iodine.

Show the outer electrons only.

[2 marks]

Figure 4



6 (d) (ii) Explain why iodine has a low melting point.

[3 marks]

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.....

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6 (d) (iii) Explain, in terms of particles, why liquid iodine does not conduct electricity.

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

14

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 05

June 2015 | CH3HP | Original Q3 | Legacy

3 This question is about the halogens (Group 7).

3 (a) How do the boiling points of the halogens change down the group from fluorine to iodine?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

3 (b) Sodium bromide is produced by reacting sodium with bromine.

Sodium bromide is an ionic compound.

3 (b) (i) Write down the symbols of the **two** ions in sodium bromide.

[1 mark]

.....

3 (b) (ii) Chlorine reacts with sodium bromide solution to produce bromine and one other product.

Complete the word equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

chlorine + sodium bromide ⟶ bromine + ...

3 (b) (iii) Why does chlorine displace bromine from sodium bromide?

[1 mark]

.....

.....

3 (b) (iv) Use the Chemistry Data Sheet to help you to answer this question.

Suggest which halogen could react with sodium chloride solution to produce chlorine.

[1 mark]

.....

5

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

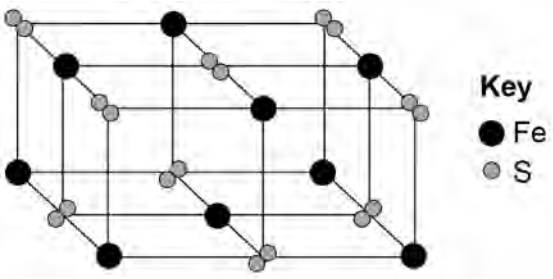
Question 06

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 _____

_____

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 06 · 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

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 07

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]

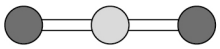
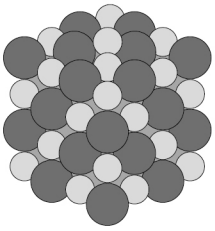
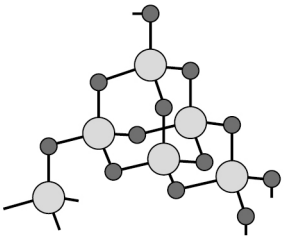
Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

- 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	

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 07 · continued

Compare the structure and bonding of the three compounds:

- carbon dioxide
- magnesium oxide
- silicon dioxide.

[6 marks]

8

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 08

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]

$$K + \quad H_2O \rightarrow \quad +$$

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

[4 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 08 · 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

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 08 · 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

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 09

June 2024 | 8462/1H | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about ionic compounds and electrolysis.

Calcium chloride is an ionic compound.

0 5 . 1 Calcium and chlorine react to produce calcium chloride.

Describe what happens to calcium atoms and chlorine atoms when the ionic compound calcium chloride is formed.

[4 marks]

0 5 . 2 Solid calcium chloride **cannot** be electrolysed.

Give **one** reason why.

[1 mark]

0 5 . 3 Name the product formed at the negative electrode when aqueous calcium chloride solution is electrolysed.

[1 mark]

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

0 5 . 4 What is the half equation for the reaction at the positive electrode when aqueous calcium chloride solution is electrolysed?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$2Cl^- \rightarrow Cl_2 + 2e^-$ ☐

$Cl_2 + 2e^- \rightarrow 2Cl^-$ ☐

$4OH^- \rightarrow O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e^-$ ☐

$O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e^- \rightarrow 4OH^-$ ☐

Question 5 continues on the next page

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

0 5 . 5 A student investigated the electrolysis of green copper chromate solution.

Figure 4 shows the apparatus.

Figure 4

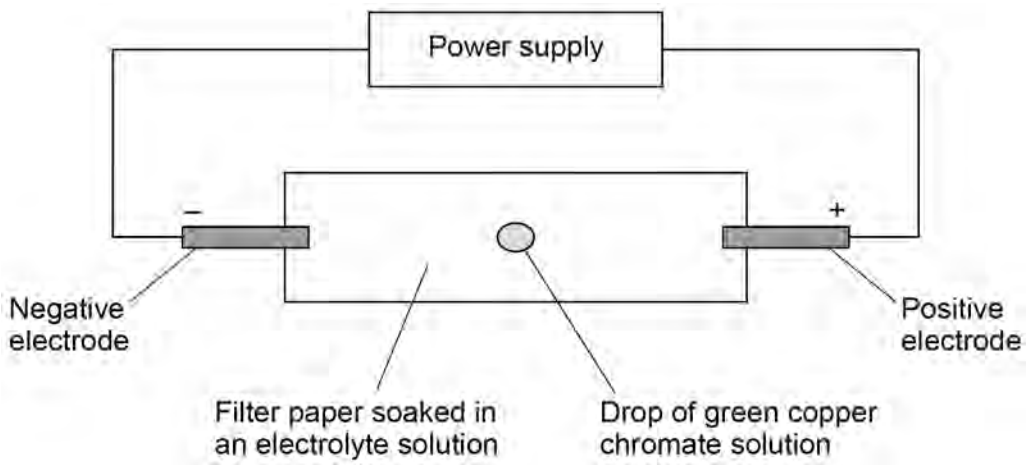
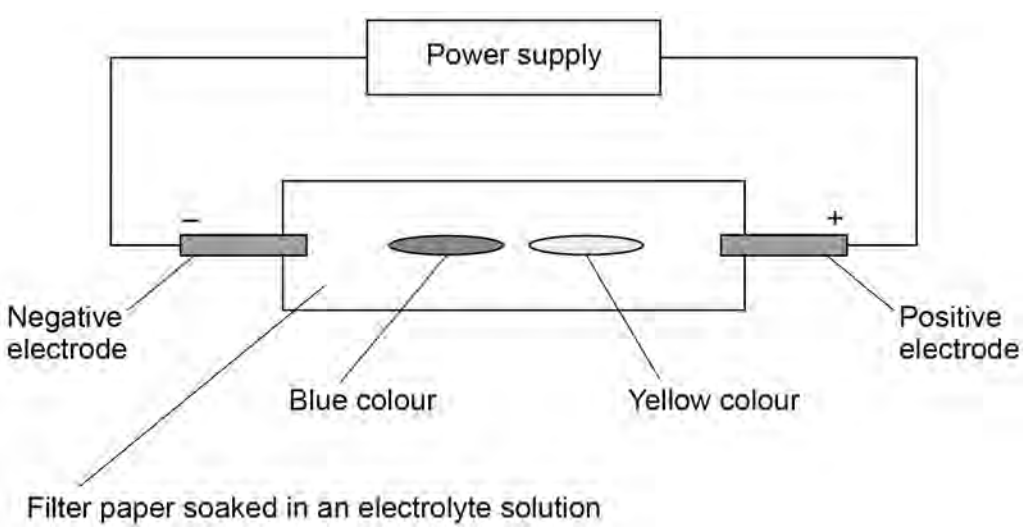


Figure 5 shows the results.

Figure 5



4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 09 · continued

Copper chromate solution contains the ions Cu^{2+} and CrO_4^{2-}

Explain the results shown in **Figure 5**.

[3 marks]

10

Turn over for the next question

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 10

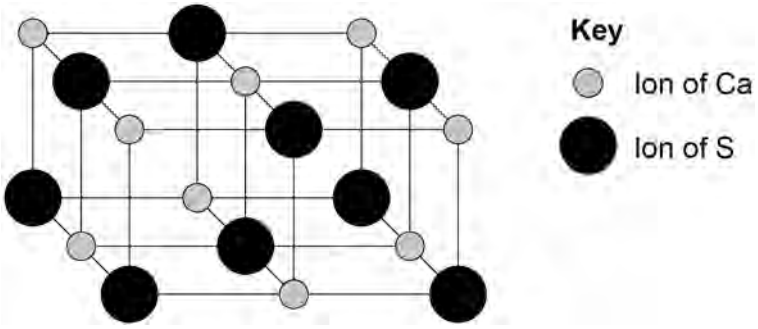
June 2025 | 8462/1H | Original Q2

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

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 10 · 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.

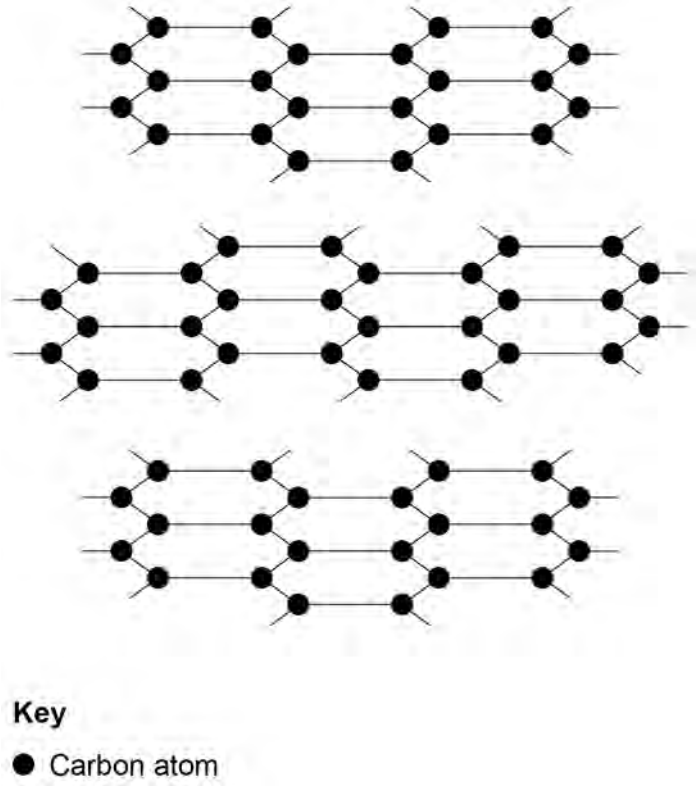
[4 marks]

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 10 · continued

Figure 3 shows the structure of graphite.

Figure 3



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

[4 marks]

Extra space

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 10 · 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

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 11

June 2025 | 8462/1H | Original Q6

0 6 Aluminium is extracted by the electrolysis of a molten mixture.

The mixture contains aluminium oxide and one other substance.

0 6 . 1 Aluminium oxide is an ionic compound.

Explain why aluminium oxide has a very high melting point.

[4 marks]

Extra space

0 6 . 2 Name the substance added to aluminium oxide to form the mixture.

[1 mark]

0 6 . 3 Give **one** reason why a mixture is used as the electrolyte.

[1 mark]

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 11 · continued

Oxygen is produced at the positive electrode.

0 6 . 4 Write the half equation for the reaction that produces oxygen at the positive electrode.

[2 marks]

_____ ⟶ _____ + _____

0 6 . 5 The positive electrode must be continually replaced.

Explain why.

[3 marks]

_____

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_____

_____

_____

_____

11

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 12

June 2025 | 8462/2H | Original Q6

0 6 A student analysed three solutions, **A**, **B** and **C**.

Each solution contained one ionic compound.

The student added a few drops of sodium hydroxide solution to solution **A**.

Solution **A** produced a white precipitate.

Aluminium ions produce a white precipitate with a few drops of sodium hydroxide solution.

0 6 . 1 Name **one other** metal ion which produces a white precipitate with a few drops of sodium hydroxide solution.

[1 mark]

_____

0 6 . 2 Describe how the student could confirm the presence of aluminium ions in solution **A**.

Give the result of the test.

[2 marks]

Test _____

_____

Result _____

_____

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

The student tested solution **B** to identify the ions present.

0 6 . 3 The student did a flame test on solution **B**.

An orange-red flame was produced.

Write the symbol for the metal ion in solution **B**.

[1 mark]

_____

0 6 . 4 The student added dilute nitric acid followed by silver nitrate solution to solution **B**.

A white precipitate was produced.

Write the symbol for the non-metal ion in solution **B**.

[1 mark]

_____

Question 6 continues on the next page

4.2.2.3 Properties of ionic compounds

Question 12 · continued

The student added 1.0 mol/dm^3 nitric acid to solution **C**.

Bubbles of gas were produced.

0 6 . 5 Describe a test on the bubbles of gas that confirms that solution **C** contained carbonate ions.

Give the result of the test.

[2 marks]

Test _____

_____

Result _____

_____

0 6 . 6 The student repeated the test on solution **C** using 1.0 mol/dm^3 ethanoic acid instead of 1.0 mol/dm^3 nitric acid.

Bubbles of gas were produced more slowly using ethanoic acid.

Explain why.

[4 marks]

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11