AQA GCSE Physics | 8463

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.4.2.3

Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**35**
Available paper years	**2003–2025**

Using this booklet

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

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 01 · Mark scheme June 2003 | 3451F | Original Q6 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 36. Follow original question 6 in that document.

Answer 02 · Mark scheme June 2003 | 3462F3 | Original Q6 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 58. Follow original question 6 in that document.

Answer 03 · Mark scheme June 2004 | 3451F | Original Q5 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 75. Follow original question 5 in that document.

Answer 04 · Mark scheme June 2004 | 3462F3 | Original Q5 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 96. Follow original question 5 in that document.

Answer 05 · Mark scheme June 2005 | 3451 | Original Q7 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 113. Follow original question 7 in that document.

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 06 · Mark scheme

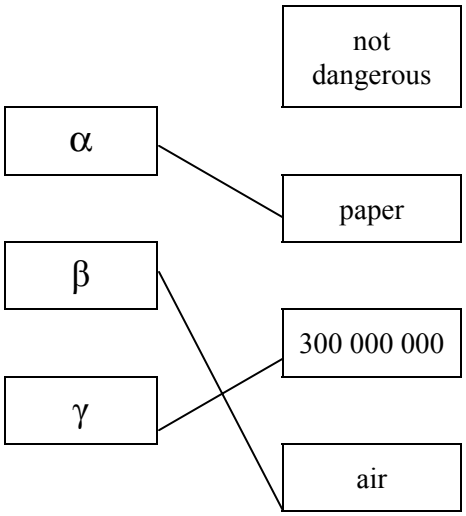
June 2005 | 3462 | Original Q7 | Legacy

The full source mark scheme begins on page 131. Follow original question 7 in that document.

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 07 · Mark scheme January 2007 | PHY1F | Original Q2 | Legacy

Question 2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	3 correct lines drawn  	any box in list A with 2 or more lines, all lines for that box do **not** score	3
(b)	radiation damages our cells	accept radiation can cause cancer accept kills cells accept changes DNA / causes mutations accept dangerous / poisonous / harmful / toxic accept so precautions can be taken	1
(c)	it can pass through the human body		1
(d)(i)	6 (hours)	no tolerance	1
(ii)	6 (hours)	accept their (d)(i)	1
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 08 · Mark scheme

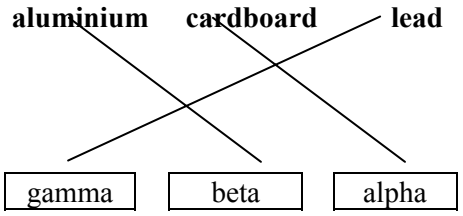
June 2007 | PHY1B | Original Q9 | Legacy

Nine	**3**	**1**	**1**	**1**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 09 · Mark scheme January 2008 | PHY1F | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question 3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	**P**		1
(ii) A	**Q**		1
(b) G	3 lines correct  	allow **1** mark for 1 correct line two lines drawn from any source or box – both incorrect	2
(c)(i)	**K**		1
(ii)	56	accept 50 – 60 inclusive	1
(iii)	**K**		1
(iv)	to inject... tracer		1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 09 · Mark scheme January 2008 | PHY1F | Original Q3 | Legacy

PHY1F

Answer 10 · Mark scheme June 2008 | PHY1BP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	4	**4**
	B	12	**2**
	C	60	**1**
	D	90	**3**

Answer 11 · Mark scheme June 2008 | PHY1BP | Original Q7 | Legacy

Seven	**3**	**1**	**1**	**2**

Answer 12 · Mark scheme June 2008 | PHY1BP | Original Q9 | Legacy

Nine	**4**	**3**	**4**	**3**

GCSE

Answer 13 · Mark scheme November 2008 | PHY1BP | Original Q9 | Legacy

Nine	**3**	**4**	**2**	**3**

Answer 14 · Mark scheme March 2009 | PHY1BP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	3	**4**
	B	10	**1**
	C	12	**2**
	D	60	**3**

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

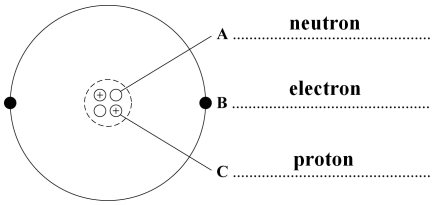
Answer 15 · Mark scheme June 2009 | PHY1BP | Original Q6 | Legacy

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

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 16 · Mark scheme June 2009 | PHY1F | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question 3

question	answers	extra information	mark
3(a)(i)		all 3 labels correct allow **1** mark for 1 correct label	2
3(a)(ii)	has no electrons	it = alpha allow alpha has a positive(charge) allow a helium (atom) has no (charge) do **not** accept general properties of alpha do **not** accept general answers in terms of size / density / mass etc	1
3(b)(i)	15 (hours)	accept any answer between 14.8 and 15.2 inclusive	1
3(b)(ii)	15 (hours) or their (b)(i)		1
3(c)(i)	americium-241 has a long half life		1

Question 3 continues on the next page . . .

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

PHY1F

Question 3 continued . . .

question	answers	extra information	mark
3(c)(ii)	any **one** from: • alpha (particles) are harmful to … • so they dispose of it safely / appropriately • so they don't break it open / open it • so they can make a choice about having a radioactive source (in the house)	it = radioactive material accept radiation / radioactive material is harmful to … accept specific example of harm eg can cause cancer accept radiation is poisonous if ingested / inhaled do **not** accept it is poisonous / in case of leakage accept do **not** touch the radioactive source	1
Total			**7**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 16 · Mark scheme June 2009 | PHY1F | Original Q3 | Legacy

PHY1F

Answer 17 · Mark scheme November 2009 | PHY1BP | Original Q3 | Legacy

Three	**A**	count rate	**1**
	B	half-life	**3**
	C	penetrating power	**4**
	D	range	**2**

Answer 18 · Mark scheme November 2009 | PHY1BP | Original Q9 | Legacy

Nine	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 19 · Mark scheme January 2019 | PHY1F | Original Q4 | Legacy

Question 4

question	answers	extra information	mark
4(a)	alpha particles **cannot** pass through... **or** alpha particles can pass through a very thin sheet of **paper / card**	do **not** accept gamma particles . . . credit answers where correct amendments are made to boxed statement	1
4(b)(i)	horizontal and vertical line drawn at correct positions on the graph	accept a cross drawn at 4500 / 500 on the curve **or** two pairs of lines drawn, for example, at 600 and 300 accept a horizontal line drawn at 500 on its own do **not** accept vertical lines only	1
4(b)(ii)	4500 million years		1
4(b)(iii)	half-life too long no (measurable) change in count rate	do **not** accept simply its half-life is 4500 million years do **not** accept have not got the equipment do **not** accept it's harmful (to children) if neither of the above points scored, accept not enough time to measure it for **1** mark	1 1
Total			**5**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 19 · Mark scheme

January 2010 | PHY1F | Original Q4 | Legacy

PHY1F

Answer 20 · Mark scheme

March 2010 | PHY1BP | Original Q5 | Legacy

Five	**A**	50	**3**		
	B	100	**4**		
	C	400	**2**		
	D	800	**1**		
	A		**B**	**C**	**D**

Answer 21 · Mark scheme

March 2010 | PHY1BP | Original Q8 | Legacy

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

Answer 22 · Mark scheme

June 2010 | PHY1BP | Original Q9 | Legacy

Nine	4	2	2	2

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 23 · Mark scheme

June 2010 | PHY1F | Original Q7 | Legacy

Question 7

question	answers	extra information	mark
7(a)	gamma will pass through the body **or** alpha will not pass through the body	it refers to gamma answers must relate to the body accept skin for body	1
	gamma is only slightly ionising **or** alpha is heavily ionising	accept gamma causes less damage to cells / tissue do **not** accept gamma causes no damage to cells less harmful is insufficient	1
7(b)(i)	(both graphs show an initial) increase in count-rate	accept both show an increase	1
7(b)(ii)	only the right kidney is working correctly		1
	any **two** from: • count-rate / level / line for right kidney decreases (rapidly) • count-rate / level / line for <u>left</u> kidney does not change • radiation is being passed out / into urine - if referring to right kidney • radiation is not being passed out - if referring to the left kidney	if incorrect box chosen maximum of **1** mark can be awarded reference to named kidney can be inferred from the tick box it decreases is insufficient it does not change is insufficient	2

Question 7 continues on the next page . . .

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

PHY1F

Question 7 continued . . .

question	answers	extra information	mark
7(c)(i)	time taken for number of nuclei to halve **or** time taken for the count-rate to halve		1
7(c)(ii)	short half-life - the level of radiation (in the body) decreases rapidly	it refers to short life isotope	1
	to a safe / very small level **or** a long half-life - the radiation remains in the body / for a long time		1
	level of radiation remains high	answers in terms of damage eg cancer are insufficient	
Total			**9**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 24 · Mark scheme

November 2010 | PHY1BP | Original Q9 | Legacy

Nine	**2**	**1**	**3**	**3**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 25 · Mark scheme

January 2011 | PHY1F | Original Q3 | Legacy

Question 3

question	answers	extra information	mark
3(a)	**1** mark for each correct line **List A** Type of nuclear radiation Alpha Beta Gamma **List B** Property of radiation Has the same mass as an electron Very strongly ionising Passes through 10 cm of aluminium Deflected by a magnetic field but not deflected by an electric field	if more than 1 line is drawn from any box in List **A**, none of those lines gain any credit	3
3(b)(i)	(the detector) reading had gone down	'it' equals detector reading accept the reading in the table is the smallest accept 101 is (much) lower than other readings / a specific value eg 150 do **not** accept this answer if it indicates the readings are the thickness	1
	more beta (particles / radiation) is being absorbed / stopped	accept radiation for beta particles / radiation accept fewer particles being detected	1
3(b)(ii)	six years		1

Question 3 continues on the next page . . .

PHY1F

Question 3 continued . . .

question	answers	extra information	mark
3(b)(iii)	alpha would not penetrate the cardboard	accept the basic property- alpha (particles) cannot pass through paper / card accept alpha (particles) are less penetrating (than beta) range in air is neutral	1
Total			**7**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 25 · Mark scheme January 2011 | PHY1F | Original Q3 | Legacy

PHY1F

Answer 26 · Mark scheme June 2011 | PHY1BP | Original Q8 | Legacy

Eight	**3**	**1**	**2**	**4**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 27 · Mark scheme

June 2011 | PHY1F | Original Q8 | Legacy

Question 8

question	answers	extra information	mark
8(a)(i)	decommissioning		1
8(a)(ii)	level of radiation **or** radiation dose (to workers) decreased	accept the isotope / cobalt(-60) has decayed (a lot) accept the isotope / cobalt(-60) has decayed in 2 half lives accept exposed to less radiation do **not** accept no radiation left	1
	less hazardous / dangerous (to workers health)	accept safer do **not** accept there is no hazard accept allows reactor to cool (down) an answer of radiation levels decrease by 75 % or drops to 25 % gains **2** marks	1
8(b)(i)	more in favour **or** fewer against	quoting figures alone is insufficient do **not** accept it increases ignore any reasons given	1

Question 8 continues on the next page

PHY1F

Question 8 continued

question	answers	extra information	mark
8(b)(ii)	any **one** from: • sample too small • do not know how many (people) were asked • different people asked (in different years) • sample not representative (of population) • people did not understand the questions • do not know who carried out the surveys • do not know if surveys asked same questions	do **not** accept they are biased unless acceptable reason for bias given	1

Question 8 continues on the next page

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

PHY1F

Question 8 continued

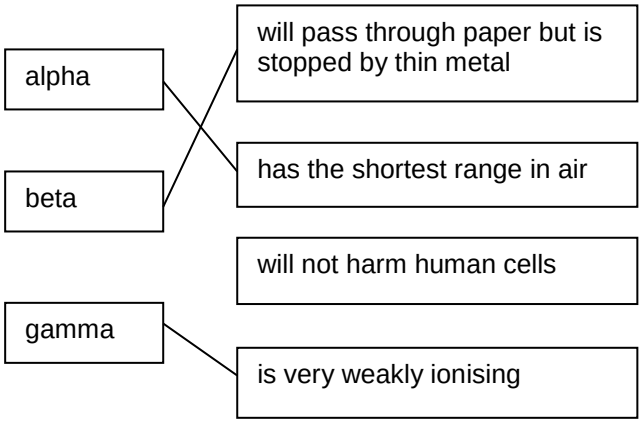
question	answers	extra information	mark
8(b)(iii)	any **one** from: • no / less pollutant gases produced • reliable source (of energy / electricity) • running out of fossil fuels • conserve fossil fuels • meet increasing demand • less reliance on imported fossil fuels / electricity • concentrated energy source(s) • lower transportation costs for fuel • to replace old <u>nuclear</u> power stations	accept a named gas accept does not contribute to global warming accept a named fossil fuel accept fossil fuels won't have to be used accept named fossil fuel ignore references to efficiency / job creation / local economy / selling electricity	1
8(c)	economic issues		1
Total			**7**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 28 · Mark scheme

June 2013 | PH2FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

Question 1

question	answers	extra information	mark
1(a)	3 lines correct  	allow **1** mark for each correct line if more than one line is drawn from any type of radiation box then all of those lines are wrong	3
1(b)	Gamma radiation will pass through the body		1
1(c)	half		1
1(d)	protons		1
Total			**6**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 28 · Mark scheme

June 2013 | PH2FP | Original Q1 | Legacy

PH2FP

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

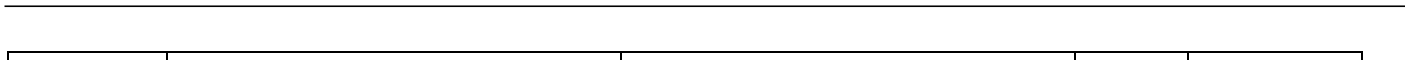
Answer 29 · Mark scheme June 2018 | 8463/1F | Original Q5

Question	Answers		Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	B	reason only scores if B is chosen	1	AO1 4.4.1.2
	americium has an atomic number of 95	allow proton number for atomic number allow B has a different atomic number allow B has an atomic number of 94	1	AO3 4.4.1.2
05.2	430 (years)	allow an answer between 420 and 440 (years)	1	AO2 4.4.2.3
05.3	430 (years) **or** their answer to question **05.2**	allow an answer between 420 and 440 (years)	1	AO1 4.4.2.3
Total			**4**	

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 29 · Mark scheme

June 2018 | 8463/1F | Original Q5



4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 30 · Mark scheme

November 2020 | 8463/1F | Original Q5

Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	radiotherapy		1	AO1 4.4.3.1
05.2	a neutron energy gamma rays	energy and gamma rays can score in reverse order	1 1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1
05.3	An alpha particle is the same as a helium nucleus.		1	AO1 4.4.2.2
05.4	24 000 (years)	allow an answer between 24 000 and 24 500 (years) inclusive	1	AO2 4.4.2.3
05.5	24 000 (years) **or** their **05.4**		1	AO1 4.4.2.3
05.6	Any **one** from: • irradiation • cancer • genetic damage • mutations to DNA / genes • radiation sickness / poisoning		1	AO3 4.4.3.3
Total			**8**	

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 31 · Mark scheme

November 2021 | 8463/1F | Original Q5

Question 5

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
05.1	atomic number		1	AO1 4.4.1.2
05.2	number of neutrons		1	AO1 4.4.1.2
05.3	Alpha		1	AO3 4.4.2.2 4.4.2.1
05.4	Beta		1	AO3 4.4.2.2
05.5	decrease increase	this order only	1 1	AO3 AO1 4.4.2.1
05.6	the time it takes for the count rate of a sample to halve		1	AO1 4.4.2.3
05.7	so the activity of the source is approximately constant		1	AO3 4.4.2.3
Total			**8**	

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 32 · Mark scheme

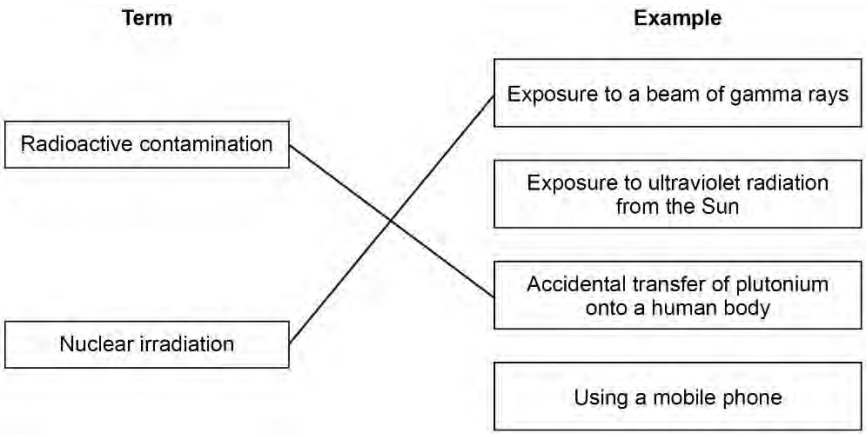
June 2023 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	protons neutrons	this order only	1 1	AO1 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	the time taken for half the nuclei in a sample to decay		1	AO1 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	carbon-18		1	AO3 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	 1 mark for each correct line additional line from a box on the left negates the mark for that box	1 1	AO1 4.4.2.4

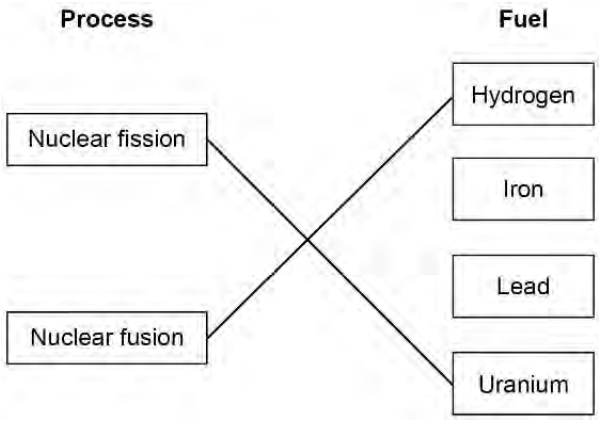
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 32 · Mark scheme

June 2023 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	to remove radioactive dust from their shoes		1	AO3 4.4.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	number of days = $\frac{0.072}{0.00050}$ number of days = 144		1 1	AO2 4.4.3.1

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.7	 1 mark for each correct line additional line from a box on the left negates the mark for that box	1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1 4.4.4.2

Total Question 3	11

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 33 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q6

Question 6

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.1	2 marks for 4 correct answers 1 mark for 2 or 3 correct answers	2	AO1 4.4.3.1

Source of background radiation	Natural	Man-made
Cosmic rays	✓	
Medical X-rays		✓
Nuclear accidents		✓
Radon gas	✓	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.2	rock **C**		1	AO1 4.4.2.1
	(because) alpha is stopped by (one sheet of) paper **or** (one sheet of) paper significantly decreased the radiation detected	MP2 dependent on scoring MP1 allow alpha is the least penetrating	1	

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.3	rock **A**		1	AO1 4.4.2.1
	(because) beta radiation is stopped by (a thick) aluminium (sheet) **or** the (thick) aluminium (sheet) significantly decreased the radiation detected	MP2 dependent on scoring MP1	1	

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 33 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q6

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.4	wearing protective gloves		1	AO3 4.4.2.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.5	the activity is half the original activity		1	AO3 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
06.6	the greater the activity, the greater the risk of harm		1	AO1 4.4.3.3

Total Question 6	9

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 34 · Mark scheme

June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q10

Question 10

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.1	nuclei neutrons gamma rays	this order only	1 1 1	AO1 4.4.4.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.2	energy = power × time **or** $E = P \times t$		1	AO1 4.2.4.2 4.1.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.3	P = 500 000 000 (W) E = 500 000 000 × 3600 E = 1 800 000 000 000 (J) **or** $E = 1.8 \times 10^{12}$ (J)	 allow a correct substitution of an incorrectly / not converted value of P allow an answer consistent with an incorrectly / not converted value of P	1 1 1	AO2 4.2.4.2 4.1.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.4	any **one** from: • bury the radioactive waste • put the radioactive waste in cooling ponds • transport the radioactive waste in secure vessels • store the radioactive waste in metal containers • cover the radioactive waste in concrete	allow store it for (at least) one half-life ignore references to high / medium / low level waste ignore label the waste as hazardous	1	AO3 4.4.2.4

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 34 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
10.5	number of days = $\frac{92}{100} \times 365$		1	AO2 4.1.3
	number of days = 335.8	allow answers of 335 and 336 days allow an answer of 29.2 (days) for 1 mark	1	

Total Question 10	**10**

Question 3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.1	$^{230}_{92}U \rightarrow {}^{226}_{90}Th + {}^{4}_{2}He$		1	AO1 4.4.2.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.2	20 (days)		1	AO3 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.3	20 (days)	allow ecf from question **03.2**	1	AO1 4.4.2.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.4	isotope **A** shortest half-life **or** decays quickest **or** graph is steepest (initially) **or** smallest percentage of atoms left (at any time after t = 0)	 MP2 dependent on MP1	1 1	AO3 4.4.2.1 4.4.2.3

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 35 · Mark scheme

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.5	**A**		1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.6	**D**		1	AO3 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.7	**B** and **C** same number of protons (and different number of neutrons)	 MP2 dependent on MP1 allow same atomic number ignore electrons	1 1	AO3 AO1 4.4.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.8	plum pudding model		1	AO1 4.4.1.3

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
03.9	the mass of the atom is concentrated in the nucleus		1	AO1 4.4.1.3

Total Question 3	**11**

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

Mark scheme June 2003

GCSE

Physics

3451

Foundation

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Kathleen Tattersall: *Director General*

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question;
- the total marks available for the question;
- the typical answer or answers which are expected;
- extra information to help the Examiner make his or her judgement and help to delineate what is acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in which a mark or marks may be awarded.

The extra information is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example:
where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation;
or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

2. Emboldening

2.1 In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following lines is a potential mark.

2.2 A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

2.3 Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **or**. (Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.)

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of Quality of Written Communication

Examiners are reminded of the need to assess QoWC by the following statement appearing in the appropriate parts of the mark scheme:

The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.

The maximum marks available to a candidate whose answer is not well expressed will be (the number of marks available –1).

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3.2 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Each error/contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of error/contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution? (1 mark)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	4,8	0
2	green, 5	0
3	red*, 5	1
4	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name two planets in the solar system. (2 marks)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	Pluto, Mars, Moon	1
2	Pluto, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.3 Use of chemical symbols/formulae

If a candidate writes a chemical symbol/formula instead of a required chemical name, full credit can be given if the symbol/formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.4 The marking of quantitative relationships

Full credit can be given for a correct quantitative relationship expressed in:

- named units;
- physical quantities;
- standard symbols;
- a combination of physical quantities and units.

No credit can be given for any quantitative relationship expressed in terms of:

- a combination of physical quantities, units and symbols;
- a diagram, e.g. the ohm's law triangle, unless the rest of the answer shows clearly that the candidate understands the relationships involved.

3.5 Marking procedure for calculations

3.5.1 Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, as shown in the column 'answers', without any working shown. However, if the answer is incorrect, mark(s) can be gained by correct substitution/working and this is shown in the 'extra information' column.

3.5.2 Where calculations are based on incorrectly recalled relationships, neither the incorrectly recalled relationship, nor the resulting calculation based on the incorrect relationship, will be credited.

3.6 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

3.7 Errors carried forward

There should be no error carried forward from a previous answer which has been based on wrong science. Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Examples

(a) A candidate who calculates average speed using speed = time/distance **and** then proceeds to use this incorrect answer to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship should be given credit for the use of the correct acceleration relationship but none for either numerical answer.

(b) A candidate who incorrectly calculates average speed using speed = distance/time and then proceeds to use this incorrect value to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship, should be given credit for the use of both correct quantitative relationships **and** for the correct substitution and use of the incorrect value in the calculation of the rate of acceleration.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward are kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation e.c.f. in the marking scheme.

3.8 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.9 Brackets

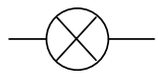
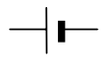
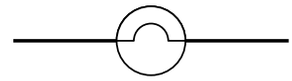
(…..) is used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.10 Unexpected Correct Answers not in the Mark Scheme

The Examiner should use professional judgement to award credit where a candidate has given an unexpected correct answer which is not covered by the mark scheme. The Examiner should consult with the Team Leader to confirm the judgement. The Team Leader should pass this answer on to the Principal Examiner with a view to informing all examiners.

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	circuit symbol for a lamp correct   circuit symbol for a cell correct	accept  accept any standard of drawing providing circuit would work	1 1
	2 lamps drawn in parallel with 3 cells	polarity of cells must be correct (+ to –) but cells may be either way around	1
(b)	4.5		1
(c)	the same as	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	gas		1
(b)	fuel burning stations produce electricity at any time / all the time wind generator can only produce when the wind is strong enough	accept fuel available all the time accept it's not always windy	1 1
(c)	no fuel is burnt **or** no fuel is used **or** uses only energy from wind **or** does not emit harmful gases / soot / smoke	do **not** accept wind is natural / environmentally friendly / renewable answer must be in terms of wind, **not** negative of fuel burning specific examples of gases CO_2, SO_2, acid rain and greenhouse gases can be accepted ozone negates credit	1
total			4

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	microwaves		1
(ii)	infra red		1
(iii)	ultrasonic		1
(b)(i)	B		1
(ii)	A		1
(c)	disturbance / vibration / movement	accept motion / force do **not** accept energy	1
	direction		1
(d)	sound wave	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	heat		1
(ii)	temperature increases **or** (cause) convection (currents)	accept gets warmer accept gets hotter	1
(iii)	60% **or** 0.6	60 without % scores **1** mark 0.6 with a unit scores **1** mark 60 with incorrect unit scores **1** mark **or** correct substitution $\frac{120}{200}$ for **1** mark	2
(b)	street more (energy transferred as) light **or** less (energy transferred as) heat **or** useful energy output the highest	 can only score this mark if first mark scored all efficiencies calculated correctly score 2nd mark point	1 1
total			6

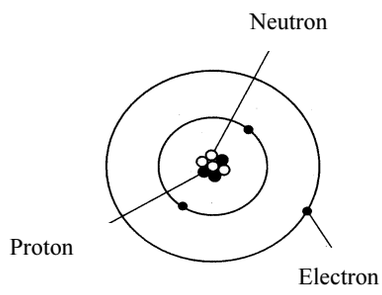
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	MN	accept 5.8, 8 seconds must include unit	1
(b)	LM	accept 0.8, 5.8 seconds must include unit	1
(c)(i)	0.8		1
(ii)	drinking alcohol		1
(d)	straight (by eye) line starting at 0.8 seconds line drawn steeper than LM starting before L	 ignore lines going beyond 2 seconds but line must exceed 2.5 metres per second before terminating	1 1
total			6

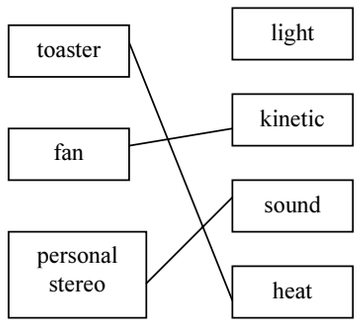
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	each correct label scores 1 mark  		3
(ii)	neutron		1
(iii)	7 number of protons and neutrons **or** number of nucleons **or** number of particles in the nucleus	 accept number of particles in the centre only if first answer = 7	1 1
(b)(i)	50 ± 5		1
(ii)	50 ± 5	accept their (b)(i)	1
(iii)	less	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
total			9

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	each correct line scores 1 mark  	if more than 3 lines are drawn mark incorrect ones first, to a maximum of 3 lines	3
(b)	toaster	accept 1.2 kW	1
(c)(i)	400		1
(ii)	£24 **or** 2400p	full credit for their (c)(i) × 6p for full credit the correct numerical answer must have the correct unit an answer of 24 or 2400 with no unit or the incorrect unit scores **1** mark (c)(i) × 6 incorrectly evaluated scores **1** mark	2
(d)	6	allow 6000 for **1** mark allow 3 × 2 for **1** mark	2
total			9

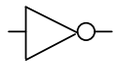
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	point where the rays cross	do not credit if ambiguous	1
(ii)	converging (lens)	do **not** accept convex	1
(b)(i)	point where the rays appear to diverge from	this should appear to be within 10mm in front of the back of the arrows on the approximate centre line need not be accurately constructed using a ruler	1
(ii)	diverging (lens)	do **not** accept concave	1
(c)	converging film smaller than nearer to	accept any clear indication of the correct response e.g. ticking, ringing, writing in after a mistake	1 1 1 1
(d)(i)	(image) bigger than object / enlarge	accept just 'made bigger'	1
(ii)	it / real image can be put on a screen **or** real image on the opposite side of the lens to the object	accept 'not an imaginary or virtual image' assume 'it' refers to a real image do **not** credit 'it can be seen'	1
(e)	**either** (the converging lens is) thick in the middle thin(ner) at the edge **or** (both) sides bend outwards (1) in the middle (1) **or** one side bends in the middle (1) more than the other side bends inwards (in the middle) (1)	thickest in the middle gains **2** marks convex gains **2** marks suitable diagrams gains **2** marks	1 1
total			12

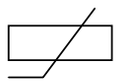
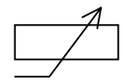
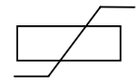
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	off off on	all correct	1
(ii)	AND (gate)	accept and (gate)	1
(iii)	on on on	all correct	1
(iv)	OR (gate)	accept or (gate)	1
(b)(i)	1 0 **or** 0 1 0 1 1 0	do **not** credit on / off responses	1
(ii)		accept mirror image accept  accept with either or both parts shaded accept line through as shading	1
(c)		accept off for 0 and on for 1 throughout	
	0 0	both correct	1
	0 1	both correct	1
	1 1	both correct	1
	1 1	both correct	1

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q9 continued

(d)(i)		accept mirror image **or** inverted do **not** credit  **or**  or similar	1
(ii)	resistance decreases / increases / changes current (through it) increases / decreases / changes **or** temperature changes / increases / decreases (1) resistance changes / decreases / increases (1) (NTC thermistor) both marks independent but must be compatible to score **2** marks	accept 'voltage across it decreases' for **2** marks but only if it is made clear that this refers to a thermistor in series	1 1
total			13

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	friction	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(ii)	gravity	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(b)(i)	accelerates **or** speed / velocity increases	accept faster and faster (**1** mark) do **not** accept faster pace / falls faster or suggestions of a greater but constant speed	1
	downwards / falls	accept towards the Earth / ground this may score in part (b)(ii) if it does not score here and there is no contradiction between the two parts	1
(ii)	constant speed / velocity **or** terminal velocity / speed **or** zero acceleration	stays in the same place negates credit	1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	X – mantle		1
	Y – inner core	do **not** accept solid core	1
(ii)	different to the crust **or** contains a lot of (heavy) metals	accept iron and nickel for metals	1
	higher (average) density **or** denser	density higher than 5500 (kg/m^3) gets **2** marks	1
(b)	animals were able to move from one continent to the other		1
	(when bridge broke) animals evolved differently	accept animals adapted differently	1
(c)(i)	earthquakes occur at the boundary between plates **or** earthquakes occur where plates push against each other		1
	there are no plate boundaries running through Britain	accept Britain is not near the edge of a plate	1
(ii)	convection currents (in the mantle) **or** heat released by (natural) radioactive processes		1
total			9

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	outside the Earth **or** not from the Earth	accept alien accept life from / on another planet / space accept our planet for Earth	1
(ii)	radio telescope(s)	do **not** accept telescopes do **not** accept satellite dishes do **not** accept radio receivers **or** transmitters	1
(b)(i)	galaxies	do **not** accept stars	1
(ii)	any **one** from: the pulses were regular pulses from space are usually random (scientists) thought technology had been used to produce the pulses neutron stars were unknown signals from a single point	 accept signals / beats for pulses accept noise for random pulses idea of regular but not continuous	1
(iii)	neutron star is (the matter / mass) left behind after a star / red giant explodes (as a super nova)	 accept after a super nova (explosion) neutron star causing super nova gets no credit	1 1
(c)(i)	carried on the balloon / equipment	accept carried by a rocket / aircraft / satellite birds negates credit	1
(ii)	on comets or meteors	accept meteorites / shooting stars accept returning space craft accept solar wind ignore asteroids accept ufo do **not** accept solar flares do **not** accept satellites	1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	silver is a (good) reflector of <u>heat</u> (radiation) **or** silver reflects the heat (radiation)	fact heat = infra red ignore references to light accept shiny for silver good radiator negates the mark ignore references to good conductor do **not** accept bounce back	1
	less heat is lost through the board **or** more heat is retained by the shirt	explanation accept both sides of shirt heated reflects heat back up gets **1** mark only ignore mention of friction	1
(b)	metal soleplate	accept soleplate / bottom / metal do **not** accept outside / case	1
(c)	plastic **or** rubber	accept any named plastic do **not** accept wood	1
	it is a (good) insulator **or** it is a poor conductor	ignore mention of heat if in conjunction with electricity	1
(d)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.*	*Maximum of **2** marks if ideas not well expressed.*	
	pulls iron bolt down **or** attracts the iron bolt **or** moves bolt out of plunger	answers in terms of charges attracting or repelling gain no credit	1
	plunger pushed / moved to the right (by spring) **or** plunger released		1
	push switch opens / goes to off / goes to right	accept circuit is broken for maximum credit the points must follow a logical sequence 3 correct points but incorrect sequence scores **2** marks only ignore reset action	1
total			8

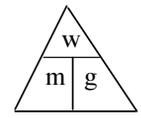
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q14

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	any **one** from: the ground the air radon (gas) building materials buildings rocks / granite food cosmic rays **or** solar rays X-rays nuclear weapons testing nuclear power stations / accidents	 do **not** accept mobile phones accept from outer space accept sun but **not** sunlight accept medical uses	1
(ii)	2	allow $\frac{1200}{60\times10}$ **or** $\frac{1200}{600}$ **or** 120 for **1** mark	2
(b)	 alpha: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the card **or** the card absorbs alphas but not betas beta: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the metal **or** the thin metal absorbs alphas and betas **or** the thin metal absorbs all of the radiation (from the source) gamma: would pass through the thin metal but count rate is background **or** no radiation passing through **or** a higher reading would be recorded **or** to reduce the count to 2 would require much more than 3 mm of metal	answers must be comparative accept converse answers throughout accept paper for the card accept aluminium for the metal accept aluminium for the metal accept lead / aluminium for the metal	 1 1 1
total			6

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q15

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	weight = mass × g.f.s.	accept w = m × g accept gravity for gfs accept  provided subsequent use of Δ correct do **not** accept N = kg × N/kg	1
(ii)	675	75 × 9 for **1** mark	2
(iii)	g.(f.s.) is higher (on Earth than Venus)	accept gravity for g.f.s. do **not** accept g.f.s. is lower unless answer states on Venus	1
(iv)	orbit time for Jupiter is <u>longer</u> / longest (than for the other planets)	do **not** give any credit for an answer that includes a comparison of diameter **or** a comparison of g.f.s.	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.* any **two** from: dust <u>and</u> gas **or** remnants of a super nova pulled together by (force of) <u>gravity</u> nuclear fusion starts	*Maximum of **1** mark if ideas not well expressed.* accept hydrogen for dust and gas do **not** accept hydrogen burns although candidates may include more detail these points are essential to score the credit	2
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q16

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	upright with the contacts at the bottom and still in place and unbent	no need for labels but incorrect label(s) cancel the mark accept a freehand drawing no need for details such as correct dimensions	1
	one blob of mercury touching <u>both</u> contacts	do **not** award mark if contacts bent to touch	1
(b)(i)	(X is a) battery	do **not** credit cell accept (set of) cells accept power supply do **not** accept power pack	1
	(Y is a) LED	**or** light emitting diode	1
(ii)	longer (time)	do **not** accept 'slower time'	1
(iii)	any **two** from: current less (so) rate of flow of charge less **or** less coulombs per second (so) discharge is slower	 do **not** accept current slower accept capacitor has charge for longer **or** charge lasts longer **or** (so total of) electrons take longer to travel round circuit	2
(c)	4200	translation correct (= 4000) but percentage addition incorrect gains **1** mark translation incorrect but 5% addition is correct gains **1** mark accept 422.1 **or** 42.2 **or** 6.3 for **1** mark	2
	ohms **or** Ω	4.2 kilohms **or** 4.2 kΩ gains all **3** marks	1
total			10

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q17

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	point at which its mass (seems to) act **or** point at which gravity (seems to) act	accept …its weight acts accept correct statements if the intent is clear e.g. … if suspended, the centre of gravity will be directly under the point of suspension e.g. … (if the object is symmetrical), the centre of gravity is on the **or** an axis (of symmetry) do **not** credit just 'it is a point'	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.* any **five** from: clamp (steel) rod (horizontally) hang plastic / sheet by rod through (one) hole hang plumb line from rod mark ends of plumb line on the sheet and use the ruler to draw a straight line repeat with other hole centre of mass is where the lines cross check by balancing at this point	*maximum of **4** marks if ideas not well expressed* **no** marks if method quite unworkable maximum of **3** marks if no 'repeat with other hole'	5
(c)(i)	(turning) effect **or** moment force distance	all three correct accept weight accept length	1
(ii)	17.6 Nm **or** newton metre(s)	allow 44 × 0.4 **or** 0.4 × 44 for **1** mark do **not** accept N/m **or** N/cm 1760 Ncm gains all **3** marks	2 1
total			10

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

Mark scheme June 2003

GCSE

Science: Double Award Co-ordinated

3462

Paper 3F

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Kathleen Tattersall: *Director General*

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question;
- the total marks available for the question;
- the typical answer or answers which are expected;
- extra information to help the Examiner make his or her judgement and help to delineate what is acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in which a mark or marks may be awarded.

The extra information is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example:
where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation;
or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

2. Emboldening

2.1 In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following lines is a potential mark.

2.2 A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

2.3 Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **or**. (Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.)

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of Quality of Written Communication

Examiners are reminded of the need to assess QoWC by the following statement appearing in the appropriate parts of the mark scheme:

The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.

The maximum marks available to a candidate whose answer is not well expressed will be (the number of marks available –1).

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3.2 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

Each error/contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of error/contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution? (1 mark)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	4,8	0
2	green, 5	0
3	red*, 5	1
4	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name two planets in the solar system. (2 marks)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	Pluto, Mars, Moon	1
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3.3 Use of chemical symbols/formulae

If a candidate writes a chemical symbol/formula instead of a required chemical name, full credit can be given if the symbol/formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.4 The marking of quantitative relationships

Full credit can be given for a correct quantitative relationship expressed in:

- named units;
- physical quantities;
- standard symbols;
- a combination of physical quantities and units.

No credit can be given for any quantitative relationship expressed in terms of:

- a combination of physical quantities, units and symbols;
- a diagram, e.g. the ohm's law triangle, unless the rest of the answer shows clearly that the candidate understands the relationships involved.

3.5 Marking procedure for calculations

3.5.1 Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, as shown in the column 'answers', without any working shown. However, if the answer is incorrect, mark(s) can be gained by correct substitution/working and this is shown in the 'extra information' column.

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3.5.2 Where calculations are based on incorrectly recalled relationships, neither the incorrectly recalled relationship, nor the resulting calculation based on the incorrect relationship, will be credited.

3.6 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

3.7 Errors carried forward

There should be no error carried forward from a previous answer which has been based on wrong science. Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Examples

(a) A candidate who calculates average speed using speed = time/distance **and** then proceeds to use this incorrect answer to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship should be given credit for the use of the correct acceleration relationship but none for either numerical answer.

(b) A candidate who incorrectly calculates average speed using speed = distance/time and then proceeds to use this incorrect value to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship, should be given credit for the use of both correct quantitative relationships **and** for the correct substitution and use of the incorrect value in the calculation of the rate of acceleration.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward are kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation e.c.f. in the marking scheme.

3.8 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.9 Brackets

(…..) is used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

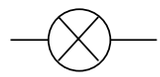
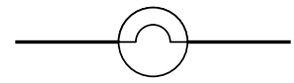
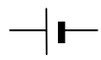
3.10 Unexpected Correct Answers not in the Mark Scheme

The Examiner should use professional judgement to award credit where a candidate has given an unexpected correct answer which is not covered by the mark scheme. The Examiner should consult with the Team Leader to confirm the judgement. The Team Leader should pass this answer on to the Principal Examiner with a view to informing all examiners.

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Double Award
Foundation Tier 3462/3F

3462/3F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	circuit symbol for a lamp correct 	accept  accept any standard of drawing providing circuit would work	1
	circuit symbol for a cell correct 		1
	2 lamps drawn in parallel with 3 cells	polarity of cells must be correct (+ to –) but cells may be either way around	1
(b)	4.5		1
(c)	the same as	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	gas		1
(b)	fuel burning stations produce electricity at any time / all the time wind generator can only produce when the wind is strong enough	accept fuel available all the time accept it's not always windy	1 1
(c)	no fuel is burnt **or** no fuel is used **or** uses only energy from wind **or** does not emit harmful gases / soot / smoke	do **not** accept wind is natural / environmentally friendly / renewable answer must be in terms of wind, **not** negative of fuel burning specific examples of gases CO_2, SO_2, acid rain and greenhouse gases can be accepted ozone negates credit	1
total			4

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	microwaves		1
(ii)	infra red		1
(iii)	ultrasonic		1
(b)(i)	B		1
(ii)	A		1
(c)	disturbance / vibration / movement direction	accept motion / force do **not** accept energy	1 1
(d)	sound wave	accept any clear indication of the correct answer	1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	heat		1
(ii)	temperature increases **or** (cause) convection (currents)	accept gets warmer accept gets hotter	1
(iii)	60% **or** 0.6	60 without % scores **1** mark 0.6 with a unit scores **1** mark 60 with incorrect unit scores **1** mark **or** correct substitution $\frac{120}{200}$ for **1** mark	2
(b)	street more (energy transferred as) light **or** less (energy transferred as) heat **or** useful energy output the highest	 can only score this mark if first mark scored all efficiencies calculated correctly score 2nd mark point	1 1
total			6

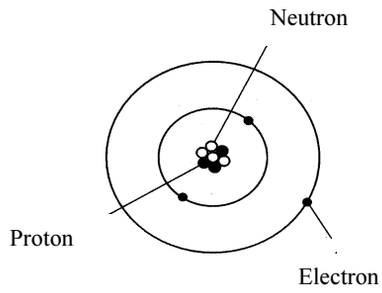
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	MN	accept 5.8, 8 seconds must include unit	1
(b)	LM	accept 0.8, 5.8 seconds must include unit	1
(c)(i)	0.8		1
(ii)	drinking alcohol		1
(d)	straight (by eye) line starting at 0.8 seconds line drawn steeper than LM starting before L	 ignore lines going beyond 2 seconds but line must exceed 2.5 metres per second before terminating	1 1
total			6

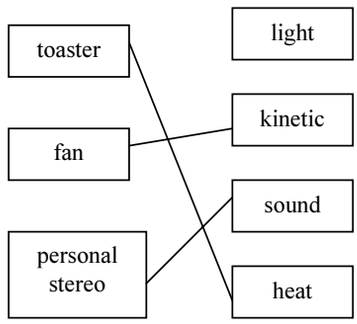
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	each correct label scores 1 mark  		3
(ii)	neutron		1
(iii)	7 number of protons and neutrons **or** number of nucleons **or** number of particles in the nucleus	 accept number of particles in the centre only if first answer = 7	1 1
(b)(i)	50 ± 5		1
(ii)	50 ± 5	accept their (b)(i)	1
(iii)	less	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
total			9

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	each correct line scores 1 mark  	if more than 3 lines are drawn mark incorrect ones first, to a maximum of 3 lines	3
(b)	toaster	accept 1.2 kW	1
(c)(i)	400		1
(ii)	£24 **or** 2400p	full credit for their (c)(i) × 6p for full credit the correct numerical answer must have the correct unit an answer of 24 or 2400 with no unit or the incorrect unit scores **1** mark (c)(i) × 6 incorrectly evaluated scores **1** mark	2
(d)	6	allow 6000 for **1** mark allow 3 × 2 for **1** mark	2
total			9

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	friction	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(ii)	gravity	accept any way of indicating the correct answer	1
(b)(i)	accelerates **or** speed / velocity increases	accept faster and faster (**1** mark) do **not** accept faster pace / falls faster or suggestions of a greater but constant speed	1
	downwards / falls	accept towards the Earth / ground this may score in part (b)(ii) if it does not score here and there is no contradiction between the two parts	1
(ii)	constant speed / velocity **or** terminal velocity / speed **or** zero acceleration	stays in the same place negates credit	1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	X – mantle		1
	Y – inner core	do **not** accept solid core	1
(ii)	different to the crust **or** contains a lot of (heavy) metals	accept iron and nickel for metals	1
	higher (average) density **or** denser	density higher than 5500 (kg/m^3) gets **2** marks	1
(b)	animals were able to move from one continent to the other		1
	(when bridge broke) animals evolved differently	accept animals adapted differently	1
(c)(i)	earthquakes occur at the boundary between plates **or** earthquakes occur where plates push against each other		1
	there are no plate boundaries running through Britain	accept Britain is not near the edge of a plate	1
(ii)	convection currents (in the mantle) **or** heat released by (natural) radioactive processes		1
total			9

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	outside the Earth **or** not from the Earth	accept alien accept life from / on another planet / space accept our planet for Earth	1
(ii)	radio telescope(s)	do **not** accept telescopes do **not** accept satellite dishes do **not** accept radio receivers **or** transmitters	1
(b)(i)	galaxies	do **not** accept stars	1
(ii)	any **one** from: the pulses were regular pulses from space are usually random (scientists) thought technology had been used to produce the pulses neutron stars were unknown signals from a single point	 accept signals / beats for pulses accept noise for random pulses idea of regular but not continuous	1
(iii)	neutron star is (the matter / mass) left behind after a star / red giant explodes (as a super nova)	 accept after a super nova (explosion) neutron star causing super nova gets no credit	1 1
(c)(i)	carried on the balloon / equipment	accept carried by a rocket / aircraft / satellite birds negates credit	1
(ii)	on comets or meteors	accept meteorites / shooting stars accept returning space craft accept solar wind ignore asteroids accept ufo do **not** accept solar flares do **not** accept satellites	1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	silver is a (good) reflector of <u>heat</u> (radiation) **or** silver reflects the heat (radiation)	fact heat = infra red ignore references to light accept shiny for silver good radiator negates the mark ignore references to good conductor do **not** accept bounce back	1
	less heat is lost through the board **or** more heat is retained by the shirt	explanation accept both sides of shirt heated reflects heat back up gets **1** mark only ignore mention of friction	1
(b)	metal soleplate	accept soleplate / bottom / metal do **not** accept outside / case	1
(c)	plastic **or** rubber	accept any named plastic do **not** accept wood	1
	it is a (good) insulator **or** it is a poor conductor	ignore mention of heat if in conjunction with electricity	1
(d)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.*	*Maximum of **2** marks if ideas not well expressed.*	
	pulls iron bolt down **or** attracts the iron bolt **or** moves bolt out of plunger	answers in terms of charges attracting or repelling gain no credit	1
	plunger pushed / moved to the right (by spring) **or** plunger released		1
	push switch opens / goes to off / goes to right	accept circuit is broken for maximum credit the points must follow a logical sequence 3 correct points but incorrect sequence scores **2** marks only ignore reset action	1
total			8

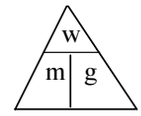
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	any **one** from:		1
	the ground	do **not** accept mobile phones	
	the air		
	radon (gas)		
	building materials		
	buildings		
	rocks / granite		
	food		
	cosmic rays **or** solar rays	accept from outer space accept sun but **not** sunlight	
	X-rays	accept medical uses	
	nuclear weapons testing		
	nuclear power stations / accidents		
(ii)	2	allow $\frac{1200}{60\times10}$ **or** $\frac{1200}{600}$ **or** 120 for **1** mark	2
(b)		answers must be comparative accept converse answers throughout	
	alpha: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the card **or** the card absorbs alphas but not betas	accept paper for the card	1
	beta: the count rate is (greatly) reduced by the metal **or** the thin metal absorbs alphas and betas **or** the thin metal absorbs all of the radiation (from the source)	accept aluminium for the metal	1
	gamma: would pass through the thin metal but count rate is background **or** no radiation passing through **or** a higher reading would be recorded **or** to reduce the count to 2 would require much more than 3 mm of metal	accept aluminium for the metal accept lead / aluminium for the metal	1
total			6

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	weight = mass × g.f.s.	accept w = m × g accept gravity for gfs accept  provided subsequent use of Δ correct do **not** accept N = kg × N/kg	1
(ii)	675	75 × 9 for **1** mark	2
(iii)	g.(f.s.) is higher (on Earth than Venus)	accept gravity for g.f.s. do **not** accept g.f.s. is lower unless answer states on Venus	1
(iv)	orbit time for Jupiter is <u>longer</u> / longest (than for the other planets)	do **not** give any credit for an answer that includes a comparison of diameter **or** a comparison of g.f.s.	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication** *The answer to this question requires ideas in good English in a sensible order with correct use of scientific terms. Quality of written communication should be considered in crediting points in the mark scheme.* any **two** from: dust <u>and</u> gas **or** remnants of a super nova pulled together by (force of) <u>gravity</u> nuclear fusion starts	*Maximum of **1** mark if ideas not well expressed.* accept hydrogen for dust and gas do **not** accept hydrogen burns although candidates may include more detail these points are essential to score the credit	2
total			7

GCSE 2004
June Series

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

Mark Scheme

Physics Specification B
3451/F

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

GCSE PHYSICS

INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question;
- the total marks available for the question;
- the typical answer or answers which are expected;
- extra information to help the Examiner make his or her judgement and help to delineate what is acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in which a mark or marks may be awarded.

The extra information is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example:
where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation;
or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

2. Emboldening

2.1 In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following lines is a potential mark.

2.2 A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

2.3 Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **or**. (Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.)

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of Quality of Written Communication

Where *Quality of written communication* appears in the mark scheme, one mark is to be awarded for either of the following points:

- Using correct scientific terms
- Correct sequencing or linking of ideas or points

The mark scheme will specify which of the points is to be awarded in a particular question. A QoWC mark can be awarded for a scientific answer, even if it is not accurate. It cannot be awarded for a nonsensical or non-scientific answer.
On the script, the QoWC tick should be identified by a 'q' written next to it.

3.2 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Each error/contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of error/contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution? (1 mark)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	4,8	0
2	green, 5	0
3	red*, 5	1
4	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name two planets in the solar system. (2 marks)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	Pluto, Mars, Moon	1
2	Pluto, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.3 Use of chemical symbols/formulae

If a candidate writes a chemical symbol/formula instead of a required chemical name, full credit can be given if the symbol/formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.4 The marking of quantitative relationships

Full credit can be given for a correct quantitative relationship expressed in:

- named units;
- physical quantities;
- standard symbols;
- a combination of physical quantities and units.

No credit can be given for any quantitative relationship expressed in terms of:

- a combination of physical quantities, units and symbols;
- a diagram, e.g. the ohm's law triangle, unless the rest of the answer shows clearly that the candidate understands the relationships involved.

3.5 Marking procedure for calculations

3.5.1 Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, as shown in the column 'answers', without any working shown.
However:

- if the answer is incorrect, mark(s) can be gained by correct substitution/working and this is shown in the 'extra information' column;
- if the answer is correct, but an incorrect relationship is written in the working, then no marks can be awarded (see 3.5.2).

3.5.2 Where calculations are based on incorrectly recalled relationships, neither the incorrectly recalled relationship, nor the resulting calculation based on the incorrect relationship, will be credited.

3.6 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3.7 Errors carried forward

There should be no error carried forward from a previous answer which has been based on wrong science. Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Examples

(a) A candidate who calculates average speed using speed = time/distance **and** then proceeds to use this incorrect answer to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship should be given credit for the use of the correct acceleration relationship but none for either numerical answer.

(b) A candidate who incorrectly calculates average speed using speed = distance/time and then proceeds to use this incorrect value to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship, should be given credit for the use of both correct quantitative relationships **and** for the correct substitution and use of the incorrect value in the calculation of the rate of acceleration.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward are kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation e.c.f. in the marking scheme.

3.8 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.9 Brackets

(…..) is used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.10 Interpretation of marginal points

There will be times when the answer is almost, but not quite, correct. Some examiners would award a mark while others would not. In any one script, an attempt should be made to balance these nearly correct answers by giving the mark on some occasions but not on others. If this is not done, the marking would end up being too lenient or too harsh.

3.11 Unexpected Correct Answers not in the Mark Scheme

The Examiner should use professional judgement to award credit where a candidate has given an unexpected correct answer which is not covered by the mark scheme. The Examiner should consult with the Team Leader to confirm the judgement. The Team Leader should pass this answer on to the Principal Examiner with a view to informing all examiners.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

GCSE Physics
Foundation Tier 3451/F

3451F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	comet	correct order only	1
	elliptical		1
	Milky Way		1
	Universe		1
(b)(i)	D A C B	allow **2** marks for two letters in the correct place allow **1** mark for one letter in the correct place	3
(ii)	A		1
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	95		1
(b)	alpha	accept correct symbol	1
(c)	any **two** from: • radiation is outside the body • radiation will not reach (living) cells • radiation absorbed by the air	 accept detector is on ceiling or high up the wall accept radiation cannot pass through the body / skin accept cannot pass through the plastic casing do **not** accept because it is alpha radiation – unless qualified do **not** accept does not give off harmful substance do **not** accept cannot pass through building materials etc.	2
(d)	less (than)		1
total			5

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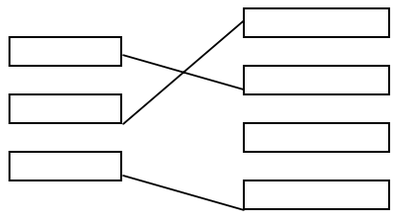
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	generator	accept dynamo accept alternator	1
(b)(i)	1400	ignore units	1
(ii)	0.3 or 30%	any incorrect unit penalise **1** mark allow **1** mark for the correct use of 600 **or** 0.3% **or** 30	2
(c)	**1** mark for each correct link 	if more than 3 lines are drawn, mark only 3 lines starting with those that are incorrect	3
(d)(i)	110	no tolerance	1
(ii)	12	no tolerance	1
(iii)	wind speed may be too low to operate the generator	accept wind may not always blow accept power depends on wind speed accept does not generate if wind speed is too high accept does not generate if wind speed is above 12 (m/s) accept does not generate if wind speed is below 1.6 (m/s) accept it is unreliable do **not** accept answers referring to cost only	1
total			10

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	B E A D	allow **1** mark for each letter in the correct place, to a maximum of **3** marks	3
(b)	(a spark) may cause the (petrol vapour) to explode / ignite	accept petrol for (petrol vapour) accept catch fire for explode	1
	connect tanker to earth with a (conducting) wire / chain **or** earth the tanker	accept ground for earth	1
(c)	**Quality of written communication**	for a logical sequence	1
	any **two** from:		2
	• when current greater than fuse rating / value	accept when current too great for appliance do **not** accept 'if there is too much current' do **not** accept voltage or electricity	
	• fuse (becomes hot and) melts / burns out	accept fuse blows / breaks	
	• circuit is broken	accept circuit switched off this cannot score credit on its own	
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	crust		1
(ii)	inner core is <u>solid</u> outer core is liquid	do **not** accept just rock inner core is denser / hotter than outer core gets **2** marks accept one is solid and one is liquid for **1** mark accept they are different densities for **1** mark wrong way round = **0** marks	1 1
(b)	seismograph		1
(c)	difficult to measure (slow) movement (1) of plates (1) dependent mark **or** difficult to measure friction / forces (1) between plates (1) dependent mark		1 1
(d)	geothermal		1
(e)(i)	5000		1
(ii)	2500		1
total			9

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q6

	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	converging image object image object shorter		1 1 1 1 1 1
(b)(i)	(Earth's) gravity	accept centripetal accept minor misspellings, however, do **not** credit any response which could be 'centrifugal'	1
(ii)	to(wards) (the centre of the) Earth	allow inwards do **not** accept downwards	1
(c)(i)	**either** friction (force) **or** centripetal force between the tyres / wheels and (the surface of) the road	 allow grip allow on the tyres / wheels **or** towards the centre of the bend / arc / circle	 1 1
(ii)	mass **or** speed **or** momentum radius / diameter	allow weight allow velocity do **not** credit 'curvature' or 'circumference'	1 1
(d)	centripetal	accept minor misspellings (see above)	1
total			13

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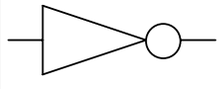
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q7

	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	two switches in series **and** circuit complete	ignore small imperfections	1
(ii)	two switches in parallel **and** circuit complete	ignore small imperfections	1
(iii)	one switch in parallel with the cell / lamp (but **not** both)	ignore small imperfections	1
(iv)	(i) AND (ii) OR (iii) NOT	accept 'and' accept 'or' accept 'not'	1 1 1
(b)(i)	when it is light the sensor sends on / high / 1 signal to the gate off / low / 0 sent to the lamp **or** when it is dark the sensor sends off / low / 0 signal to the gate (1) on / high / 1 sent to the lamp (1)		1 1
(ii)	any suitable application	e.g. to switch a security light on (and off) e.g. to switch a light on when it is dark do **not** credit just '… to switch a light on / off'	1
(c)(i)		accept shading-in of either or both parts end connections are not required accept any orientation	1
(ii)	1 0 **or** 0 1 0 1 1 0	all correct	1
(iii)	truth (table)		1
total			12

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	60		1
(b)	$5\frac{1}{2}$ hours	must include unit	1
(c)	30		1
(d)	30 minutes or $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	must include unit	1
(e)	D **and** E least steep part of the graph	accept finish for E accept correct numbers from axes with units accept covers smallest distance in a set time accept only moves 5 km in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (accept anything between 5 and 6) ignore horse is tired	1 1
total			6

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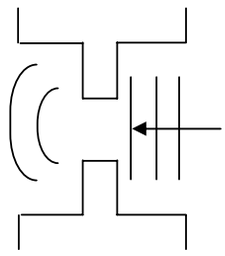
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	any **one** from: • (doctors) to see inside a patients body **or** endoscope • telephone cables • optical fibre / fibre optic lamps **or** (artificial) Christmas trees • data transfer **or** internet connection	 accept keyhole surgery do **not** accept flex **or** wires for cable accept decorative / ornamental lighting accept any feasible practical suggestion for taking light to a difficult to access place do **not** accept lighting unqualified do **not** accept lamp unqualified do **not** accept communications unless clarified	1
(ii)	(incident) ray angle greater than critical angle total internal reflection occurs	either order accept (incident) ray greater than 42° accept TIR do **not** accept just description of TIR	1 1
(b)(i)	waves shown diffracting in the correct direction 	ignore wavelength	1
(ii)	diffraction	accept diffract / diffracted	1
total			5

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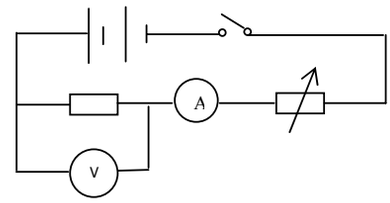
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	all symbols correct	 accept push switch symbol switch may be open or closed any lines through symbols = **0** marks	1
	correct circuit drawn voltmeter must be across resistor only	polarity of cells not relevant provided they are joined correctly two cells are required in the diagram ignore the order of the components allow small gaps in circuit omission of any component = **0** marks	1
(b)(i)	potential difference = current × resistance	accept voltage or p.d. for potential difference accept $V = I \times R$ accept  provided subsequent use correct do **not** accept C for current	1
(ii)	2	allow **1** mark for correct substitution wrong working loses both marks	2
(iii)	straight line drawn <u>through the origin</u> straight line passes through $I = 0.4, V =$ their (b)(ii) / 2 **and** 0.0	judge by eye this mark may be awarded if all points shown including these points are correct even if no line is drawn N.B. a curve scores **0** marks	1 1 dep
(c)	temperature <u>increases</u>	accept filament lamp / it gets <u>hotter</u> allow heat for temperature	1
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	gamma rays	accept gamma accept correct symbol	1
(ii)	infra red	accept IR	1
(b)	ultraviolet <u>absorbed</u> by ink (energy) given out as light	 accept glows / luminous accept for **both** marks the ink is fluorescent do **not** accept answers in terms of uv being reflected	1 1
(c)	any **two** from: • UV can damage / kill / ionise / alter (normal) cells • change DNA structure **or** mutate • (normal) cells may become cancerous	 do **not** accept attacks cells **or** burns skin accept may cause (skin) cancer accept abnormal cell multiplication	2
(d)(i)	microwaves **and** infra red	both answers needed in either order do **not** accept heat for IR	1
(ii)	0.9	allow **1** mark for the <u>correct</u> use of 1.8 (kW) ($1.8 \times \frac{1}{2}$ or 1.8×30) i.e. adding the correct 2 power values	2
total			9

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	accelerating	accept getting faster accept speed / velocity increasing	1
(ii)	acceleration <u>increases</u>	accept velocity / speed increases <u>more</u> rapidly do **not** accept velocity / speed increases	1
(b)(i)	$\text{acceleration} = \frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{time (taken)}}$	accept $a = \frac{v - u}{t}$ **or** $a = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{t}$ do **not** accept velocity for change in velocity do **not** accept change in speed do **not** accept $a = \frac{v}{t}$	1
(ii)	15	allow **1** mark for an answer of 900 **or** for <u>correct</u> use of 540 seconds	2
(iii)	velocity includes direction	accept velocity is a vector (quantity) accept converse answer	1
(c)	force of gravity (between <u>shuttle</u> and Earth) plus correct orbital speed (makes <u>shuttle</u> move in a curve)	accept gravitational pull if used correctly accept forward motion **or** constant speed for orbital speed accept it is travelling fast enough accept for **2** marks the force of gravity provides the <u>centripetal</u> force	1 1
(d)	black is a good emitter of radiation **or** to limit the temperature rise inside the shuttle	accept heat for radiation accept the tiles are good insulation do **not** accept black absorbs heat on its own do **not** accept tiles are heat proof	1
total			9

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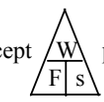
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	work (done) = force (applied) × distance (moved)	accept W = F × s or W = F × d accept  provided subsequent method is correct	1
(ii)	240 000 joules	allow **1** mark for correct substitution **or** correct use of 1200 (N) accept J do **not** accept j / Nm	2 1
(b)	800 (watts)	accept 0.8 kW accept their (a)(ii) ÷ 300 correctly evaluated for **2** marks allow **1** mark for correct substitution (a)(ii) ÷ 5 correctly evaluated for **1** mark	2
(c)(i)	any **one** from: • needs to raise the chair / lift • lifting more than one chair • energy transfer to the surroundings correctly qualified	 allow lifting more than 2 people implication of a heavier weight accept loss for transfer do **not** accept motor inefficient do **not** accept motor gets hot do **not** accept friction unless the location is specified as external to the motor	1
(ii)	electrical potential	accept electric **both** answers required for the mark	1
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q14

	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	current		1
(ii)	resistance decreases	 accept 'the flow of electrons / current (through it) increases' for **1** mark do **not** credit just '… it will get warmer'	1 1
(b)	input sensor → controlled by the processor processor → detects changes in the environment output device → decides what action is needed	all pairs correct one pair correct for **1** mark	2
(c)(i)	potential divider	accept voltage divider	1
(ii)	4 (volts)	$6 \times \frac{30}{45}$ for **1** mark	2
(iii)	across the new resistor…(will) increase across R_2 … (will) decrease	 N.B. independent marks	1 1
total			10

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q15

	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	relay (normally open) (switch)	each mark is independent	1
	… switch on a (larger) current (in another circuit) **or** switch on a higher voltage circuit	do **not** accept switch on another circuit **or** smaller / equal current	1
	light emitting diode / LED	do **not** credit LDR	1
	… in one / direct / certain direction **or** from left to right	**or** when the cathode is connected to the negative terminal / side **or** when the left-hand side is connected to the positive terminal / side do **not** credit just '… is big enough' do **not** accept 'positive direction'	1
	AND gate	accept 'and' gate do **not** accept numerical values unless expanded	1
	… (both) inputs are on / high / 1 **or** current flows in both inputs		1
(b)	**Quality of written communication**	If in a sensible order which clearly indicates advantages or disadvantages, including answers in the form of a table **or** as bullet points Q ✓ Q X	1
	any **three** from: • advantage of mobile phones • drawback of mobile phones • benefit of the Internet • drawback of the Internet	 e.g. more convenient for service engineers e.g. calls can be received away from base e.g. privacy can be more easily invaded e.g. drivers can be distracted e.g. microwaves / radio waves can / may cause damage to the brain e.g. access to educational material e.g. some material is salacious e.g. spam (on external e-mail) these are examples candidates may be credited for a variety of responses	3
total			10

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451F Q16

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	**Y** and **Z**		1
	they have the same number of protons **or** same atomic number	accept they have the same number of electrons **or** same number of protons **and** electrons allow only different in number of neutrons N.B. independent marks	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication**	for correct use of terms underlined in B **or** C Q ✓ Q X	1
	A – alpha particle passes straight through the empty space of the atom **or** it is a long way from the nucleus B – alpha particle <u>deflected</u> / <u>repelled</u> / <u>repulsed</u> by the (positive) <u>nucleus</u>	describes 3 tracks correctly for **2** marks describes 2 or 1 track correctly for **1** mark	max 2
	C – alpha particle heading straight for the <u>nucleus</u> is <u>deflected</u> / <u>repelled</u> / <u>repulsed</u> backwards	do **not** accept hits the nucleus do **not** accept answers referring to refraction do **not** accept answers in terms of reflected backwards unless qualified in terms of repulsion mention of difference in charge on nucleus negates that track	
total			5

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GCSE 2004
June Series

ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

Mark Scheme

Science: Double Award
Specification B (Co-ordinated)
3462/3F

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

SCIENCE: DOUBLE AWARD CO-ORDINATED

INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS

1. General

The mark scheme for each question shows:

- the marks available for each part of the question;
- the total marks available for the question;
- the typical answer or answers which are expected;
- extra information to help the Examiner make his or her judgement and help to delineate what is acceptable or not worthy of credit or, in discursive answers, to give an overview of the area in which a mark or marks may be awarded.

The extra information is aligned to the appropriate answer in the left-hand part of the mark scheme and should only be applied to that item in the mark scheme.

At the beginning of a part of a question a reminder may be given, for example:
where consequential marking needs to be considered in a calculation;
or the answer may be on the diagram or at a different place on the script.

In general the right hand side of the mark scheme is there to provide those extra details which confuse the main part of the mark scheme yet may be helpful in ensuring that marking is straightforward and consistent.

2. Emboldening

2.1 In a list of acceptable answers where more than one mark is available 'any **two** from' is used, with the number of marks emboldened. Each of the following lines is a potential mark.

2.2 A bold **and** is used to indicate that both parts of the answer are required to award the mark.

2.3 Alternative answers acceptable for a mark are indicated by the use of **or**. (Different terms in the mark scheme are shown by a / ; e.g. allow smooth / free movement.)

3. Marking points

3.1 Marking of Quality of Written Communication

Where *Quality of written communication* appears in the mark scheme, one mark is to be awarded for either of the following points:

- Using correct scientific terms
- Correct sequencing or linking of ideas or points

The mark scheme will specify which of the points is to be awarded in a particular question. A QoWC mark can be awarded for a scientific answer, even if it is not accurate. It cannot be awarded for a nonsensical or non-scientific answer.
On the script, the QoWC tick should be identified by a 'q' written next to it.

3.2 Marking of lists

This applies to questions requiring a set number of responses, but for which candidates have provided extra responses. The general principle to be followed in such a situation is that 'right + wrong = wrong'.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Each error/contradiction negates each correct response. So, if the number of error/contradictions equals or exceeds the number of marks available for the question, no marks can be awarded.

However, responses considered to be neutral (indicated as * in example 1) are not penalised.

Example 1: What is the pH of an acidic solution? (1 mark)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	4,8	0
2	green, 5	0
3	red*, 5	1
4	red*, 8	0

Example 2: Name two planets in the solar system. (2 marks)

Candidate	Response	Marks awarded
1	Pluto, Mars, Moon	1
2	Pluto, Sun, Mars, Moon	0

3.3 Use of chemical symbols/formulae

If a candidate writes a chemical symbol/formula instead of a required chemical name, full credit can be given if the symbol/formula is correct and if, in the context of the question, such action is appropriate.

3.4 The marking of quantitative relationships

Full credit can be given for a correct quantitative relationship expressed in:

- named units;
- physical quantities;
- standard symbols;
- a combination of physical quantities and units.

No credit can be given for any quantitative relationship expressed in terms of:

- a combination of physical quantities, units and symbols;
- a diagram, e.g. the ohm's law triangle, unless the rest of the answer shows clearly that the candidate understands the relationships involved.

3.5 Marking procedure for calculations

3.5.1 Full marks can be given for a correct numerical answer, as shown in the column 'answers', without any working shown.
However:

- if the answer is incorrect, mark(s) can be gained by correct substitution/working and this is shown in the 'extra information' column;
- if the answer is correct, but an incorrect relationship is written in the working, then no marks can be awarded (see 3.5.2).

3.5.2 Where calculations are based on incorrectly recalled relationships, neither the incorrectly recalled relationship, nor the resulting calculation based on the incorrect relationship, will be credited.

3.6 Interpretation of 'it'

Answers using the word 'it' should be given credit only if it is clear that the 'it' refers to the correct subject.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3.7 Errors carried forward

There should be no error carried forward from a previous answer which has been based on wrong science. Any error in the answers to a structured question should be penalised once only.

Examples

(a) A candidate who calculates average speed using speed = time/distance **and** then proceeds to use this incorrect answer to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship should be given credit for the use of the correct acceleration relationship but none for either numerical answer.

(b) A candidate who incorrectly calculates average speed using speed = distance/time and then proceeds to use this incorrect value to calculate an acceleration based on the correct quantitative relationship, should be given credit for the use of both correct quantitative relationships **and** for the correct substitution and use of the incorrect value in the calculation of the rate of acceleration.

Papers should be constructed in such a way that the number of times errors can be carried forward are kept to a minimum. Allowances for errors carried forward are most likely to be restricted to calculation questions and should be shown by the abbreviation e.c.f. in the marking scheme.

3.8 Phonetic spelling

The phonetic spelling of correct scientific terminology should be credited **unless** there is a possible confusion with another technical term.

3.9 Brackets

(…..) is used to indicate information which is not essential for the mark to be awarded but is included to help the examiner identify the sense of the answer required.

3.10 Interpretation of marginal points

There will be times when the answer is almost, but not quite, correct. Some examiners would award a mark while others would not. In any one script, an attempt should be made to balance these nearly correct answers by giving the mark on some occasions but not on others. If this is not done, the marking would end up being too lenient or too harsh.

3.11 Unexpected Correct Answers not in the Mark Scheme

The Examiner should use professional judgement to award credit where a candidate has given an unexpected correct answer which is not covered by the mark scheme. The Examiner should consult with the Team Leader to confirm the judgement. The Team Leader should pass this answer on to the Principal Examiner with a view to informing all examiners.

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Double Award
Foundation Tier 3462/3F

3462/3F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	comet	correct order only	1
	elliptical		1
	Milky Way		1
	Universe		1
(b)(i)	D A C B	allow **2** marks for two letters in the correct place allow **1** mark for one letter in the correct place	3
(ii)	A		1
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	95		1
(b)	alpha	accept correct symbol	1
(c)	any **two** from: • radiation is outside the body • radiation will not reach (living) cells • radiation absorbed by the air	 accept detector is on ceiling or high up the wall accept radiation cannot pass through the body / skin accept cannot pass through the plastic casing do **not** accept because it is alpha radiation – unless qualified do **not** accept does not give off harmful substance do **not** accept cannot pass through building materials etc.	2
(d)	less (than)		1
total			5

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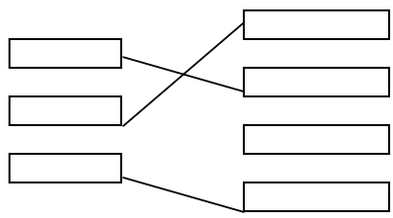
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	generator	accept dynamo accept alternator	1
(b)(i)	1400	ignore units	1
(ii)	0.3 or 30%	any incorrect unit penalise **1** mark allow **1** mark for the correct use of 600 **or** 0.3% **or** 30	2
(c)	**1** mark for each correct link 	if more than 3 lines are drawn, mark only 3 lines starting with those that are incorrect	3
(d)(i)	110	no tolerance	1
(ii)	12	no tolerance	1
(iii)	wind speed may be too low to operate the generator	accept wind may not always blow accept power depends on wind speed accept does not generate if wind speed is too high accept does not generate if wind speed is above 12 (m/s) accept does not generate if wind speed is below 1.6 (m/s) accept it is unreliable do **not** accept answers referring to cost only	1
total			10

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	B E A D	allow **1** mark for each letter in the correct place, to a maximum of **3** marks	3
(b)	(a spark) may cause the (petrol vapour) to explode / ignite	accept petrol for (petrol vapour) accept catch fire for explode	1
	connect tanker to earth with a (conducting) wire / chain **or** earth the tanker	accept ground for earth	1
(c)	**Quality of written communication**	for a logical sequence	1
	any **two** from:		2
	• when current greater than fuse rating / value	accept when current too great for appliance do **not** accept 'if there is too much current' do **not** accept voltage or electricity	
	• fuse (becomes hot and) melts / burns out	accept fuse blows / breaks	
	• circuit is broken	accept circuit switched off this cannot score credit on its own	
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	crust		1
(ii)	inner core is <u>solid</u> outer core is liquid	do **not** accept just rock inner core is denser / hotter than outer core gets **2** marks accept one is solid and one is liquid for **1** mark accept they are different densities for **1** mark wrong way round = **0** marks	1 1
(b)	seismograph		1
(c)	difficult to measure (slow) movement (1) of plates (1) dependent mark **or** difficult to measure friction / forces (1) between plates (1) dependent mark		1 1
(d)	geothermal		1
(e)(i)	5000		1
(ii)	2500		1
total			9

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	60		1
(b)	$5\frac{1}{2}$ hours	must include unit	1
(c)	30		1
(d)	30 minutes or $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	must include unit	1
(e)	D **and** E least steep part of the graph	accept finish for E accept correct numbers from axes with units accept covers smallest distance in a set time accept only moves 5 km in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (accept anything between 5 and 6) ignore horse is tired	1 1
total			6

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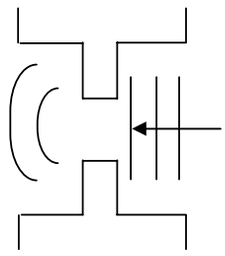
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	any **one** from: • (doctors) to see inside a patients body **or** endoscope • telephone cables • optical fibre / fibre optic lamps **or** (artificial) Christmas trees • data transfer **or** internet connection	 accept keyhole surgery do **not** accept flex **or** wires for cable accept decorative / ornamental lighting accept any feasible practical suggestion for taking light to a difficult to access place do **not** accept lighting unqualified do **not** accept lamp unqualified do **not** accept communications unless clarified	1
(ii)	(incident) ray angle greater than critical angle total internal reflection occurs	either order accept (incident) ray greater than 42° accept TIR do **not** accept just description of TIR	1 1
(b)(i)	waves shown diffracting in the correct direction 	ignore wavelength	1
(ii)	diffraction	accept diffract / diffracted	1
total			5

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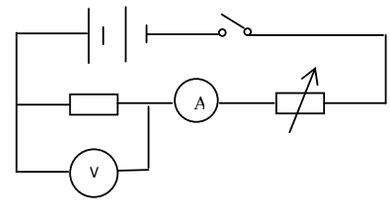
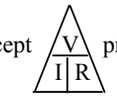
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	all symbols correct	 accept push switch symbol switch may be open or closed any lines through symbols = **0** marks	1
	correct circuit drawn voltmeter must be across resistor only	polarity of cells not relevant provided they are joined correctly two cells are required in the diagram ignore the order of the components allow small gaps in circuit omission of any component = **0** marks	1
(b)(i)	potential difference = current × resistance	accept voltage or p.d. for potential difference accept $V = I \times R$ accept  provided subsequent use correct do **not** accept C for current	1
(ii)	2	 allow **1** mark for correct substitution wrong working loses both marks	2
(iii)	straight line drawn <u>through the origin</u> straight line passes through $I = 0.4, V =$ their (b)(ii) / 2 **and** 0.0	judge by eye this mark may be awarded if all points shown including these points are correct even if no line is drawn N.B. a curve scores **0** marks	1 1 dep
(c)	temperature <u>increases</u>	accept filament lamp / it gets <u>hotter</u> allow heat for temperature	1
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	gamma rays	accept gamma accept correct symbol	1
(ii)	infra red	accept IR	1
(b)	ultraviolet <u>absorbed</u> by ink (energy) given out as light	 accept glows / luminous accept for **both** marks the ink is fluorescent do **not** accept answers in terms of uv being reflected	1 1
(c)	any **two** from: • UV can damage / kill / ionise / alter (normal) cells • change DNA structure **or** mutate • (normal) cells may become cancerous	 do **not** accept attacks cells **or** burns skin accept may cause (skin) cancer accept abnormal cell multiplication	2
(d)(i)	microwaves **and** infra red	both answers needed in either order do **not** accept heat for IR	1
(ii)	0.9	 allow **1** mark for the <u>correct</u> use of 1.8 (kW) $(1.8 \times \frac{1}{2}$ or $1.8 \times 30)$ i.e. adding the correct 2 power values	2
total			9

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	accelerating	accept getting faster accept speed / velocity increasing	1
(ii)	acceleration increases	accept velocity / speed increases more rapidly do **not** accept velocity / speed increases	1
(b)(i)	$\text{acceleration} = \frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{time (taken)}}$	accept $a = \frac{v - u}{t}$ **or** $a = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{t}$ do **not** accept velocity for change in velocity do **not** accept change in speed do **not** accept $a = \frac{v}{t}$	1
(ii)	15	allow **1** mark for an answer of 900 **or** for correct use of 540 seconds	2
(iii)	velocity includes direction	accept velocity is a vector (quantity) accept converse answer	1
(c)	force of gravity (between shuttle and Earth) plus correct orbital speed (makes shuttle move in a curve)	accept gravitational pull if used correctly accept forward motion **or** constant speed for orbital speed accept it is travelling fast enough accept for **2** marks the force of gravity provides the centripetal force	1 1
(d)	black is a good emitter of radiation **or** to limit the temperature rise inside the shuttle	accept heat for radiation accept the tiles are good insulation do **not** accept black absorbs heat on its own do **not** accept tiles are heat proof	1
total			9

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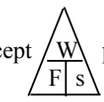
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	work (done) = force (applied) × distance (moved)	accept W = F × s or W = F × d accept  provided subsequent method is correct	1
(ii)	240 000 joules	allow **1** mark for correct substitution **or** correct use of 1200 (N) accept J do **not** accept j / Nm	2 1
(b)	800 (watts)	accept 0.8 kW accept their (a)(ii) ÷ 300 correctly evaluated for **2** marks allow **1** mark for correct substitution (a)(ii) ÷ 5 correctly evaluated for **1** mark	2
(c)(i)	any **one** from: • needs to raise the chair / lift • lifting more than one chair • energy transfer to the surroundings correctly qualified	 allow lifting more than 2 people implication of a heavier weight accept loss for transfer do **not** accept motor inefficient do **not** accept motor gets hot do **not** accept friction unless the location is specified as external to the motor	1
(ii)	electrical potential	accept electric **both** answers required for the mark	1
total			8

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	**Y** and **Z**		1
	they have the same number of protons **or** same atomic number	accept they have the same number of electrons **or** same number of protons **and** electrons allow only different in number of neutrons N.B. independent marks	1
(b)	**Quality of written communication**	for correct use of terms underlined in B **or** C Q ✓ Q X	1
	A – alpha particle passes straight through the empty space of the atom **or** it is a long way from the nucleus B – alpha particle <u>deflected</u> / <u>repelled</u> / <u>repulsed</u> by the (positive) <u>nucleus</u>	describes 3 tracks correctly for **2** marks describes 2 or 1 track correctly for **1** mark	max 2
	C – alpha particle heading straight for the <u>nucleus</u> is <u>deflected</u> / <u>repelled</u> / <u>repulsed</u> backwards	do **not** accept hits the nucleus do **not** accept answers referring to refraction do **not** accept answers in terms of reflected backwards unless qualified in terms of repulsion mention of difference in charge on nucleus negates that track	
total			5

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ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Physics 3451/F
Specification B

Mark Scheme

2005 examination – June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Physics (Specification B)
Foundation Tier 3451/F

3451/F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	less than	accept any correct indication	1
(ii)	more than	accept any correct indication	1
(b)	any **two** from: stays above the same place above the equator one orbit takes 24 hours	 do **not** accept stays in the same place do **not** accept goes around equator unless qualified do **not** accept orbit at same speed as Earth do **not** accept orbit at a constant speed accept has same angular speed / velocity as Earth	2
total			4

3451/F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	comet		1
(b)	large group / number / collection of stars	ignore reference to planets accept millions of stars do **not** accept thousands of stars do **not** accept loads of stars	1
(c)	giant supernova neutron		1 1 1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	radio		1
(ii)	gamma	accept microwave accept infrared	1
(iii)	ultra violet		1
(iv)	microwaves		1
(b)	the same as		1
(c)	X-rays do not go through lead	references to gamma rays are incorrect accept lead protects them from the X-rays accept not exposed to X-rays	1
	lead stops / reduces risk of X-rays harming / damaging / killing (persons) <u>cells</u>	accept X-rays (may) cause cancer accept organs for cell do **not** accept references to electric shock do **not** accept stops bones of people showing on X-ray answers involving the horse wearing an apron are incorrect	1
	Quality of written communication	award for a sensible sequence of **two** points	1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3451/F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	light electrical		1 1
(b)	15% **or** 0.15	correct substitution gains **1** mark only an answer of 15 with no unit **or** an incorrect unit gains **1** mark an answer of 0.15 given with a unit gains **1** mark	2
(c)	the ticket machine is a long way from other electricity supplies		1
(d)	any figure between 5 and 10 inclusive	unit not required but if given must match numerical answer	1
total			6

3451/F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	radon (gas)	do **not** accept gas	1
(ii)	background		1
(b)	bigger	accept any word which means bigger	1
(c)	**Z** alpha will not pass through aluminium or lead	if Z is not given, the reason does not score accept alpha cannot go through metals / dense material accept there is nothing to stop the radiation accept alpha will not pass through aluminium do **not** accept alpha will not pass through lead do **not** accept alpha stopped by air	1 1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	loses negative charge / electrons	do **not** accept positive charge transfers to the comb do **not** accept friction	1
(b)	**A** attract		1
	B repel		1
	C attract		1
(c)	**F A D E**	allow **2** marks for 2 letters in the correct place allow **1** mark for 1 letter in the correct place	3
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3451/F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	all points correctly plotted	tolerance ± $\frac{1}{2}$ square on y axis only allow **1** mark for 3 correctly plotted points	2
	attempt made to draw a smooth curve	do **not** accept dot-to-dot line	1
(b)(i)	3 days ± 0.2 **or** any value correctly obtained using their graph line	if no line drawn in (a), answer must be exactly 3	1
(ii)	3 days or their (b)(i)		1
(c)	radon-222	accept radon **or** 222 accept alpha or 3.8 correct isotope required for reason to score	1
	has the shortest half-life	accept the others have longer half-lives	1
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	fossils of Cynognathus are found in Africa and South America		1
	the shapes ……. almost fit together	only two boxes should be ticked deduct **1** mark for each additional box to a minimum mark of **0**	1
(b)	continental		1
	crust		1
	tectonic		1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

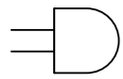
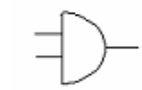
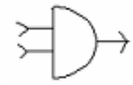
3451/F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	capacitor	accept condenser	1
	LDR	**or** light dependent resistor accept 'ldr', 'Ldr' etc.	1
	relay (normally open)	do **not** accept 'relay normally closed'	1
(b)(i)	battery	accept '(battery of) cells' do **not** accept 'battery / cell'	1
(ii)	LED	**or** light emitting diode accept 'led' or 'Led' do **not** accept just 'diode'	1
(iii)	B will light (but C will not)	accept '(only) B will work' accept 'one is on the other is off' do **not** accept 'C is on and B is off'	1
(iv)	any **one** from: B is connected the right way round (and C is not) a (light emitting) diode only allows (a significant) current to flow in one direction B's anode is connected to the positive side of the supply B's cathode is connected to the negative terminal	N.B. the candidate's answer to part (b)(iii) may include this mark but do **not** credit if the response to part (b)(iii) is incorrect or there is any other contradiction if (iv) is completely consistent with (iii) which is wrong, allow **1** mark	1
(c)(i)	first input / second input / output 0 / 0 / **0** 1 / 0 / **0** 0 / 1 / **0** 1 / 1 / **1**	**all** correct allow: OFF NO OFF NO OFF NO ON YES	1
(ii)	truth (table)		1

cont…

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q9 cont…

(iii)		a Roman upper case D in any orientation without contacts is acceptable but if contacts are shown do **not** give the mark if there is any ambiguity or contradiction allow  	1
(d)	light sensor	**or** light dependent resistor **or** LDR accept 'ldr', Ldr' etc allow solar cell, photo cell	1
	NOT gate	accept 'Not gate' **or** 'not gate' if both correct but in the wrong order credit with **1** mark	1
total			12

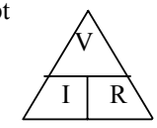
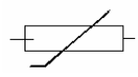
4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	rays continued to meet on the right hand side of the lens and beyond	must be straight lines from the right hand side of the lens ignore details through the lens allow if no arrows	1
	meet exactly on the axis	negate mark if contradictory arrow(s) added do not need to go beyond the focus for this mark	1
(ii)	(principal) focus	**or** focal (point)	1
(iii)	converging	**or** convex	1
(b)(i)	**A**		1
(ii)	rays seem to come from this point	**or** words to this effect **or** shows this on the diagram	1
(iii)	diverging	**or** concave	1
(c)	film	accept any unambiguous method of showing the correct response	1
	smaller than		1
	further away from		1
(d)	any **three** from: • real image can be put on a screen • virtual image cannot be put on a screen / film • virtual image is imaginary • real image is formed where (real) rays cross / converge • virtual image is where virtual / imaginary rays (seem to) come from • virtual image formed where virtual rays intersect / cross	allow film allow real image has light travelling through it **or** virtual image is where rays seem to come from	3
total			13

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	$A_1 = 0.5$	ignore any units	1
	$A_4 = 0.5$	allow **1** mark for $A_1 = A_4 \neq 0.5$	1
(ii)	the resistance of **P** is more than 20 Ω		1
	a smaller current goes through P / A_2 (than 20 Ω)	dependent on getting 1st mark correct accept converse	1
(b)(i)	potential difference = current × resistance	accept pd / voltage for potential difference accept V = I × R, correct symbols and correct case only accept volts = amps × ohms accept  provided subsequent method is correct allow combination of physical quantities and named units allow voltage = I × R	1
(ii)	6	allow **1** mark for correct substitution	2
(iii)	6	accept their (b)(ii)	1
(c)	thermistor or 	accept correct circuit symbol allow phonetic spelling	1
	resistance goes down (as temperature of thermistor goes up)	do **not** accept changes for goes down do **not** accept an answer in terms of current only answers in terms of other components are incorrect	1
total			10

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3451/F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	larger the distance, greater the time	accept 'they are proportional' accept converse	1
(ii)	any value between 6 and 9 years inclusive		1
(b)(i)	carbon dioxide		1
(ii)	(Venus) has high**er** temperature (than Mercury)	accept has the high**est** temperature accept Venus is hotter / hottest do **not** accept has a high / very high temperature	1
	(Venus) further from the Sun than Mercury	accept 'Venus is not the closest planet to the Sun' answer in terms of greenhouse effect only, scores **0** marks	1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	20		1
(ii)	convection		1
(iii)	fit draughtproof strips	accept lay carpet accept fit curtains accept close doors / windows / curtains accept any reasonable suggestion for reducing a draught 'double glazing' alone is insufficient	1
(b)	air is (a good) insulator **or** air is a poor conductor	accept air cavity / 'it' for air	1
	reducing heat transfer by <u>conduction</u>	accept stops for reduces ignore convection do **not** accept radiation do **not** accept answers in terms of heat being trapped	1
(c)(i)	most cost effective	accept it is cheaper or low<u>est</u> cost accept shortest payback time accept in terms of reducing heat loss by the largest amount do **not** accept it is easier ignore most heat is lost through the roof	1
(ii)	4		1
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q14

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	constant speed	do **not** accept normal speed do **not** accept it is stopped / stationary	1
	in a straight line	accept any appropriate reference to a direction constant velocity gains **2** marks 'not accelerating' gains **2** marks terminal velocity alone gets **1** mark	1
(ii)	goes down owtte	accept motorbike (it) slows down	1
(b)(i)	20 (m/s)	ignore incorrect units	1
(ii)	acceleration = change in velocity / time (taken)	do **not** accept velocity for change in velocity accept change in speed accept $a = \frac{v-u}{t}$ **or** $a = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{t}$ **or** $a = \frac{\Delta v}{t}$ do **not** accept $a = \frac{v}{t}$	1
(iii)	4 **or** their (b)(i) ÷ 5	allow **1** mark for correct substitution	2
	m/s^2	m/s/s **or** ms^{-2} **or** metres per second squared **or** metres per second per second	1
(c)	vehicle may skid / slide	loss of control / brakes lock / wheels lock accept greater stopping distance **or** difficult to stop	1
	due to reduced friction (between tyre(s) and road)	accept due to less grip do **not** accept no friction	1

cont…

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3451/F Q14 cont…

(d)	any **three** from: • <u>increased</u> speed • <u>reduced</u> braking force • <u>slower</u> (driver) reactions • <u>poor</u> vehicle maintenance • <u>increased</u> mass / weight of vehicle • <u>poor</u> road surface • <u>more</u> streamlined	do **not** accept night time / poor vision N.B. specific answers may **each** gain credit eg tiredness (1), drinking alcohol (1), using drugs (1), driver distracted (1) etc specific examples may **each** gain credit eg worn brakes or worn tyres etc accept large mass / weight of vehicle if candidates give three answers that affect stopping distance but not specific to <u>increase</u> award **1** mark only	3
total			13

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3451/F Q15

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	arrow from centre of the ball **and** at right angles to the string **and** in the correct direction	arrow should point to the student's belt accept free-hand 'straight' line do **not** accept curved line	1
(ii)	increase increase increase	accept 'be stronger / bigger' accept 'be stronger / bigger' accept 'be stronger / bigger'	1 1 1
(b)	speed velocity direction	all **three** correct any two correct for **1** mark otherwise **0** marks	2
(c)(i)	centripetal	accept 'centripedal' and other minor misspellings do **not** accept anything which could be 'centrifugal'	1
(ii)	gravity	accept 'weight' accept 'force of attraction due to mass(es) (of the Moon and the Earth)'	1
(iii)	electron(s)		1
(iv)	electrostatic	accept 'electrical' do **not** accept just 'centripetal'	1
total			10

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

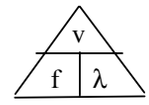
3451/F Q16

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	**X** at the centre of the lifebelt	measuring from the centre of **X**, allow 2 mm tolerance in any direction	1
(ii)	any **two** from: below the point of suspension at the centre (of the lifebelt) (because) the lifebelt / it is symmetrical	if X is on vertical line below the hanger (but not at centre) can gain the first point only accept '(vertically) below **Y**' accept 'in the middle' **or** (because) the mass / weight is evenly distributed	2
(b)	Nm **or** newton metre(s) 750	accept Newton metre(s) do **not** accept any ambiguity in the symbol ie NM, nM or nm (moment) = force × (perpendicular) distance (between line of action and pivot) **or** (moment) = 500 × 1.5 gains **1** mark	1 2
(c)	**Quality of written communication**: any **three** connected points from: low(er) <u>centre of mass / gravity</u> (more) <u>stable</u> less likely to fall over the <u>turning effect / moment</u> (of the weight of case) is less so the pull on her arm is less	for **2** of the underlined terms used in the correct context **or** <u>centre of mass / gravity</u> will be close(r) to the wheels / axle / ground **or** less <u>unstable</u> accept 'less likely to overturn' do **not** accept 'will not fall over' **or** so less effort is needed to hold the case ignore references to pulling the case	1 3
total			10

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Physics B – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3451/F Q17

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	any **two** from: • **amplitude** decreasing • **wavelength** increasing • **frequency** decreasing **Quality of written communication**	accept siren / sound getting quieter do **not** accept sound decreases accept pitch decreasing ignore reference to transverse wave ignore reference to speed contradictory statements within each point lose the mark all emboldened terms in candidate's answer used correctly	2 1
(b)(i)	ultrasound **or** ultrasonic		1
(ii)	wave speed = frequency × wavelength	accept speed / velocity for wave speed accept $v = f \times \lambda$ do **not** accept w for λ do **not** accept s for v accept  provided subsequent calculation shows a correct method	1
(iii)	339.2 **or** 340 **or** 339	allow **1** mark for using 212 000 allow **1** mark for correct substitution an answer of 0.3392 **or** 0.34 **or** 0.339 gains **1** mark only award full credit for a correct numerical answer with the unit changed to km/s	3
total			8

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ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Science: Double Award 3462/3F

Specification B (Co-ordinated)

Mark Scheme

2005 examination - June series

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Double Award
Foundation Tier 3462/3F

3462/3F Q1

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	less than	accept any correct indication	1
(ii)	more than	accept any correct indication	1
(b)	any **two** from: stays above the same place above the equator one orbit takes 24 hours	 do **not** accept stays in the same place do **not** accept goes around equator unless qualified do **not** accept orbit at same speed as Earth do **not** accept orbit at a constant speed accept has same angular speed / velocity as Earth	2
total			4

3462/ 3F Q2

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	comet		1
(b)	large group / number / collection of stars	ignore reference to planets accept millions of stars do **not** accept thousands of stars do **not** accept loads of stars	1
(c)	giant supernova neutron		1 1 1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q3

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	radio		1
(ii)	gamma	accept microwave accept infrared	1
(iii)	ultra violet		1
(iv)	microwaves		1
(b)	the same as		1
(c)	**Quality of written communication**	award for a sensible sequence of **two** points	1
	X-rays do not go through lead	accept lead protects them from the X-rays accept not exposed to X-rays	1
	lead stops / reduces risk of X-rays harming / damaging / killing (persons) <u>cells</u>	accept X-rays (may) cause cancer accept organs for cell do **not** accept references to electric shock do **not** accept stops bones of people showing on X-ray answers involving the horse wearing an apron are incorrect references to gamma rays are incorrect	1
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3462/3F Q4

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	light electrical		1 1
(b)	15% **or** 0.15	correct substitution gains **1** mark only an answer of 15 with no unit **or** an incorrect unit gains **1** mark an answer of 0.15 given with a unit gains **1** mark	2
(c)	the ticket machine is a long way from other electricity supplies		1
(d)	any figure between 5 and 10 inclusive	unit not required but if given must match numerical answer	1
total			6

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q5

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	radon (gas)	do **not** accept gas	1
(ii)	background		1
(b)	bigger	accept any word which means bigger	1
(c)	**Z** alpha will not pass through aluminium or lead	if Z is not given, the reason does not score accept alpha cannot go through metals / dense material accept there is nothing to stop the radiation accept alpha will not pass through aluminium do **not** accept alpha will not pass through lead do **not** accept alpha stopped by air	1 1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3462/3F Q6

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	loses negative charge / electrons	do **not** accept positive charge transfers to the comb do **not** accept friction	1
(b)	**A** attract		1
	B repel		1
	C attract		1
(c)	**F A D E**	allow **2** marks for 2 letters in the correct place allow **1** mark for 1 letter in the correct place	3
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q7

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	all points correctly plotted	tolerance ± $\frac{1}{2}$ square on y axis only allow **1** mark for 3 correctly plotted points	2
	attempt made to draw a smooth curve	do **not** accept dot-to-dot line	1
(b)(i)	3 days ± 0.2 **or** any value correctly obtained using their graph line	if no line drawn in (a), answer must be exactly 3	1
(ii)	3 days or their (b)(i)		1
(c)	radon-222	accept radon **or** 222 accept alpha or 3.8 correct isotope required for reason to score	1
	has the shortest <u>half-life</u>	accept the others have longer <u>half-lives</u>	1
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

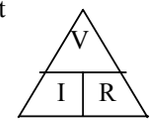
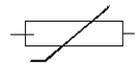
Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3462/3F Q8

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	fossils of Cynognathus are found in Africa and South America		1
	the shapes ……. almost fit together	only two boxes should be ticked deduct **1** mark for each additional box to a minimum mark of **0**	1
(b)	continental		1
	crust		1
	tectonic		1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q9

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	$A_1 = 0.5$	ignore any units	1
	$A_4 = 0.5$	allow **1** mark for $A_1 = A_4 \neq 0.5$	1
(ii)	the resistance of **P** is more than 20 Ω		1
	a smaller current goes through P / A_2 (than 20 Ω)	dependent on getting 1st mark correct accept converse	1
(b)(i)	potential difference = current × resistance	accept pd / voltage for potential difference accept V = I × R, correct symbols and correct case only accept volts = amps × ohms accept  provided subsequent method is correct allow combination of physical quantities and named units allow voltage = I × R	1
(ii)	6	allow **1** mark for correct substitution	2
(iii)	6	accept their (b)(ii)	1
(c)	thermistor or 	accept correct circuit symbol allow phonetic spelling	1
	resistance goes down (as temperature of thermistor goes up)	do **not** accept changes for goes down do **not** accept an answer in terms of current only answers in terms of other components are incorrect	1
total			10

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3462/3F Q10

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	larger the distance, greater the time	accept 'they are proportional' accept converse	1
(ii)	any value between 6 and 9 years inclusive		1
(b)(i)	carbon dioxide		1
(ii)	(Venus) has high**er** temperature (than Mercury)	accept has the high**est** temperature accept Venus is hotter / hottest do **not** accept has a high / very high temperature	1
	(Venus) further from the Sun than Mercury	accept 'Venus is not the closest planet to the Sun' answer in terms of greenhouse effect only, scores **0** marks	1
total			5

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

3462/3F Q11

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	20		1
(ii)	convection		1
(iii)	fit draughtproof strips	accept lay carpet accept fit curtains accept close doors / windows / curtains accept any reasonable suggestion for reducing a draught 'double glazing' alone is insufficient	1
(b)	air is (a good) insulator **or** air is a poor conductor	accept air cavity / 'it' for air	1
	reducing heat transfer by <u>conduction</u>	accept stops for reduces ignore convection do **not** accept radiation do **not** accept answers in terms of heat being trapped	1
(c)(i)	most cost effective	accept it is cheaper or low<u>est</u> cost accept shortest payback time accept in terms of reducing heat loss by the largest amount do **not** accept it is easier ignore most heat is lost through the roof	1
(ii)	4		1
total			7

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3462/3F Q12

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)(i)	constant speed	do **not** accept normal speed do **not** accept it is stopped / stationary	1
	in a straight line	accept any appropriate reference to a direction constant velocity gains **2** marks 'not accelerating' gains **2** marks terminal velocity alone gets **1** mark	1
(ii)	goes down owtte	accept motorbike (it) slows down	1
(b)(i)	20 (m/s)	ignore incorrect units	1
(ii)	acceleration = change in velocity / time (taken)	do **not** accept velocity for change in velocity accept change in speed accept $a = \frac{v-u}{t}$ **or** $a = \frac{v_1 - v_2}{t}$ **or** $a = \frac{\Delta v}{t}$ do **not** accept $a = \frac{v}{t}$	1
(iii)	4 **or** their (b)(i) ÷ 5	allow **1** mark for correct substitution	2
	m/s^2	m/s/s **or** ms^{-2} **or** metres per second squared **or** metres per second per second	1
(c)	vehicle may skid / slide	loss of control / brakes lock / wheels lock accept greater stopping distance **or** difficult to stop	1
	due to reduced friction (between tyre(s) and road)	accept due to less grip do **not** accept no friction	1

cont…

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

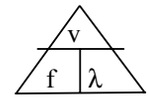
3462/3F Q12 cont…

(d)	any **three** from: • <u>increased</u> speed • <u>reduced</u> braking force • <u>slower</u> (driver) reactions • <u>poor</u> vehicle maintenance • <u>increased</u> mass / weight of vehicle • <u>poor</u> road surface • <u>more</u> streamlined	do **not** accept night time / poor vision NB specific answers may **each** gain credit eg tiredness (1), drinking alcohol (1), using drugs (1), driver distracted (1) etc specific examples may **each** gain credit eg worn brakes or worn tyres etc accept large mass / weight of vehicle if candidates give three answers that affect stopping distance but not specific to <u>increase</u> award **1** mark only	3
total			13

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Science: Double Award (Co-ordinated) – AQA GCSE Mark Scheme, 2005 June series

3462/3F Q13

question	answers	extra information	mark
(a)	**Quality of written communication**	all emboldened terms in candidate's answer used correctly	1
	any **two** from: • **amplitude** decreasing • **wavelength** increasing • **frequency** decreasing	accept siren / sound getting quieter do **not** accept sound decreases accept pitch decreasing ignore reference to transverse wave ignore reference to speed contradictory statements within each point lose the mark	2
(b)(i)	ultrasound **or** ultrasonic		1
(ii)	wave speed = frequency × wavelength	accept speed / velocity for wave speed accept $v = f \times \lambda$ do **not** accept w for λ do **not** accept s for v accept  provided subsequent calculation shows a correct method	1
(iii)	339.2 **or** 340 **or** 339	allow **1** mark for using 212 000 allow **1** mark for correct substitution an answer of 0.3392 **or** 0.34 **or** 0.339 gains **1** mark only award full credit for a correct numerical answer with the unit changed to km/s	3
total			8

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 32 · Examiner comments June 2023 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

Question 3 (Low and Standard Demand)

03.1 29% of students scored 2 marks, while 27 % of students scored 1 mark for this question about isotopes..

03.2 51% of students knew what half-life means.

03.3 77 % of students correctly identified the least stable isoptope.

03.4 Students found this question difficult with only 38% scoring 2 marks and 21% scoring 1 mark for this question about irradiation and contamination.

03.5 68% of students identified the purpose of the sticky floor.

03.6 72% of students scored 2 marks on this calculation question.

03.7 This question discriminated well with 46 % of students scoring 2 marks and 20 % of students scoring 1 mark for this question about fission and fusion

Answer 33 · Examiner comments June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q6

Question 6 (Low / Standard demand)

06.1 Students were more successful at identifying cosmic rays as natural and medical X-rays as man-made. Students were less confident about nuclear accidents and radon gas and often got these the wrong way round. 70% of students scored 2 marks, while 27% of students scored 1 mark.

06.2 A question that discriminated well, with 27% of students scoring 2 marks and 24%

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4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 33 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q6

scoring 1 mark. A number of students stated that alpha is stopped by paper but had ticked the wrong box, so scored no marks. Many students were unable to draw the correct conclusion from the given data, perhaps they had learned the fact but not observed the practical demonstration.

06.3 A question that discriminated well, with 27% of students scoring 2 marks and 44% scoring 1 mark. A number of students stated that beta is stopped by aluminium but had ticked the wrong box, so scored no marks. Many students were unable to draw the correct conclusion from the given data, perhaps they had learned the fact but not observed the practical demonstration.

06.4 94% of students correctly identified a precaution to prevent contamination.

06.5 81% of students correctly identified the activity after one half-life.

06.6 86% of students correctly linked activity to risk of harm.

Answer 34 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q10

Question 10 (Standard demand)

10.1 15 % of students scored 3 marks, 39% scored 2 marks and 30% scored 1 mark. The most common mark to score was either ‘nuclei’ or ‘gamma rays’.

10.2 In this exam series all equations were provided for the students on the Physics Equations Sheet. 94% of students scored the mark.

10.3 67% of students scored 2 marks for multiplying the power by the time, whether they had converted the power or not. Most attempts to convert the power were incorrect. Only 3% of students scored all 3 marks for this calculation of energy.

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Answer 34 · Examiner comments — June 2024 | 8463/1F | Original Q10

10.4 13% of students scored a mark. ‘Wear protective clothing’ or ‘hazmat suits’ were common incorrect answers. Any idea of burying the radioactive waste was credited, so ‘bury it in a field’ was ok, as was ‘bury it in landfill’, which from a student’s perspective is equivalent to burying it underground. ‘Keeping it away from people’ was insufficient.

10.5 74% of students scored 2 marks, while 3% scored 1 mark. The answer of 29.2 days was worth 1 mark as this could only have been calculated by doing the correct calculation and then subtracting the result from 365.

4.4.2.3 Half-lives and the random nature of radioactive decay

Answer 35 · Examiner comments June 2025 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

03.1
Almost 70% of the students chose the correct nuclear equation for alpha decay.

03.2
The vast majority of the students scored a mark for correctly reading the value on the graph for 50 %.

03.3
Just fewer than 40 % of the students scored this mark for identifying the half-life of uranium. Most students did not realise that the two questions, 03.2 and 03.3 were asking for the same value in slightly different ways.

Answer 35 · Examiner comments June 2025 | 8463/1F | Original Q3

03.4
A surprisingly large number of the students chose isotope B, scoring no marks. 13 % of the students scored 1 mark for choosing isotope A with an incorrect reason, while 27 % of the students scored 2 marks. A comparison was needed to score the second mark. ‘A steep graph’ was insufficient, but ‘a steeper graph’ would have scored the reason mark.

03.5
The vast majority of the students chose the nucleus with the smallest mass number correctly.

03.6
Just over half of the students chose the correct nucleus with an atomic number of 4.

03.7
Students who realised that the nuclei should have the same number of protons generally scored both marks. ‘Same amount of protons’ was equivalent to ‘same number of protons’.

03.8
Just over half of the students chose the correct model of the atom.

03.9
Nearly 70 % of the students knew that the mass of an atom is concentrated in the nucleus.