AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.1.1.1

Atoms, elements and compounds

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**8**
Available paper years	**2018–2025**

Using this booklet

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

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 01

June 2018 | 8464/C/2F | Original Q1

0 1 **Figure 1** represents an atom of sulfur.

Figure 1

$^{32}_{16}S$

0 1 . 1 Complete **Table 1**

[1 mark]

Table 1

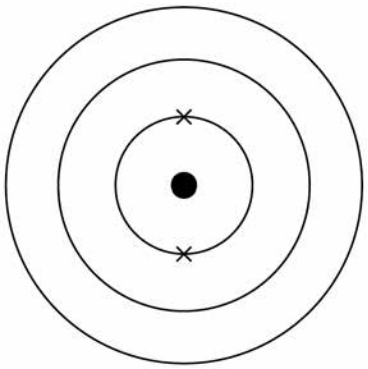
Particle	Number of particles in a sulfur atom
Electron	16
Neutron	
Proton	16

0 1 . 2 Sulfur is in Group 6 of the periodic table.

Complete the electronic structure of the sulfur atom represented in **Figure 2**

[1 mark]

Figure 2



5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 3 Sulfur reacts with oxygen to produce sulfur dioxide.

Complete the word equation for this reaction.

[1 mark]

sulfur + _____

0 1 . 4 What effect is caused by sulfur dioxide?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

- Acid rain ☐
- Global dimming ☐
- Global warming ☐
- Sea levels rising ☐

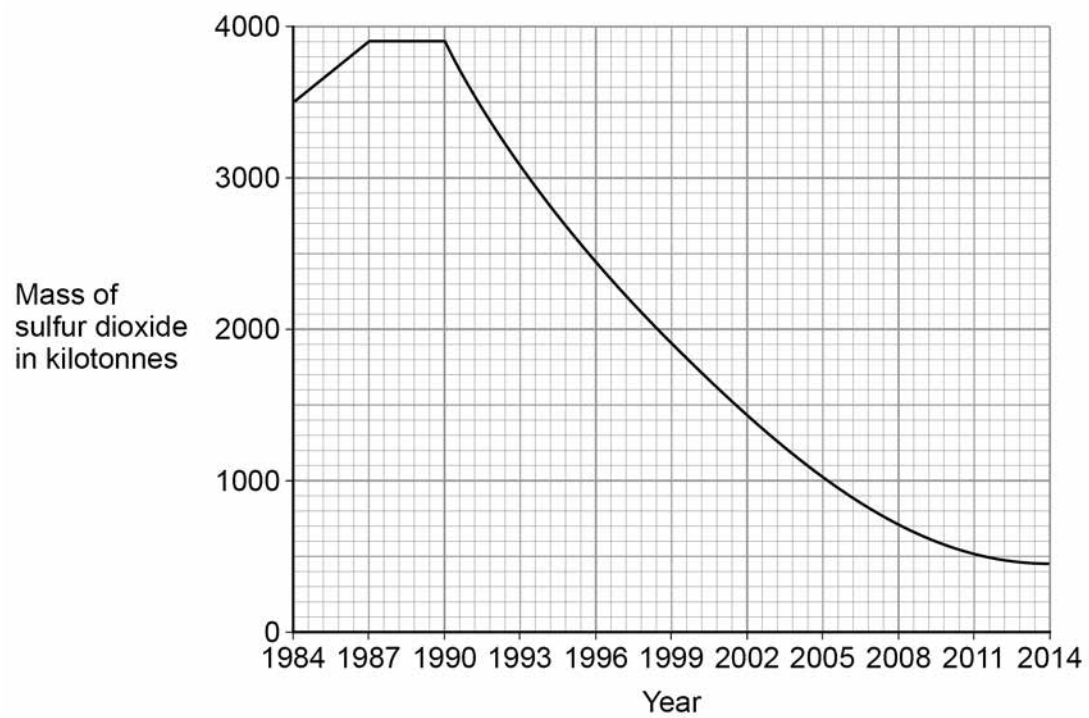
Question 1 continues on the next page

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 5 **Figure 3** shows the mass of sulfur dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere between 1984 and 2014

Figure 3



A student said:

'the mass of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere decreased every year between 1984 and 2014'

Is the student correct?

Use data from **Figure 3** to justify your answer.

[3 marks]

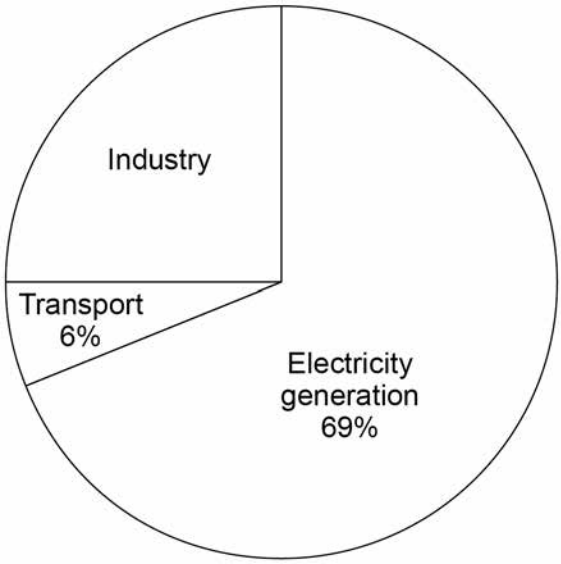
5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 01 · continued

June 2018 | 8464/C/2F | Original Q1

0 1 . 6 **Figure 4** shows the percentage of sulfur dioxide released by human activities.

Figure 4



Calculate the percentage of sulfur dioxide released by industry.

[2 marks]

Percentage = _____ %

9

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/C/2F | Original Q1

0 1 . 1 This question is about gases.

Draw **one** line from each substance to the description of the substance.

[3 marks]

Substance	Description of substance
	Compound
Air	Element
Carbon dioxide	Hydrocarbon
Oxygen	Metal
	Mixture

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 02 · continued

0 1 . 2 What is used to test for each of the gases?

Draw **one** line from each gas to the test for the gas.

[2 marks]

Gas	Test
Carbon dioxide	A glowing splint
	A lighted splint
Oxygen	Limewater
	Litmus paper

0 1 . 3 Give **two** reasons why the percentage of carbon dioxide in the air has decreased in the last 2.7 billion years.

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

- Combustion ☐
- Dissolved in oceans ☐
- Intense volcanic activity ☐
- Photosynthesis ☐
- Respiration ☐

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 02 · continued

Oxygen reacts with sulfur dioxide.

The reaction is reversible.

0 1 . 4 What is the symbol for a reversible reaction?

[1 mark]

_____

0 1 . 5 Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

In a reversible reaction the forward reaction is exothermic, so the

reverse reaction is _____ .

0 1 . 6 A reversible reaction happens in apparatus which stops the escape of reactants and products.

Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

Equilibrium is reached when the forward and reverse reactions happen at

exactly the same _____ .

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5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

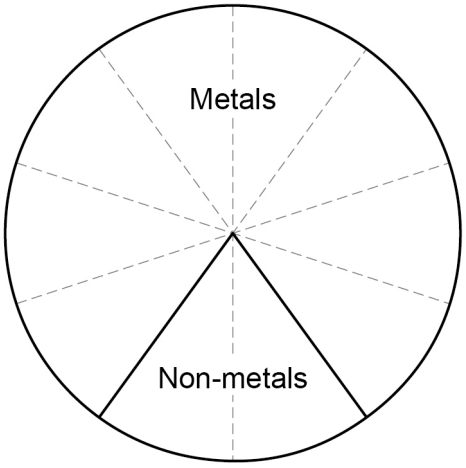
Question 03

November 2020 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about elements and compounds.

0 4 . 1 **Figure 5** shows the proportion of elements in the periodic table that are metals and non-metals.

Figure 5



Determine the percentage of the elements in **Figure 5** that are metals.

[2 marks]

Percentage = _____ %

0 4 . 2 Give **two** physical properties of metals.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

0 4 . 3 Sodium reacts with chlorine to produce sodium chloride.

Balance the equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

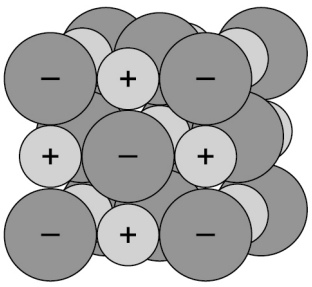
_____ $Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow$ _____ $NaCl$

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 03 · continued

Figure 6 shows part of the structure of sodium chloride (NaCl).

Figure 6



Sodium chloride

0 4 . 4 What holds the particles together in sodium chloride?

Use **Figure 6**.

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Electrostatic attractions ☐

Intermolecular forces ☐

Metallic bonds ☐

0 4 . 5 Solid sodium chloride does not conduct electricity.

Give **two** ways in which sodium chloride can be made to conduct electricity.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

8

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 04

November 2021 | 8464/C/2F | Original Q1

0 1 Fresh water contains low levels of dissolved salts.

Water reacts with anhydrous copper sulfate in a reversible reaction.

The word equation for the reaction is:

water + anhydrous copper sulfate ⇌ hydrated copper sulfate

0 1 . 1 How does the equation show that the reaction is reversible?

[1 mark]

_____

_____

0 1 . 2 Complete the sentences.

Choose answers from the box.

[2 marks]

blue	**green**	**orange**	**white**	**yellow**

The colour of anhydrous copper sulfate is _____ .

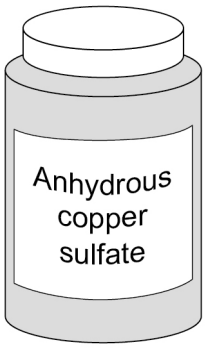
The colour of hydrated copper sulfate is _____ .

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 04 · continued

0 1 . 3 **Figure 1** shows anhydrous copper sulfate in a sealed container.

Figure 1



Suggest **one** reason why anhydrous copper sulfate is kept in a sealed container.

[1 mark]

Question 1 continues on the next page

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 04 · continued

Sodium chloride dissolves in water to form sodium chloride solution.

0 1 . 4 Draw **one** line from each substance to the description of the substance.

[2 marks]

Substance	Description of substance
	Compound
Sodium chloride solution	
	Element
Water	Hydrocarbon
	Mixture

0 1 . 5 Name the process used to obtain solid sodium chloride from sodium chloride solution.

[1 mark]

_____

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 04 · continued

0 1 . 6 Two processes used to obtain potable water from fresh water are:

- filtering
- sterilising.

Give **one** reason why each process is used.

[2 marks]

Filtering _____

_____

Sterilising _____

_____

0 1 . 7 Which type of water is the easiest to obtain potable water from?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Ground water ☐

Salt water ☐

Waste water ☐

0 1 . 8 Which of the following is the first stage of waste water treatment?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Aerobic biological treatment of effluent ☐

Anaerobic digestion of sewage sludge ☐

Screening and removal of grit ☐

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5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 05

June 2022 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about elements and compounds.

0 4 . 1 Magnesium and oxygen react to produce magnesium oxide.

Balance the equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

$$_____ Mg + O_2 \rightarrow 2\,MgO$$

0 4 . 2 Suggest **one** safety precaution that should be taken when heating magnesium and oxygen.

[1 mark]

0 4 . 3 Calculate the relative formula mass (M_r) of magnesium fluoride (MgF_2).

Relative atomic masses (A_r): F = 19 Mg = 24

[2 marks]

Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

0 4 . 4 Argon is a noble gas.

Explain why **no** product is formed when magnesium and argon are heated together.

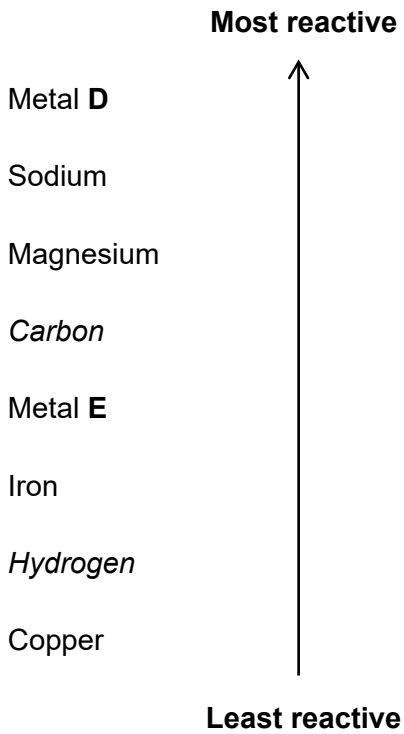
[2 marks]

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 5 **Figure 10** shows a reactivity series.

Figure 10



5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 05 · continued

Draw **one** line from each metal to the method used to extract that metal.

Use **Figure 10**.

[2 marks]

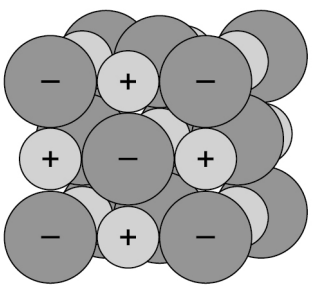
Metal	Method used to extract that metal
	Extracted by electrolysis of a molten ionic compound.
Metal **D**	Extracted from its oxide by reduction with carbon.
	Extracted from its oxide by reduction with hydrogen.
Metal **E**	
	Removed from the Earth as the metal itself.

Question 4 continues on the next page

A substance conducts electricity when it has charged particles that are free to move.

0 4 . 6 **Figure 11** represents the structure of sodium chloride.

Figure 11



Sodium chloride

Explain why sodium chloride conducts electricity when molten but **not** when solid.

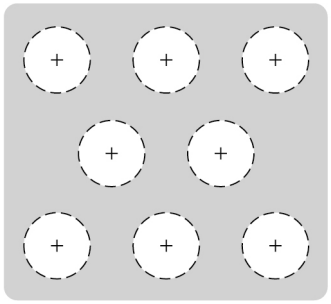
[3 marks]

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 05 · continued

0 4 . 7 **Figure 12** represents the structure of sodium metal.

Figure 12



Sodium metal

Explain why sodium metal conducts electricity when solid.

[2 marks]

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5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 06

June 2023 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q3

0 3 Structure and bonding is used to explain properties of compounds.

Metal atoms react with non-metal atoms to form ions.

0 3 . 1 Which group of elements does **not** form ions?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Alkali metals ☐
- Halogens ☐
- Noble gases ☐

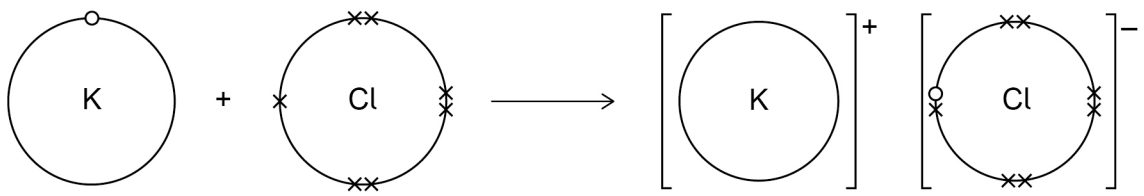
Question 3 continues on the next page

0 3 . 2 Potassium reacts with chlorine to produce potassium chloride (KCl).

Figure 6 shows what happens to the electrons in the outer shells when a potassium atom reacts with a chlorine atom.

The dots (o) and crosses (×) represent electrons.

Figure 6



Describe what happens when a potassium atom reacts with a chlorine atom to produce potassium chloride.

Answer in terms of electrons.

[4 marks]

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

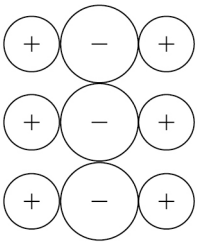
Question 06 · continued

0 3 . 3 In solid ionic compounds, oppositely charged ions attract to form a giant structure.

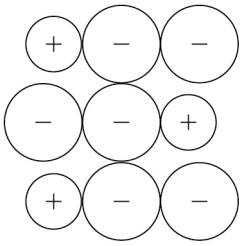
Which structure represents the arrangement of ions in solid potassium chloride?

[1 mark]

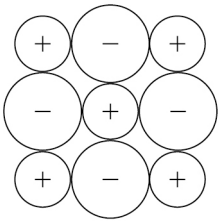
Tick (✓) **one** box.



☐



☐



☐

Question 3 continues on the next page

Non-metal atoms share electrons to form covalent bonds.

0 3 . 4 Water (H_2O) is a covalent molecule.

Table 2 shows the number of electrons in the outer shells of hydrogen atoms and of oxygen atoms.

Table 2

Element	Number of electrons in the outer shell of an atom
Hydrogen	1
Oxygen	6

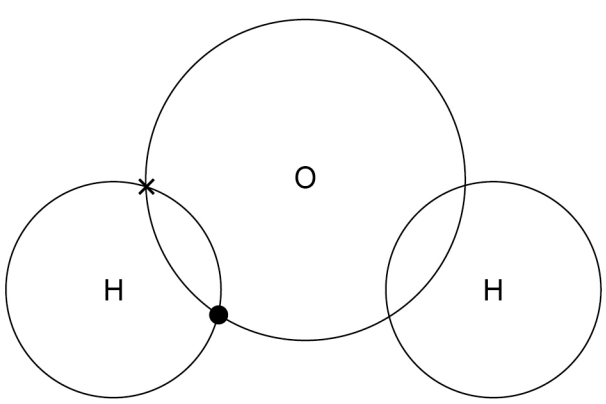
Figure 7 shows part of a dot and cross diagram for a molecule of water.

Complete the dot and cross diagram.

You should only show electrons in the outer shells.

[2 marks]

Figure 7



5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 06 · continued

0 3 . 5 Silica has a giant covalent structure.

Figure 8 represents the structure of silica.

Figure 8



Determine the ratio of silicon (Si) atoms to oxygen (O) atoms in silica.

Use **Figure 8**.

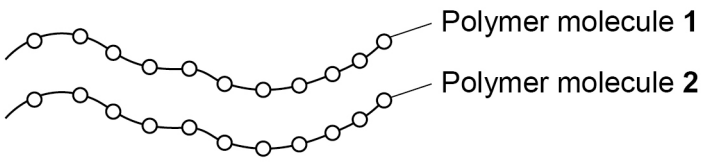
[1 mark]

_____ Si : _____ O

0 3 . 6 Polymers have very large molecules.

Figure 9 represents part of the structure of a polymer.

Figure 9



What holds polymer molecule **1** and polymer molecule **2** together in a polymer?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Covalent bonds ☐

Electrostatic attraction between ions ☐

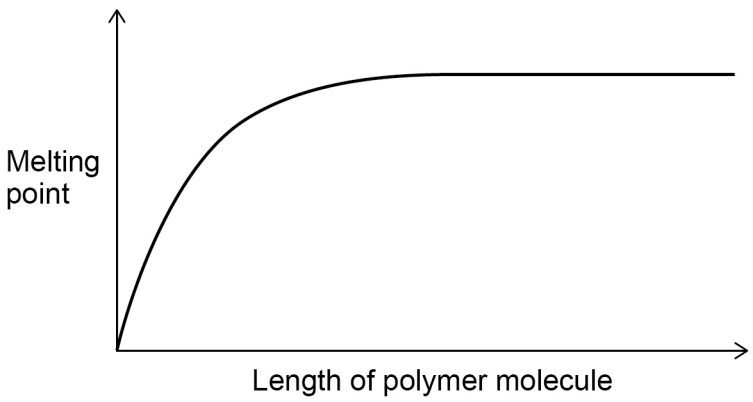
Weak intermolecular forces ☐

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 06 · continued

0 3 . 7 **Figure 10** shows the melting point of a polymer as the length of the polymer molecule increases.

Figure 10



Describe the trend shown in **Figure 10**.

[3 marks]

13

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 07

0 2 Lithium, carbon, nitrogen, fluorine and neon are elements in the same row of the periodic table.

0 2 . 1 What is the chemical symbol of lithium?

Use the periodic table.

[1 mark]

_____

0 2 . 2 Lithium has metallic bonding.

Which electrons are involved in metallic bonding?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Delocalised electrons from the inner shell ☐
- Delocalised electrons from the outer shell ☐
- Fixed electrons in the inner shell ☐
- Fixed electrons in the outer shell ☐

Question 2 continues on the next page

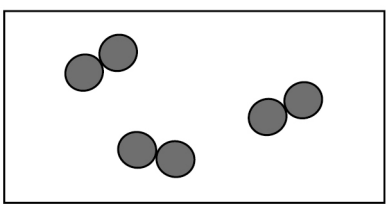
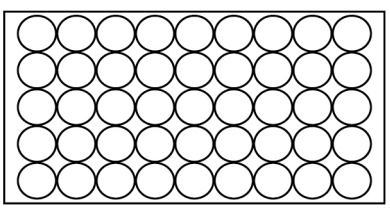
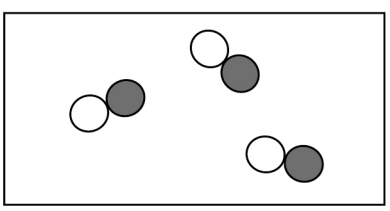
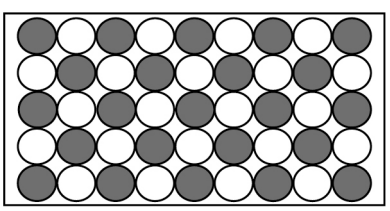
5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 07 · continued

0 2 . 3 Lithium reacts with fluorine to produce lithium fluoride.

Draw **one** line from each substance to the particle diagram that represents the substance.

[3 marks]

Substance	Particle diagram
Lithium solid	
Fluorine gas	
Lithium fluoride solid	
	

0 2 . 4 **Table 2** shows the electrical conductivity of three substances.

Table 2

Substance	Electrical conductivity when solid	Electrical conductivity when liquid
C	Poor	Poor
D	Poor	Good
E	Good	Good

Lithium fluoride is an ionic compound.

Which substance is lithium fluoride?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

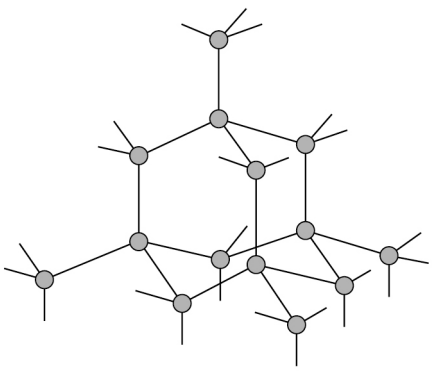
C ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

Question 2 continues on the next page

0 2 . 5 Carbon can exist in different forms.

Figure 4 represents one form of carbon.

Figure 4



What is the name of the form of carbon in **Figure 4**?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Buckminsterfullerene ☐

Diamond ☐

Graphite ☐

0 2 . 6 Carbon and fluorine form a compound with the formula CF_4

Calculate the relative formula mass (M_r) of CF_4

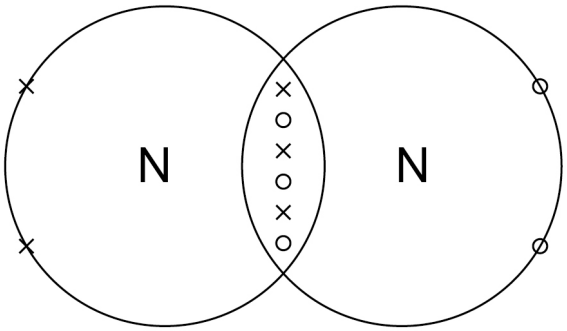
Relative atomic masses (A_r): C = 12 F = 19

[2 marks]

Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

0 2 . 7 **Figure 5** represents a molecule of nitrogen.

Figure 5



What is the total number of shared electrons in the covalent bond shown in **Figure 5**?

[1 mark]

_____

0 2 . 8 Lithium and nitrogen form a compound with the formula Li_3N

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

nitrate	**nitride**	**nitrogen**

The name of the compound with the formula Li_3N is lithium _____.

Question 2 continues on the next page

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 07 · continued

0 2 . 9 Neon does **not** react with other elements to form compounds.

Why is neon unreactive?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Neon has a stable arrangement of electrons. ☐

Neon is a gas at room temperature. ☐

Neon is a non-metallic element. ☐

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5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 08

June 2025 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about metals.

0 4 . 1 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

compounds	**elements**	**polymers**

Most metals are found in the Earth as _____.

0 4 . 2 Iron is extracted from iron oxide by reduction with carbon.

Why is iron extracted by reduction with carbon?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Iron is less reactive than carbon. ☐

Iron has the same reactivity as carbon. ☐

Iron is more reactive than carbon. ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

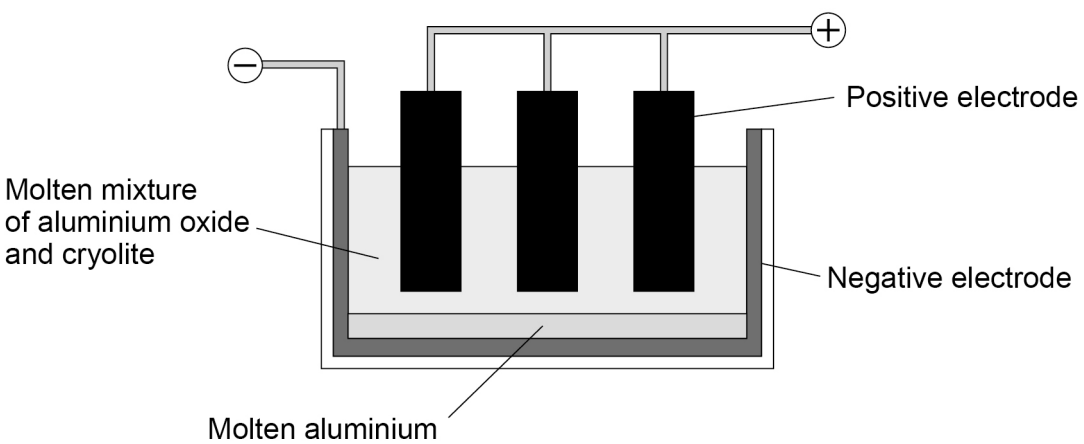
5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 08 · continued

Aluminium is extracted by the electrolysis of aluminium oxide.

Figure 8 shows the apparatus used to extract aluminium.

Figure 8



0 4 . 3 The mixture of aluminium oxide and cryolite has a lower melting point than aluminium oxide alone.

Why is the melting point lowered?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

To reduce the amount of energy used ☐

To reduce the purity of the aluminium formed ☐

To reduce the rate of reaction ☐

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 08 · continued

0 4 . 4 After some time, the positive electrodes need to be replaced.

Why must the positive electrodes be replaced?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The electrodes dissolve in the molten mixture. ☐
- The electrodes melt in the molten mixture. ☐
- The electrodes react with aluminium. ☐
- The electrodes react with oxygen gas. ☐

Question 4 continues on the next page

5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 08 · continued

Aluminium can be mixed with other metals to form alloys.

0 4 . 5 How does the hardness of an alloy of aluminium compare with the hardness of pure aluminium?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The alloy is harder than the pure metal. ☐
- The alloy and the pure metal have the same hardness. ☐
- The alloy is less hard than the pure metal. ☐

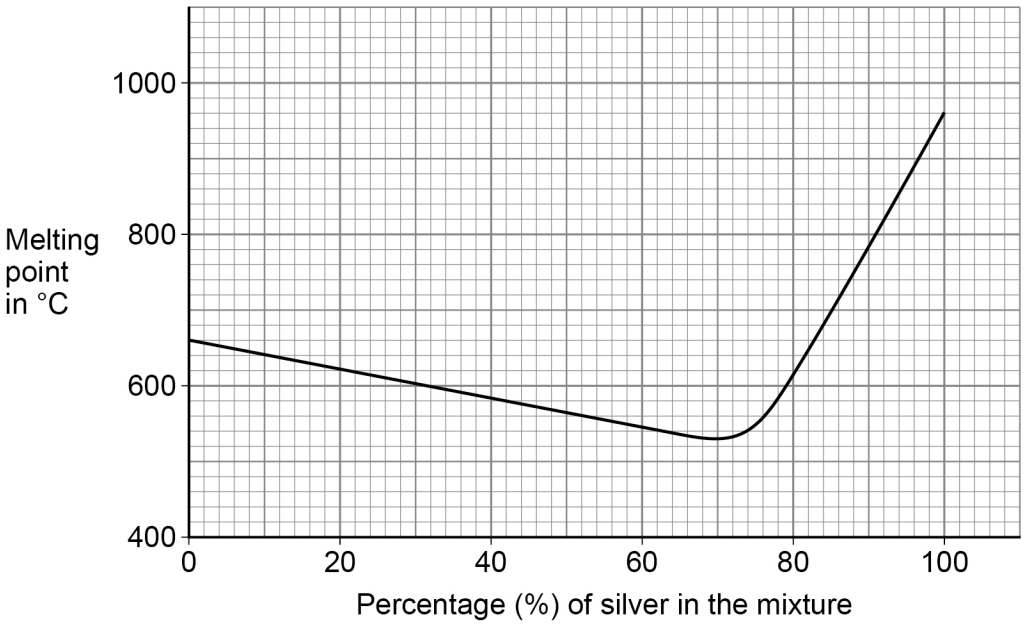
5.1.1.1 Atoms, elements and compounds

Question 08 · continued

0 4 . 6 Aluminium can form an alloy with silver.

Figure 9 shows how the melting point of the alloy changes with the percentage (%) of silver in the mixture.

Figure 9



Describe how the melting point of the alloy changes as the percentage of silver in the mixture increases.

Use data from **Figure 9**.

[3 marks]

8