AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.1.2.3

Metals and non-metals

Mark schemes and examiner comments

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**2**
Available paper years	**2020–2025**

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.

5.1.2.3 Metals and non-metals

Answer 01 · Mark scheme November 2020 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

04.1	$\frac{8}{10} \times 100$ **or** 0.8×100 = 80 (%)	 if no other mark awarded allow **1** mark for 20 (%)	1 1	AO2 5.1.2.3
04.2	any **two** from: • conducts electricity • conducts thermal energy • ductile • high melting point • malleable • shiny • strong	 allow conducts heat allow high boiling point allow can be bent / shaped allow dense allow sonorous ignore chemical properties	2	AO1 5.1.2.3
04.3	2 Na + Cl_2 → 2 NaCl	allow multiples	1	AO2 5.1.2.5 5.1.2.6 5.3.1.1
04.4	electrostatic attractions		1	AO3 5.2.1.3 5.2.2.3
04.5	(heat sodium chloride until) molten / liquid dissolve in water	 allow form aqueous solution allow add water	1 1	AO1 5.2.2.3
Total			**8**	

5.1.2.3 Metals and non-metals

Answer 01 · Mark scheme

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

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.

5.1.2.3 Metals and non-metals

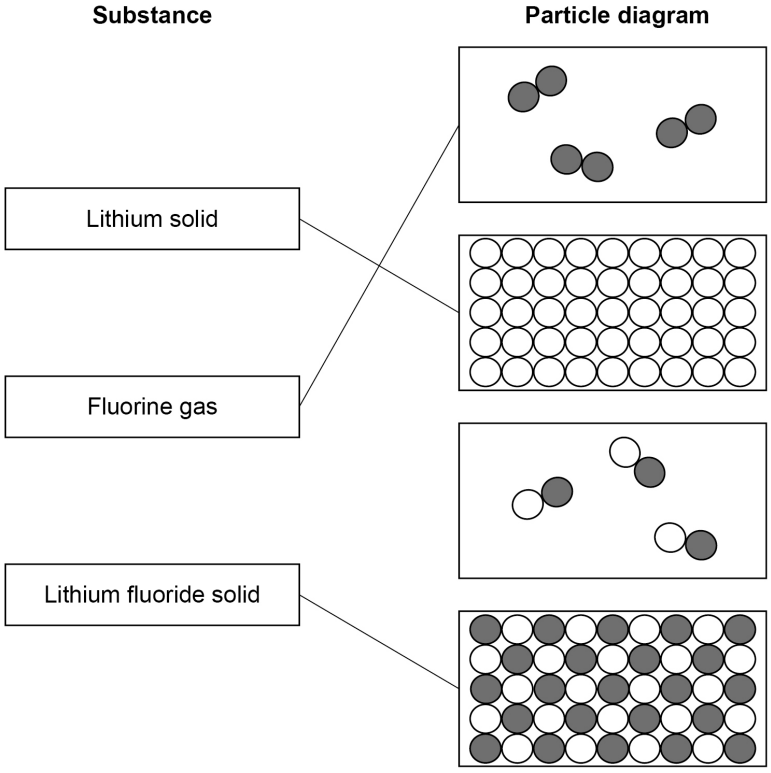
Answer 02 · Mark scheme

June 2025 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

Question 2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.1	Li		1	AO1 5.1.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.2	delocalised electrons from the outer shell		1	AO1 5.2.1.5

Question	Answers	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.3	 do **not** accept more than one line from a box on the left	1 1 1	AO3 5.1.1.1 5.2.2.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.4	**D**		1	AO3 5.2.2.3

5.1.2.3 Metals and non-metals

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.5	diamond		1	AO1 5.2.3.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.6	(relative formula mass =) 12 + (19 × 4) = 88		1 1	AO2 5.3.1.2

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.7	6	allow 3 pairs	1	AO2 5.2.1.1 5.2.1.4

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.8	nitride		1	AO2 5.1.1.1

Question	Answers	Extra information	Mark	AO / Spec. Ref.
02.9	neon has a stable arrangement of electrons		1	AO1 5.1.2.4

Total Question 2	**12**

Answer 02 · Examiner comments

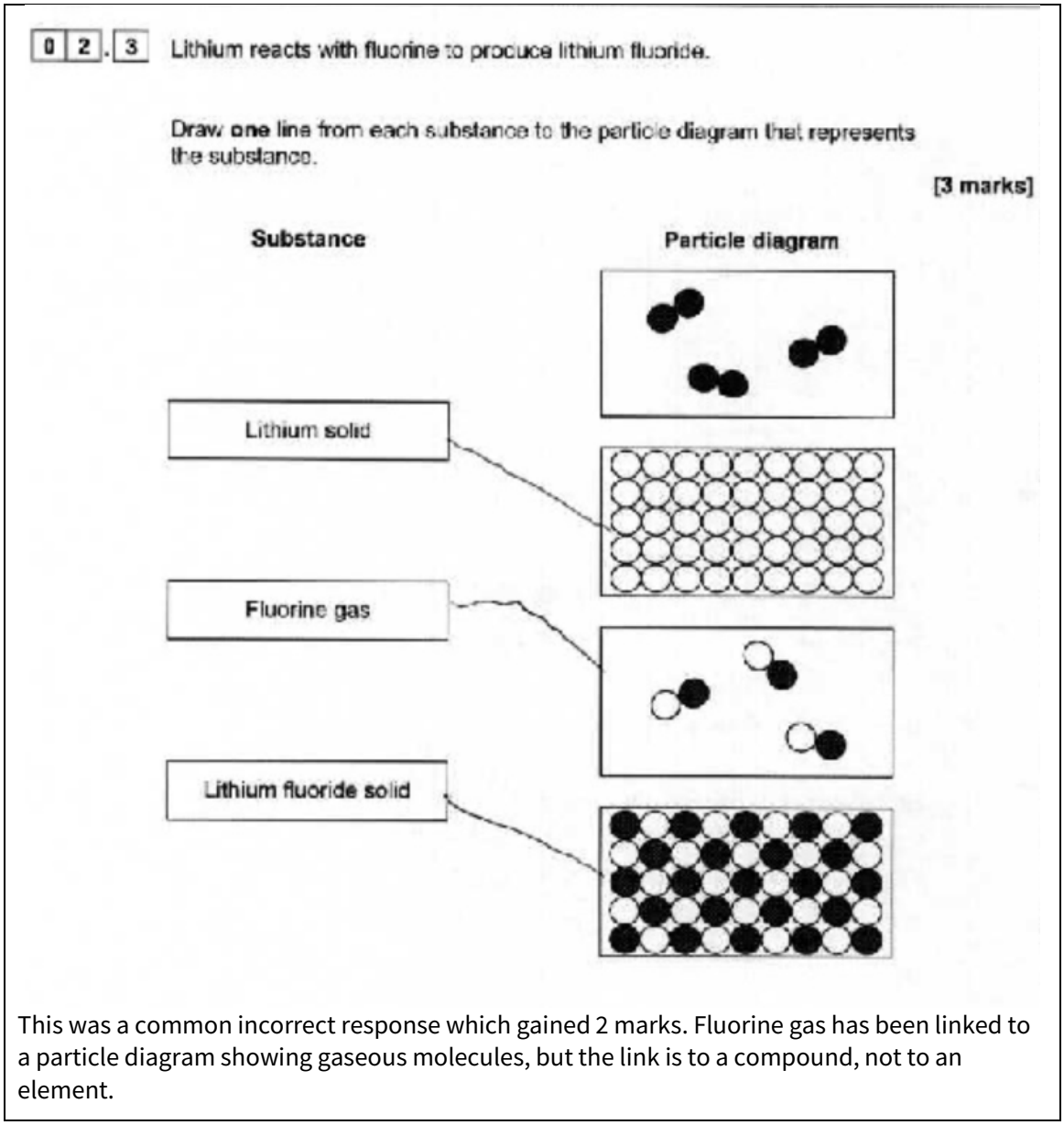
June 2025 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

Question 2 (Low demand)

02.1 Many students correctly wrote the chemical symbol of lithium with a capital L followed by a lower case i. When writing symbols lowercase letters must be discernibly smaller than capitals.

02.2 More than half of students knew that delocalised electrons from the outer shell are involved in metallic bonding. Fixed electrons in the outer shell was the most popular incorrect distractor.

02.3 Students should recognise particle diagrams for solid and gaseous states and for elements and compounds. Different colour circles are used to represent different atoms or ions so students should deduce that both the (diatomic) fluorine gaseous molecule and lithium solid particle diagram would only have one colour circle whereas the ionic compound lithium fluoride solid particle diagram would have two different colour circles. The majority of students correctly linked the substance to the particle diagram that represents the substance.



This was a common incorrect response which gained 2 marks. Fluorine gas has been linked to a particle diagram showing gaseous molecules, but the link is to a compound, not to an element.

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5.1.2.3 Metals and non-metals

Answer 02 · Examiner comments June 2025 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

02.4 Just over half the students were able to use the electrical conductivity of a substance when solid and liquid to identify the ionic compound lithium fluoride.

02.5 Just over half the students recognised the structure of diamond. Graphite was the most common incorrect response.

02.6 A third of students gained both marks for 88 with or without working. Some gained 1 mark for the correct mathematical expression or writing 12 + 76. Many students did not multiply the number of atoms by the relative atomic mass of the atom so gave either 31 or 288 by adding or multiplying the A_r values of carbon and fluorine or used the 4 (atoms of fluorine) as a power giving a M_r of several thousand.

02.7 Just over half the students identified that six shared electrons were shown in the overlap of energy levels in the diagram representing a molecule of nitrogen. Three pairs would have been an acceptable answer although 3 was a common incorrect answer.

02.8 Only 5% of students were able to select the word from the box to complete the name of the compound with the formula Li_3N. The most common answer was nitrogen. Credit was awarded if the student identified the correct answer in the box, provided this was not contradicted by what was written in the answer space.

02.9 Just under half of students knew that neon does not react with other elements because neon has a stable arrangement of electrons. The most popular incorrect distractor was neon is a non-metallic element.