AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.2.1.2

Ionic bonding

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**9**
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.

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

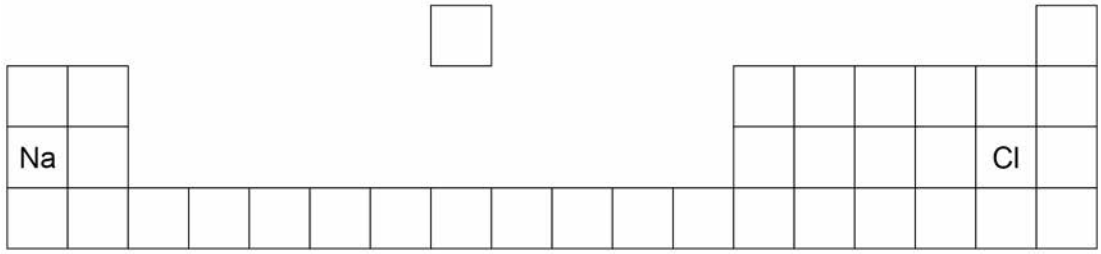
Question 01

June 2018 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q6

0 6 This question is about sodium and chlorine.

Figure 13 shows the positions of sodium and chlorine in the periodic table.

Figure 13



0 6 . 1 State **one** difference and **one** similarity in the electronic structure of sodium and of chlorine.

[2 marks]

Difference _____

_____

Similarity _____

_____

0 6 . 2 Sodium atoms react with chlorine atoms to produce sodium chloride (NaCl).

Describe what happens when a sodium atom reacts with a chlorine atom.

Write about electron transfer in your answer.

[4 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

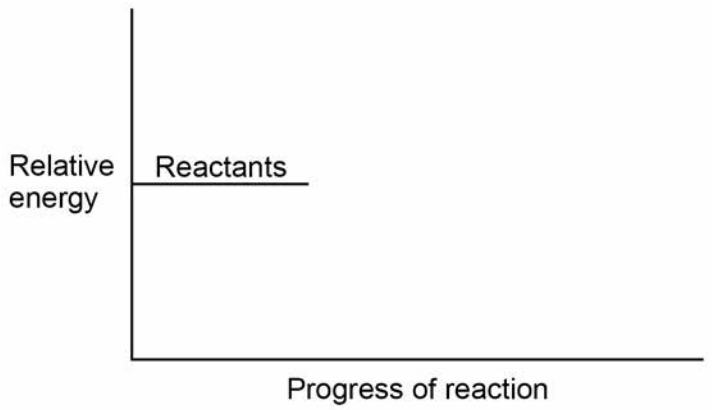
Question 01 · continued

0 6 . 3 The reaction between sodium and chlorine is an exothermic reaction.

Complete the reaction profile for the reaction between sodium and chlorine.

[2 marks]

Figure 14



8

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q4

0 4 This question is about Group 1 elements.

0 4 . 1 Sodium reacts with chlorine to produce sodium chloride.

Balance the equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

$$____ Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow ____ NaCl$$

0 4 . 2 4.6 g of sodium reacts with chlorine to produce 11.7 g of sodium chloride.

What mass of chlorine reacted?

[1 mark]

Mass of chlorine = _____ g

0 4 . 3 A teacher puts hot sodium into a gas jar of chlorine.

The changes seen before, during and after this reaction were observed.

Complete the sentences.

Choose the answers from the box.

[4 marks]

colourless	**green**	**lilac**	**silver**	**white**	**yellow**

Sodium is a _____ solid.

Chlorine is a _____ gas.

The hot sodium burns with a _____ flame.

The product sodium chloride is a _____ solid.

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 02 · continued

0 4 . 4 Sodium chloride (NaCl) is an ionic compound.

Write the formulae of the ions in sodium chloride.

[2 marks]

Sodium ion _____

Chloride ion _____

0 4 . 5 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

an atom	**an electron**	**a neutron**	**a proton**

Potassium is more reactive than sodium.

This is because potassium loses _____ more easily than sodium.

0 4 . 6 How does the size of a potassium atom compare with the size of a sodium atom?

Give a reason for your answer.

[2 marks]

_____

Reason _____

_____

_____

11

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

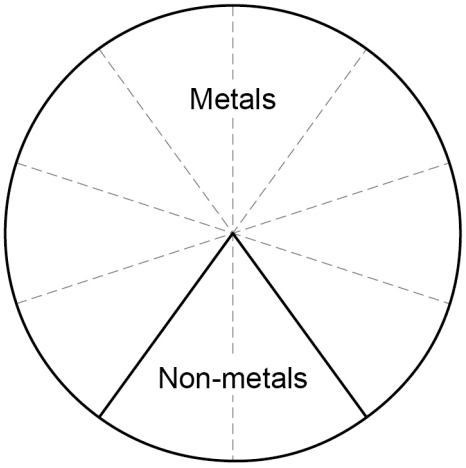
Question 03

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]

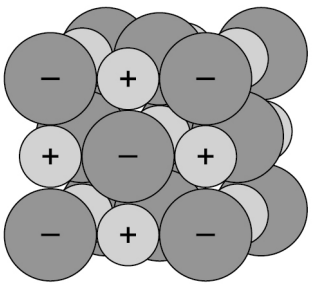
_____ $Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow$ _____ $NaCl$

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

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

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 04

November 2020 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

0 5 This question is about elements in the periodic table.

0 5 . 1 What property was used to arrange elements in early periodic tables?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Atomic number ☐

Atomic weight ☐

Mass number ☐

0 5 . 2 In early periodic tables, iodine (I) was placed before tellurium (Te).

Mendeleev placed iodine after tellurium.

Figure 7 shows part of Mendeleev's periodic table.

Figure 7

16 **O**	19 **F**
32 **S**	35.5 **Cl**
79 **Se**	80 **Br**
128 **Te**	127 **I**

Suggest **one** reason why Mendeleev placed iodine in the column shown in **Figure 7**.

[1 mark]

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 04 · continued

Table 3 shows the melting points of three Group 1 metals.

Table 3

Metal	Melting point in °C
Lithium	180
Sodium	98
Potassium	63

0 5 . 3 What state is lithium at 100 °C?

Use **Table 3**.

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Gas ☐ Liquid ☐ Solid ☐

0 5 . 4 Complete the graph in **Figure 8**.

Use **Table 3**.

You should:

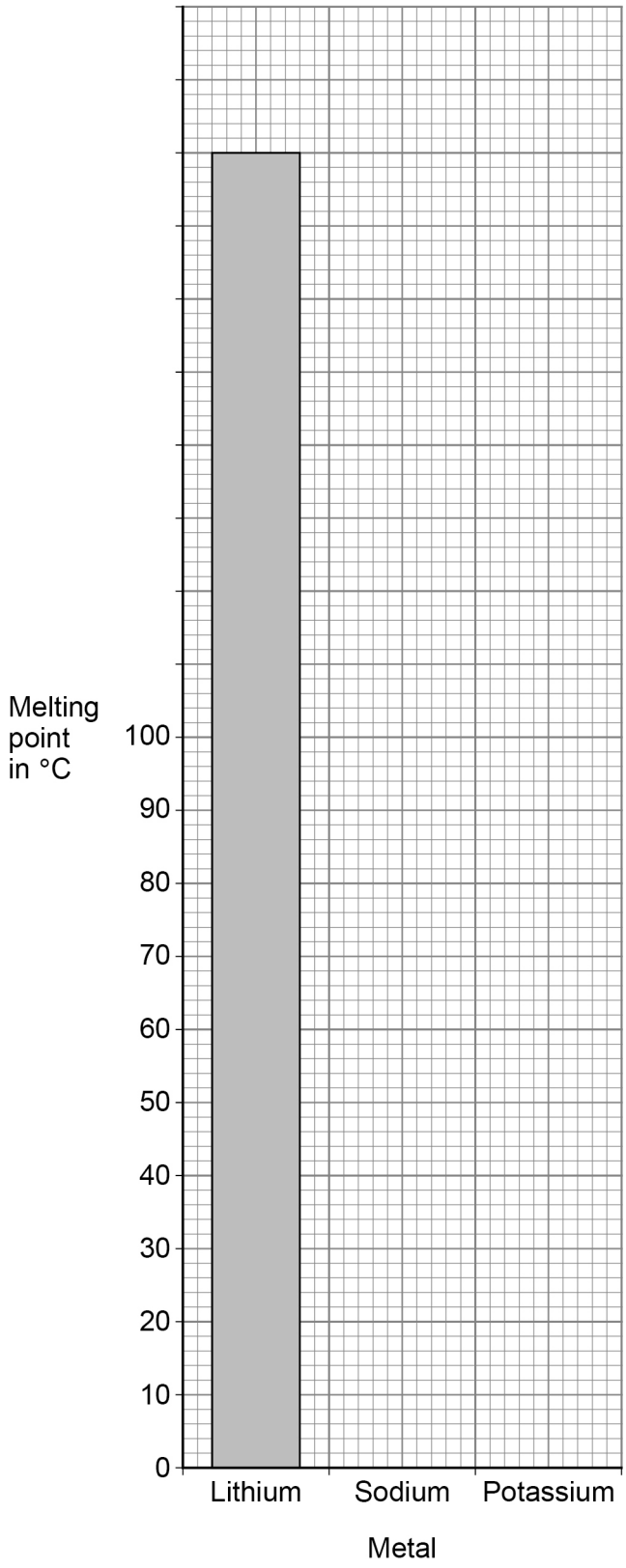
- complete the scale on the y-axis
- draw bars to show the melting points of sodium and potassium.

[3 marks]

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 04 · continued

Figure 8



5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

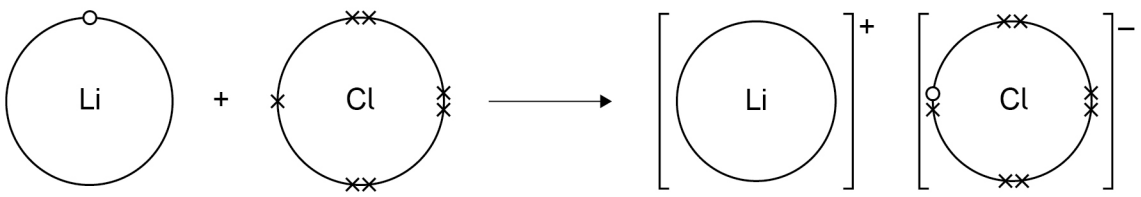
Question 04 · continued

0 5 . 5 Lithium reacts with chlorine to produce lithium chloride.

Figure 9 shows what happens to the electrons in the outer shells when a lithium atom reacts with a chlorine atom.

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

Figure 9



Describe what happens to a lithium atom and to a chlorine atom when they react.

Use **Figure 9** to answer in terms of electrons.

[3 marks]

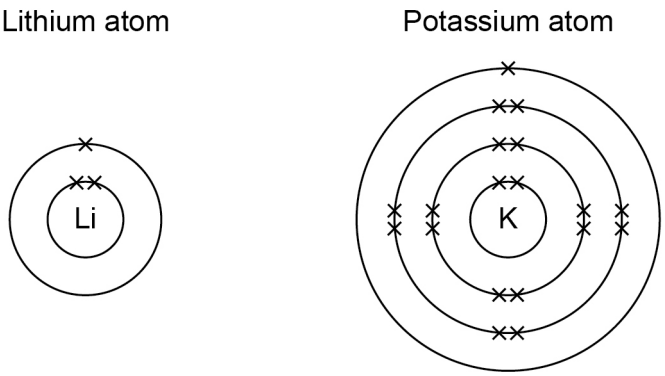
5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 04 · continued

0 5 . 6 Lithium and potassium are in the same group of the periodic table.

Figure 10 represents the electronic structures of a lithium atom and of a potassium atom.

Figure 10



Give **two** reasons why potassium is more reactive than lithium.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

11

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 05

June 2022 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about Group 1 elements.

0 1 . 1 What are the Group 1 elements known as?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

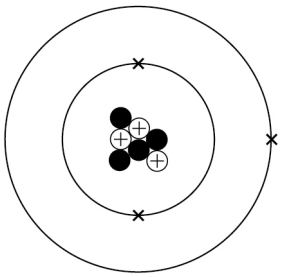
Alkali metals ☐

Halogens ☐

Noble gases ☐

0 1 . 2 **Figure 1** shows a lithium atom.

Figure 1



What is the number of electrons and neutrons in the atom of lithium?

[2 marks]

Number of electrons _____

Number of neutrons _____

0 1 . 3 What is the relative charge on a lithium ion?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

+1 ☐ 0 ☐ –1 ☐

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 05 · continued

0 1 . 4 Lithium is heated and then cooled in an experiment.

Lithium solid —Stage **1**→ Lithium liquid —Stage **2**→ Lithium solid

Two physical changes happen in the experiment.

Draw **one** line from each stage to the physical change that happens in that stage.

[2 marks]

Stage	**Physical change**
	Boiling
	Condensing
Stage **1**	
	Dissolving
Stage **2**	
	Freezing
	Melting

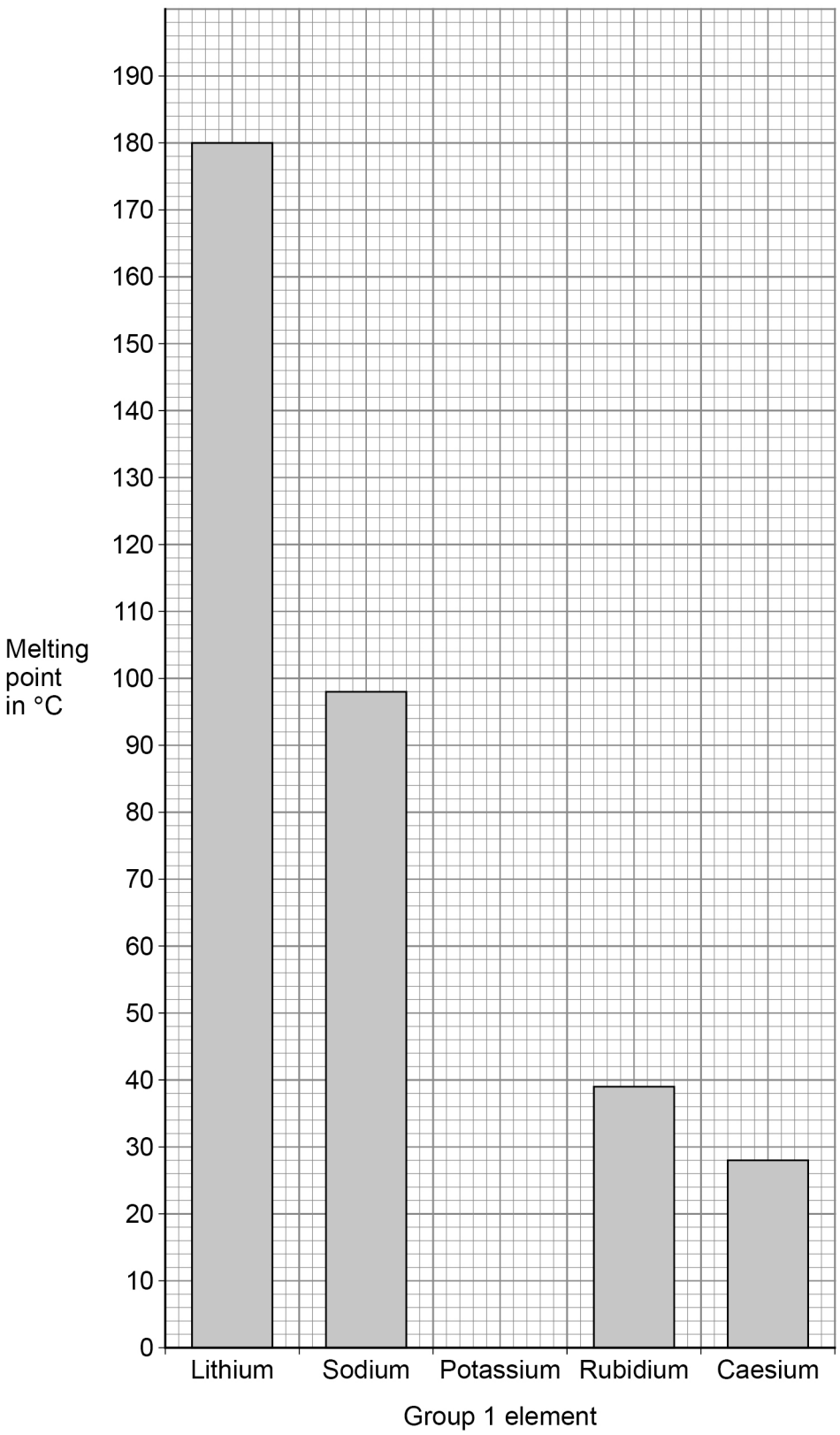
Question 1 continues on the next page

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 05 · continued

Figure 2 represents the melting points of some Group 1 elements.

Figure 2



5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 05 · continued

0 1 . 5 What is the melting point of caesium?

Use **Figure 2**.

[1 mark]

Melting point = _____ °C

0 1 . 6 The melting point of potassium is 63 °C

Draw a bar for the melting point of potassium on **Figure 2**.

[1 mark]

0 1 . 7 Describe the trend of the melting points of the Group 1 elements in **Figure 2**.

[3 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

0 1 . 8 The boiling point of sodium is 883 °C

What is the state of sodium at 150 °C?

Use **Figure 2**.

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Gas ☐

Liquid ☐

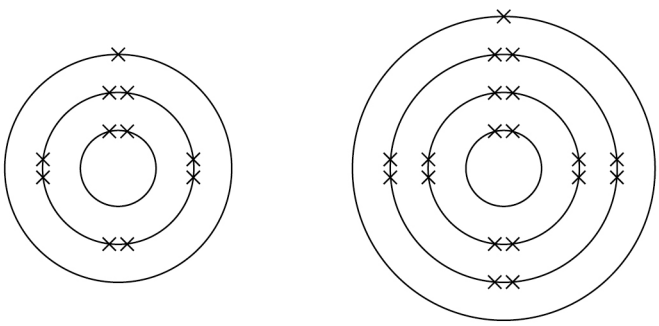
Solid ☐

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 05 · continued

0 1 . 9 **Figure 3** represents the electronic structure of a sodium atom and of a potassium atom.

Figure 3



Sodium atom

Potassium atom

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

gains an electron	**loses an electron**	**shares an electron**

Potassium is more reactive than sodium because potassium more

easily _____ .

13

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 06

June 2022 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about hydrogen chloride and sodium hydroxide.

0 2 . 1 A chlorine atom has 7 electrons in the outer shell.

A hydrogen atom has 1 electron in the outer shell.

Figure 4 represents part of a dot and cross diagram for a molecule of hydrogen chloride.

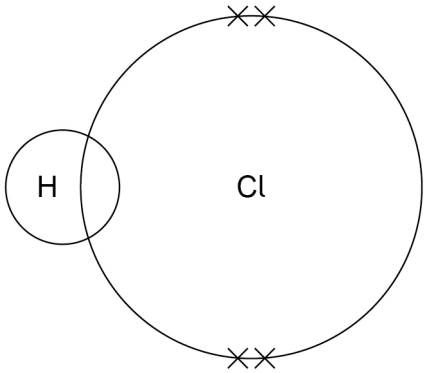
Complete the dot and cross diagram.

Use dots (o) and crosses (x) to represent electrons.

You should show only the electrons in the outer shells.

[2 marks]

Figure 4



0 2 . 2 Hydrogen chloride dissolves in water to produce hydrochloric acid.

Hydrochloric acid reacts with sodium hydroxide solution.

Complete the word equation for the reaction between hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide.

[1 mark]

hydrochloric acid + sodium hydroxide → _____ + water

Question 2 continues on the next page

Question 06 · continued

Solutions of hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide are reacted and the temperature change is recorded.

0 2 . 3 In the reaction, 3.65 g of hydrogen chloride reacts with 4.00 g of sodium hydroxide.

1.80 g of water is produced.

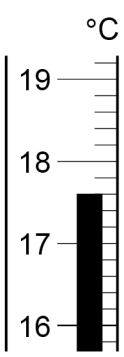
Calculate the mass of the other product.

[1 mark]

Mass = _____ g

0 2 . 4 **Figure 5** shows part of the thermometer used to measure the temperature.

Figure 5



What is the temperature reading on the thermometer?

[1 mark]

Temperature = _____ °C

0 2 . 5 In the reaction, the temperature increases.

What type of reaction is happening when the temperature increases?

[1 mark]

0 2 . 6 Sodium hydroxide is an alkali.

Which **two** ions are in sodium hydroxide solution?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

Cl^- ☐ H^+ ☐ Na^+ ☐ O^{2-} ☐ OH^- ☐

8

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07

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.

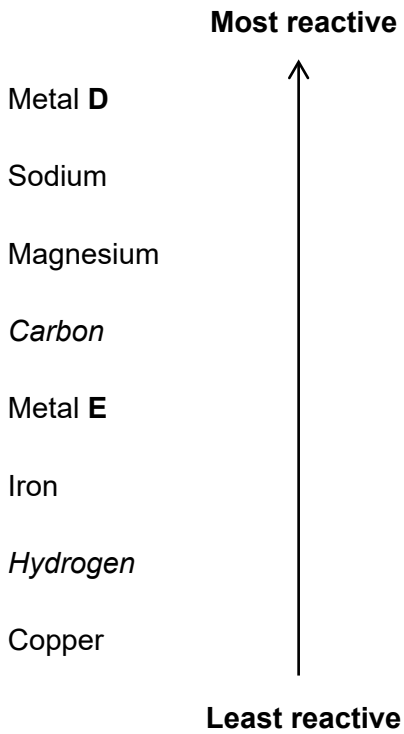
[2 marks]

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07 · continued

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

Figure 10



5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07 · 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

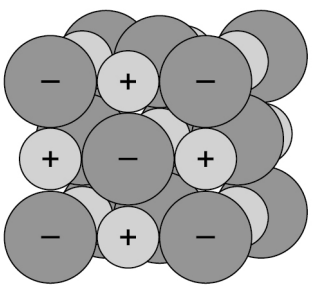
5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07 · continued

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.

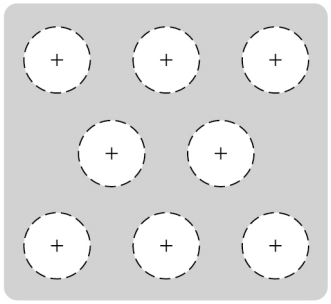
[3 marks]

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 07 · 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]

13

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 08

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 ☐

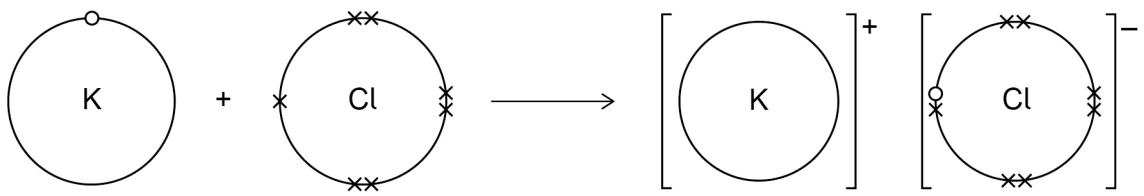
Question 3 continues on the next page

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]

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

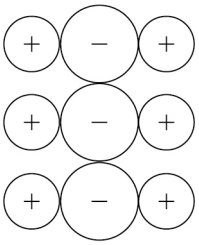
Question 08 · continued

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

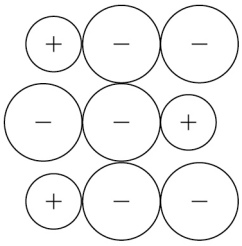
Which structure represents the arrangement of ions in solid potassium chloride?

[1 mark]

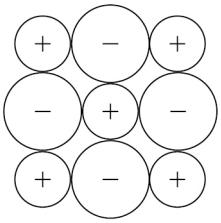
Tick (✓) **one** box.



☐



☐



☐

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

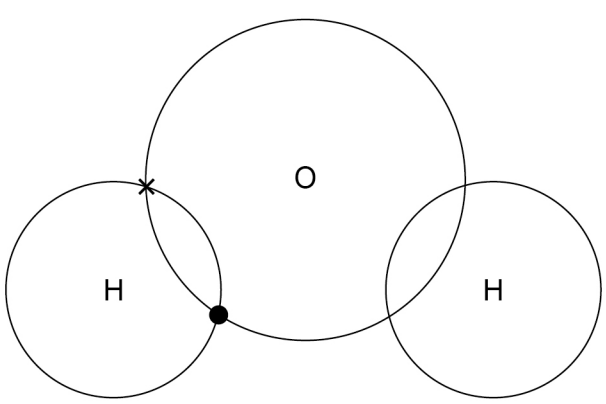
Figure 7 shows part of a dot and cross diagram for a molecule of water.

Complete the dot and cross diagram.

You should only show electrons in the outer shells.

[2 marks]

Figure 7



Question 08 · 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**.

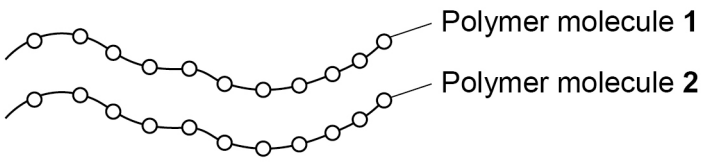
[1 mark]

_____ 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 ☐

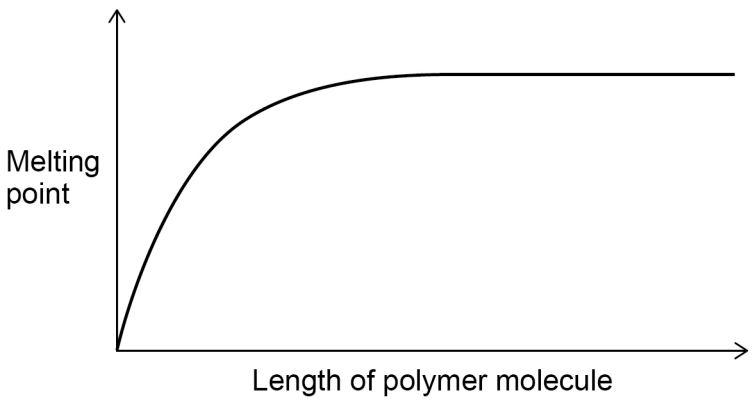
Weak intermolecular forces ☐

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 08 · 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

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 09

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

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

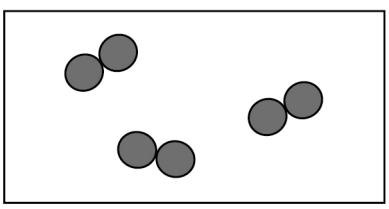
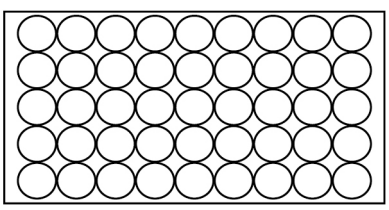
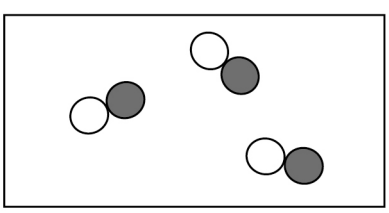
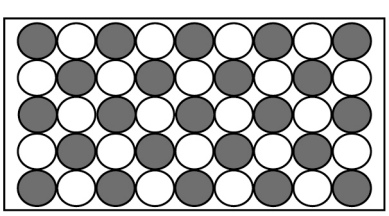
5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 09 · 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	
	

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 09 · continued

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.

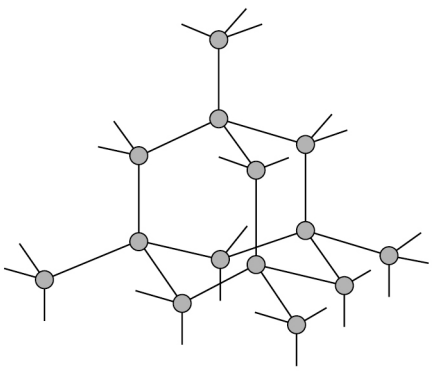
C ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

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

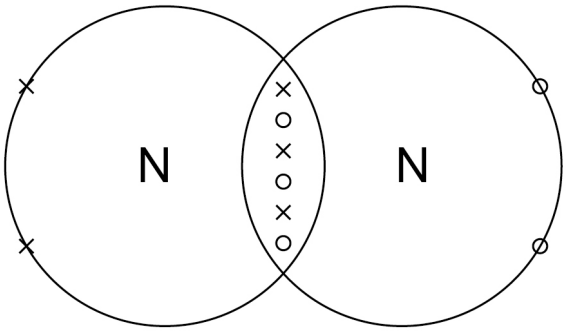
[2 marks]

Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

Question 09 · continued

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

5.2.1.2 Ionic bonding

Question 09 · 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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