AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.2.1.4

Covalent bonding

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**10**
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.

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

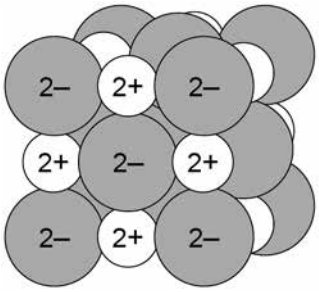
Question 01

June 2018 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q1

0 1 This question is about structure and bonding.

0 1 . 1 **Figure 1** shows part of the structure of calcium oxide (CaO).

Figure 1



What type of bonding is present in calcium oxide?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

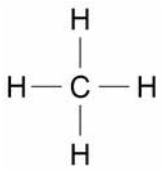
- Covalent ☐
- Ionic ☐
- Macromolecular ☐
- Metallic ☐

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 2 **Figure 2** shows a particle of methane (CH_4).

Figure 2



What type of particle is present in **Figure 2**?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

An ion ☐

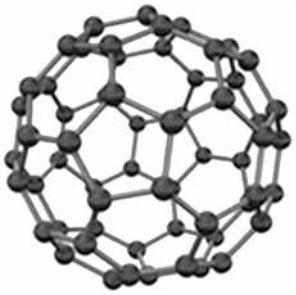
A lattice ☐

A molecule ☐

A polymer ☐

0 1 . 3 **Figure 3** shows the structure of C_{60}

Figure 3



Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

diatomic	**giant ionic**	**a fullerene**	**giant metallic**

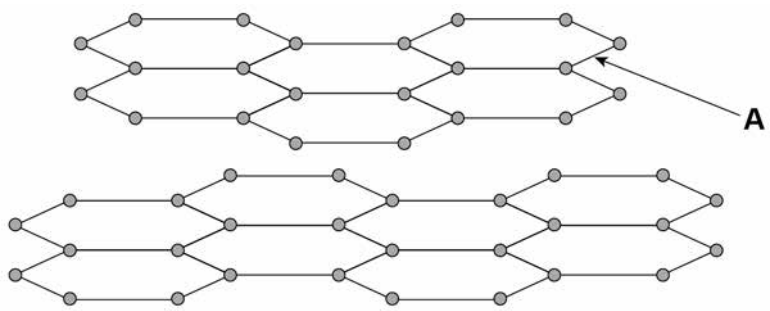
The structure of C_{60} is _____ .

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 01 · continued

Figure 4 shows the structure of graphite.

Figure 4



0 1 . 4 What type of bond is labelled **A** in **Figure 4**?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

covalent ☐

double ☐

ionic ☐

metallic ☐

0 1 . 5 In graphite, each carbon atom forms bonds with other carbon atoms as shown in **Figure 4**

How many electrons does **one** carbon atom use to form **one** bond?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

1 ☐ **2** ☐ **3** ☐ **4** ☐

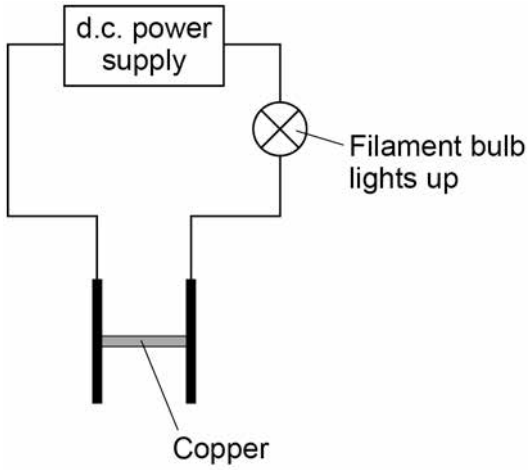
5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 01 · continued

An electric current is passed through copper.

Figure 5 shows the apparatus used.

Figure 5



0 1 . 6 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

gas	**liquid**	**solid**	**solution**

Figure 5 shows that copper conducts electricity as a _____ .

0 1 . 7 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

atoms	**electrons**	**ions**	**molecules**

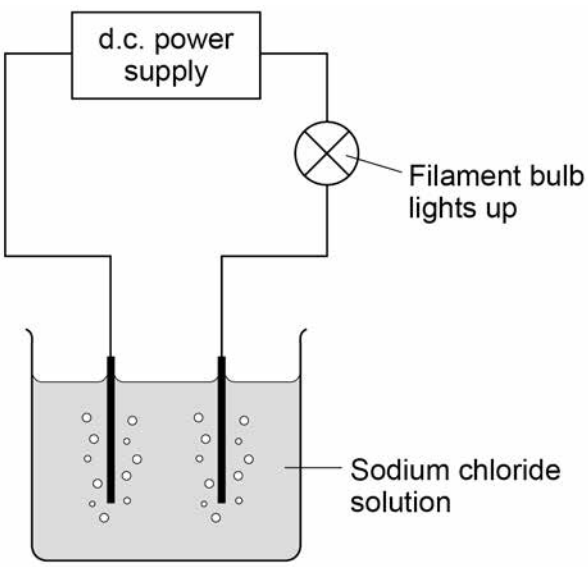
Copper conducts electricity because of the movement of delocalised _____ .

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 8 **Figure 6** shows the apparatus used to investigate the effect of electricity on sodium chloride solution.

Figure 6



Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

dissolved	**gaseous**	**molten**

Figure 6 shows that sodium chloride conducts electricity when _____ .

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 9 Sodium chloride is made up of ions.

Figure 7 shows the apparatus used to investigate the effect of electricity on solid sodium chloride and molten sodium chloride.

Figure 7

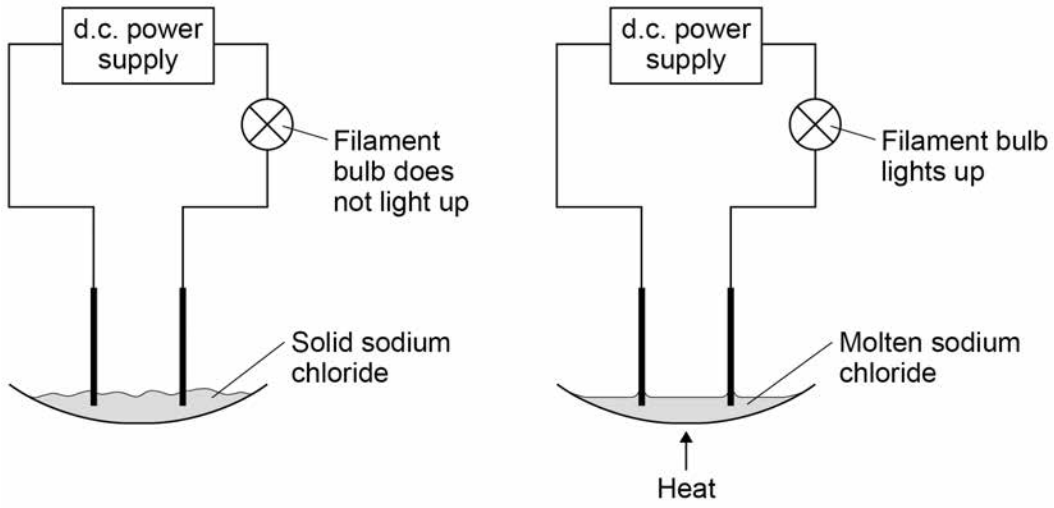


Table 1 shows the results.

Table 1

	Solid sodium chloride	Molten sodium chloride
Observation	The filament bulb does not light up	The filament bulb lights up
Deduction	Does not conduct electricity	Does conduct electricity

Draw **one** line from each statement to the correct reason.

[2 marks]

Statement	Reason
Solid sodium chloride does not conduct electricity.	The ions are fixed.
	The ions are mobile.
Molten sodium chloride conducts electricity.	The ions are neutral.
	The ions are vibrating.

10

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 02

June 2018 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about the halogens.

0 2 . 1 Which group in the periodic table is known as the halogens?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

Group 1 ☐

Group 2 ☐

Group 7 ☐

Group 0 ☐

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

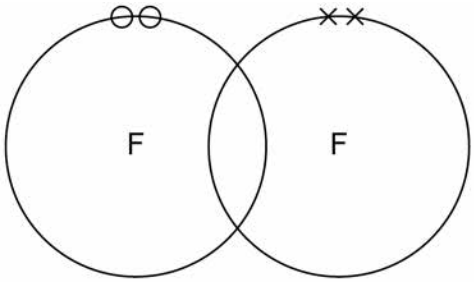
Figure 8 shows part of a dot and cross diagram to represent a molecule of fluorine (F_2).

Complete the dot and cross diagram.

You should show only the electrons in the outer shells.

[2 marks]

Figure 8



0 2 . 3 Chlorine reacts with potassium bromide solution.

Complete the word equation.

[2 marks]

chlorine + potassium bromide → _____ + _____

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 4 What type of reaction happens when chlorine reacts with potassium bromide solution?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

- decomposition ☐
- displacement ☐
- neutralisation ☐
- precipitation ☐

0 2 . 5 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

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

Chlorine is more reactive than bromine.

This is because chlorine gains _____ more easily.

0 2 . 6 How does the size of a chlorine atom compare with the size of a bromine atom?

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

bigger than	**the same size as**	**smaller than**

A chlorine atom is _____ a bromine atom.

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 7 Give a reason for your answer to question **02.6**

[1 mark]

Reason _____

_____

0 2 . 8 Fluorine reacts with chlorine to produce ClF_3

Balance the chemical equation for the reaction.

[1 mark]

$Cl_2 +$ _____ $F_2 \rightarrow 2\ ClF_3$

0 2 . 9 Explain why fluorine is a gas at room temperature.

Use the following words in your answer:

energy **forces** **molecules** **weak**

[3 marks]

13

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 03

June 2019 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

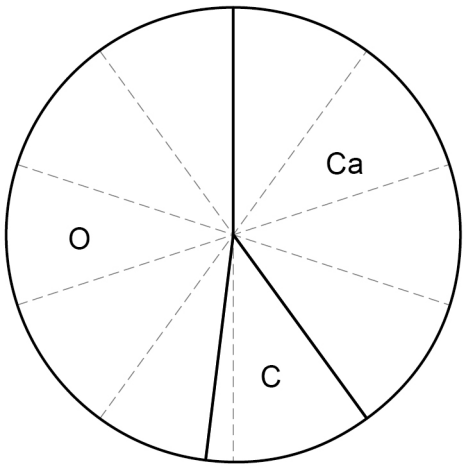
0 5 This question is about oxygen and compounds of oxygen.

0 5 . 1 What is the state symbol of oxygen at room temperature?

[1 mark]

0 5 . 2 **Figure 4** shows the percentage by mass of the elements calcium, carbon and oxygen in calcium carbonate.

Figure 4



What is the percentage by mass of calcium in calcium carbonate?

[1 mark]

Percentage = _____ %

Question 03 · continued

0 5 . 3 At high temperature, sodium nitrate decomposes into sodium nitrite and oxygen.

A student heats three samples of sodium nitrate.

The mass of each sample was 4.50 g

The mass of solid after heating was recorded.

Table 2 shows the mass of solid after heating in each experiment.

Table 2

Experiment	Mass of solid after heating in g
1	3.76
2	3.98
3	4.09

Calculate the mean mass of solid after heating.

Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

[3 marks]

Mean mass of solid after heating = _____ g

Question 5 continues on the next page

0 5 . 4 **Table 3** shows the electronic structure of hydrogen and oxygen.

Table 3

Element	Electronic structure
Hydrogen	1
Oxygen	2,6

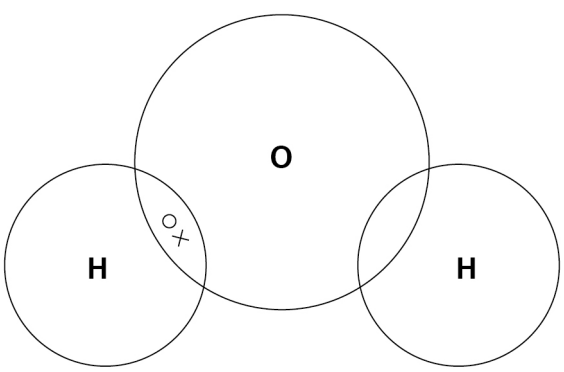
Figure 5 shows part of a dot and cross diagram of a molecule of water (H_2O).

Complete the dot and cross diagram.

You should show only the electrons in the outer energy levels.

[2 marks]

Figure 5



Oxygen and sulfur are examples of simple molecules.

0 5 . 5 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

covalent	ionic	metallic

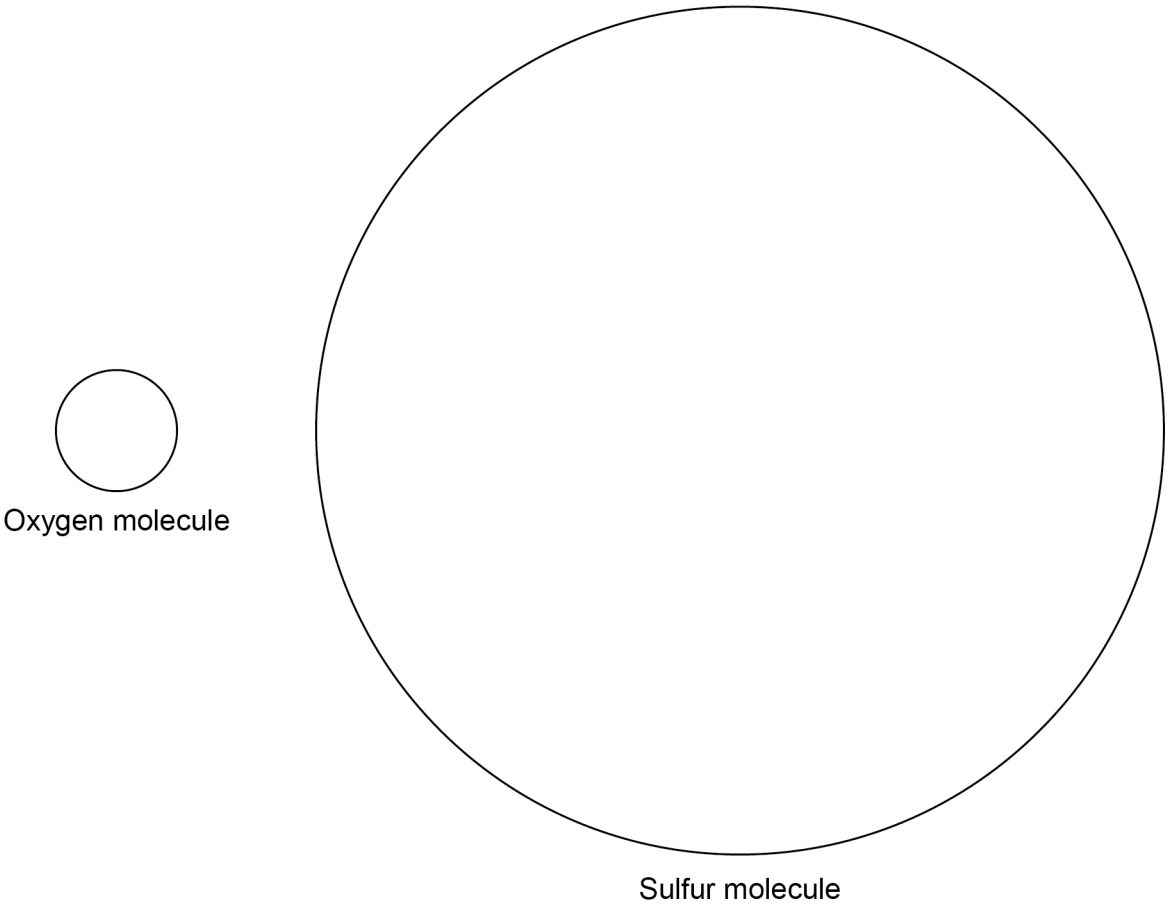
There are _____ bonds between the atoms of oxygen in an oxygen molecule.

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 03 · continued

0 5 . 6 **Figure 6** shows the relative sizes of an oxygen molecule and a sulfur molecule.

Figure 6



How does the boiling point of sulfur compare with the boiling point of oxygen?

Complete the sentences.

[2 marks]

The boiling point of sulfur is _____ the boiling point of oxygen.

This is because in sulfur the intermolecular forces are _____ than the intermolecular forces in oxygen.

10

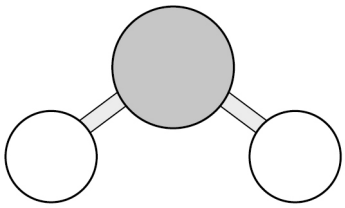
5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 04

0 7 This question is about substances with covalent bonding.

0 7 . 1 **Figure 12** shows a ball and stick model of a water molecule (H_2O).

Figure 12



Suggest **one** limitation of using a ball and stick model for a water molecule.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

_____

0 7 . 2 Ice has a low melting point.

Water molecules in ice are held together by intermolecular forces.

Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

Ice has a low melting point because the

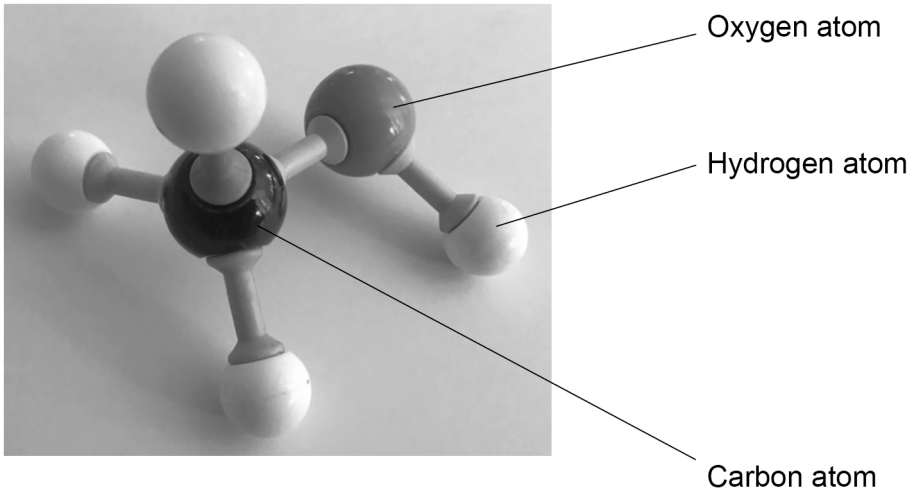
intermolecular forces are _____.

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 04 · continued

0 7 . 3 **Figure 13** shows the structure of a molecule.

Figure 13



What is the molecular formula of the molecule in **Figure 13**?

[1 mark]

Question 7 continues on the next page

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 04 · continued

Diamond has a giant covalent structure.

0 7 . 4 What is the number of bonds formed by each carbon atom in diamond?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 8 ☐

0 7 . 5 Give **two** physical properties of diamond.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

0 7 . 6 Name **two** other substances with giant covalent structures.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

8

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 05

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.

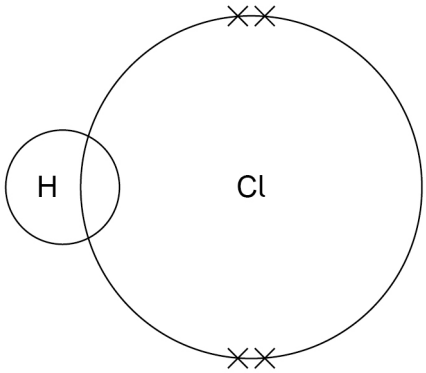
Complete the dot and cross diagram.

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

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 05 · 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.

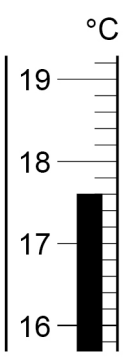
Calculate the mass of the other product.

[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

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

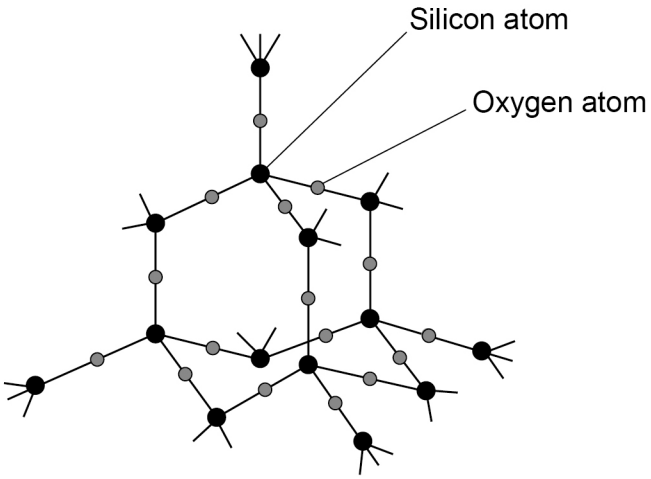
Question 06

June 2022 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q3

0 3 This question is about structure and bonding.

Figure 6 represents part of the structure of silicon dioxide.

Figure 6



0 3 . 1 What type of structure is silicon dioxide?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Giant covalent ☐

Ionic lattice ☐

Simple molecular ☐

0 3 . 2 Each oxygen atom forms two bonds.

What is the number of bonds formed by each silicon atom?

Use **Figure 6**.

[1 mark]

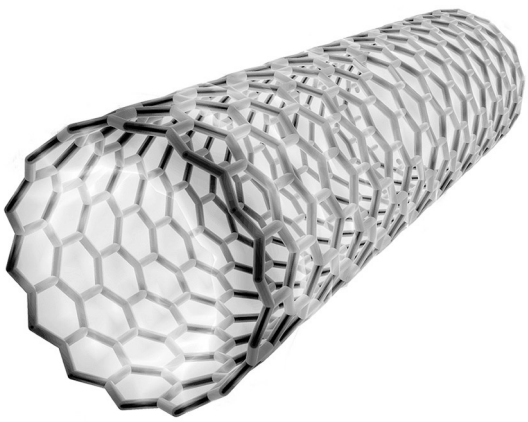
_____

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 06 · continued

Figure 7 represents part of a fullerene.

Figure 7



0 3 . 3 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

hexagons	**octagons**	**squares**	**triangles**

The structure of fullerenes is based on _____ .

0 3 . 4 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

carbon	**hydrogen**	**oxygen**

The fullerene molecule shown in **Figure 7** is made from

atoms of _____ .

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 06 · continued

0 3 . 5 What is the fullerene molecule shown in **Figure 7** used for?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Electronics ☐

Hand warmers ☐

Sports injury packs ☐

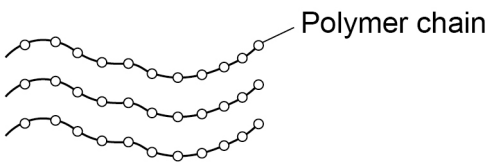
Question 3 continues on the next page

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 06 · continued

Figure 8 represents part of the structure of a polymer.

Figure 8



0 3 . 6 What holds the atoms together in a polymer chain?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Covalent bonds ☐

Ionic bonds ☐

Metallic bonds ☐

0 3 . 7 Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

atomic	**intermolecular**	**macromolecular**

In **Figure 8** the polymer chains are held together by

_____ forces.

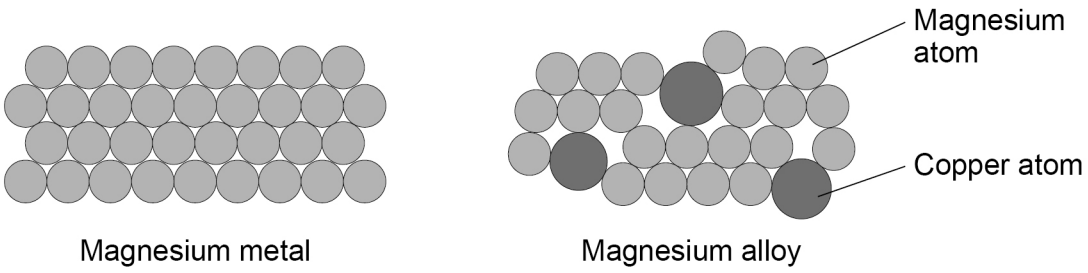
5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 06 · continued

Figure 9 represents part of the structures of:

- magnesium metal
- a magnesium alloy.

Figure 9



0 3 . 8 Calculate the percentage of copper atoms in the alloy.

[3 marks]

Number of magnesium atoms in the alloy = _____

Number of copper atoms in the alloy = _____

Total number of atoms in the alloy = _____

_____

Percentage of copper atoms in the alloy = _____ %

0 3 . 9 Explain why the magnesium alloy is harder than magnesium metal.

Use **Figure 9**.

[3 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

13

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 07

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

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

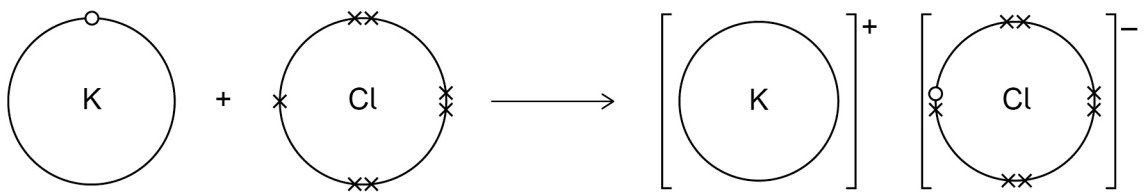
Question 07 · continued

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]

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

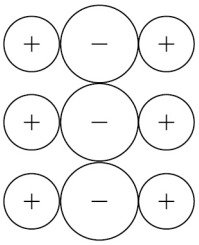
Question 07 · continued

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

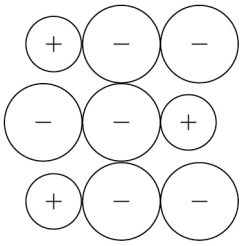
Which structure represents the arrangement of ions in solid potassium chloride?

[1 mark]

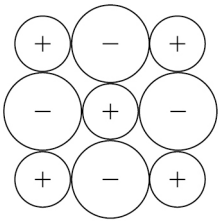
Tick (✓) **one** box.



☐



☐



☐

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

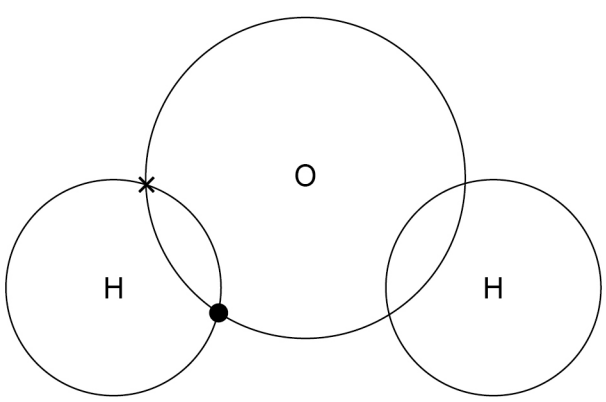
Figure 7 shows part of a dot and cross diagram for a molecule of water.

Complete the dot and cross diagram.

You should only show electrons in the outer shells.

[2 marks]

Figure 7



5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 07 · 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**.

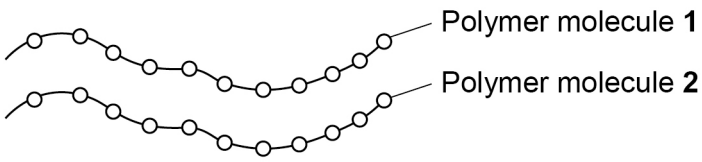
[1 mark]

_____ 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 ☐

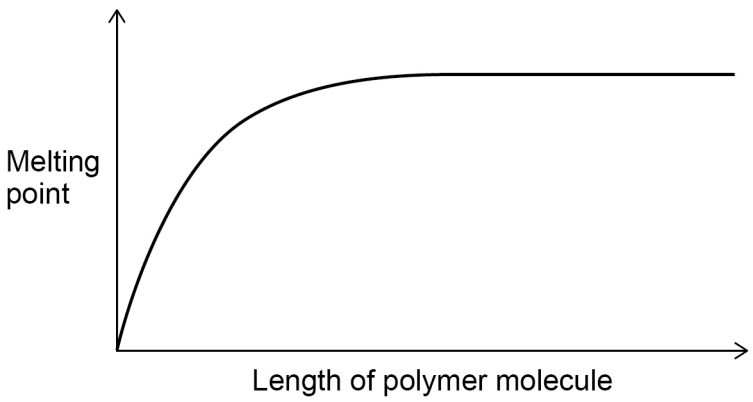
Weak intermolecular forces ☐

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 07 · 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

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 08

June 2024 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q2

0 2 Carbon is in Group 4 of the periodic table.

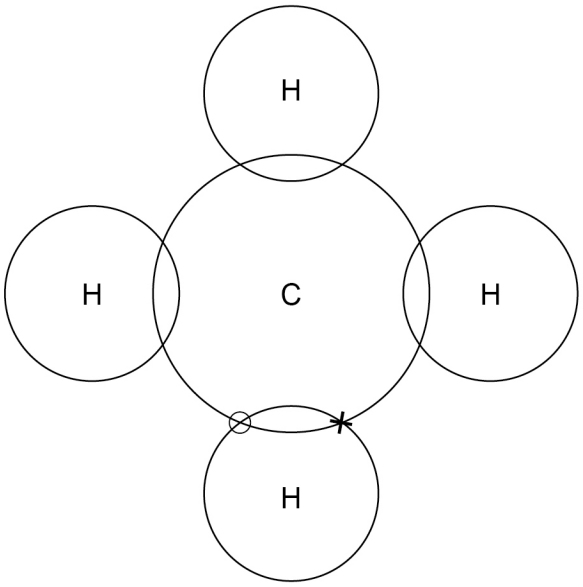
0 2 . 1 Methane contains carbon and hydrogen atoms.

A carbon atom has 4 electrons in the outer shell.

A hydrogen atom has 1 electron in the outer shell.

Complete the dot and cross diagram for a methane molecule.

[2 marks]



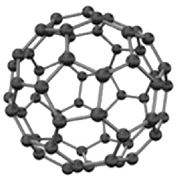
5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 08 · continued

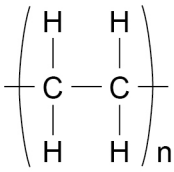
0 2 . 2 Which diagram represents the structure of diamond?

[1 mark]

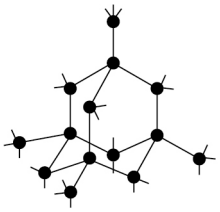
Tick (✓) **one** box.



☐



☐



☐

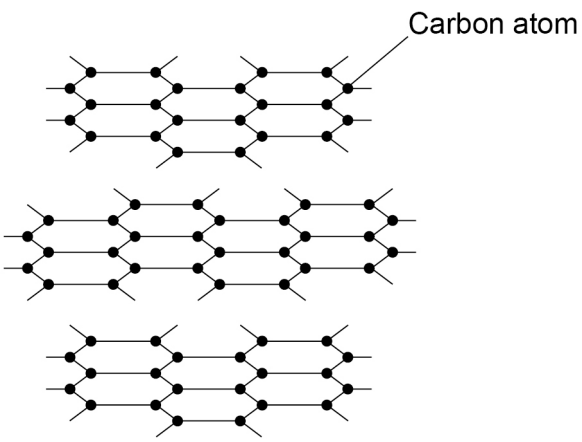
Question 2 continues on the next page

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 08 · continued

Figure 3 represents part of the structure of graphite.

Figure 3



0 2 . 3 In graphite each carbon atom forms covalent bonds.

How many covalent bonds does each carbon atom form in graphite?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

0 2 . 4 Graphite conducts electricity.

Which particles carry electrical charge through graphite?

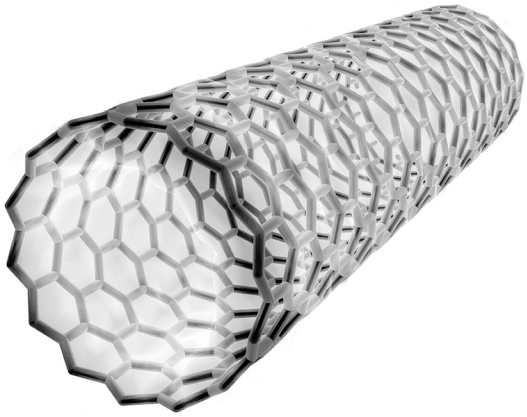
[1 mark]

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 08 · continued

Figure 4 represents the structure of a fullerene.

Figure 4



0 2 . 5 Where are fullerenes used?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

In electronic components ☐

In self-heating cans ☐

In sports injury packs ☐

0 2 . 6 Describe the structure of the fullerene shown in **Figure 4**.

[2 marks]

8

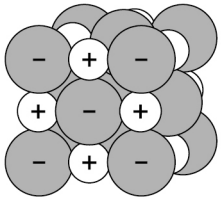
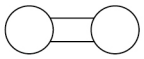
5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 09

June 2024 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q8

0 8 **Table 8** shows diagrams which represent the structures of two substances.

Table 8

Substance	Structure
Sodium chloride NaCl	
Oxygen O_2	

Compare the structure and bonding of sodium chloride and oxygen.

[6 marks]

6

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 10

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

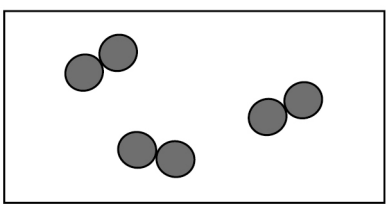
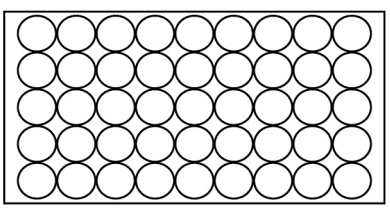
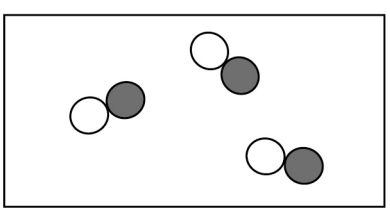
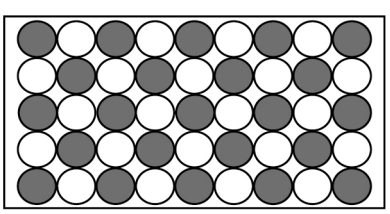
5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 10 · 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	
	

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 10 · 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.

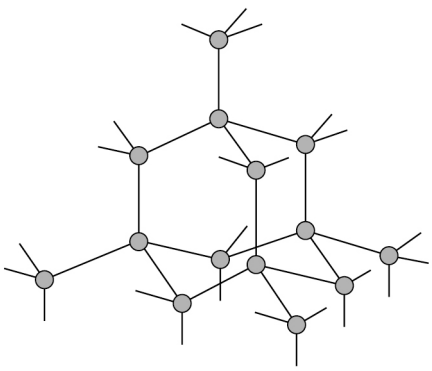
C ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

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]

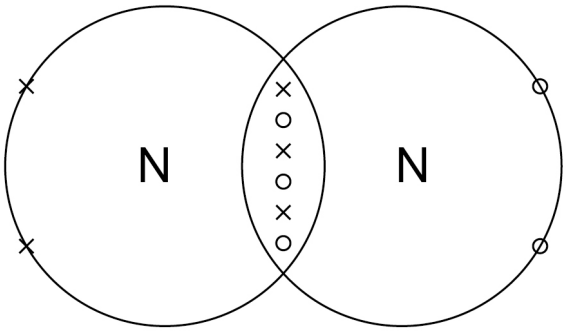
Relative formula mass (M_r) = _____

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 10 · 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

5.2.1.4 Covalent bonding

Question 10 · 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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