AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.2.2.4

Properties of small molecules

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Foundation**
Question groups	**3**
Available paper years	**2019–2023**

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.

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 01

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

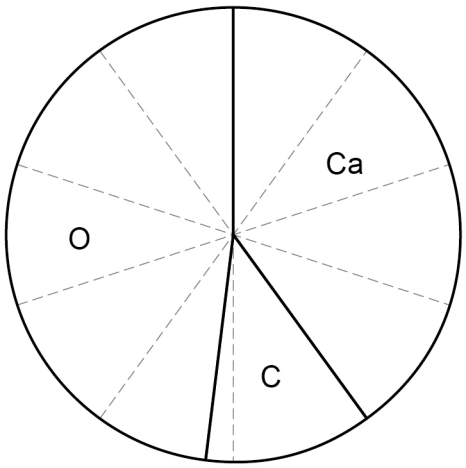
0 5 This question is about oxygen and compounds of oxygen.

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 = _____ %

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 01 · continued June 2019 | 8464/C/1F | Original Q5

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

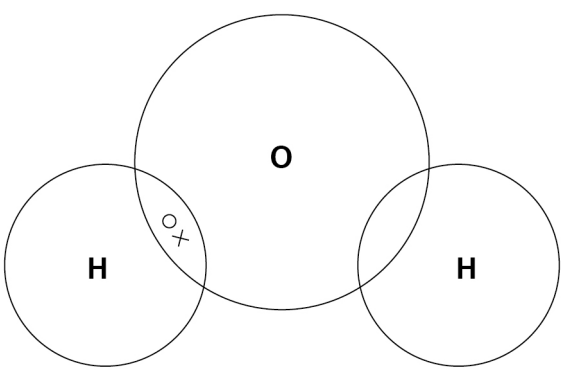
Figure 5 shows part of a dot and cross diagram of a molecule of water (H_2O).

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

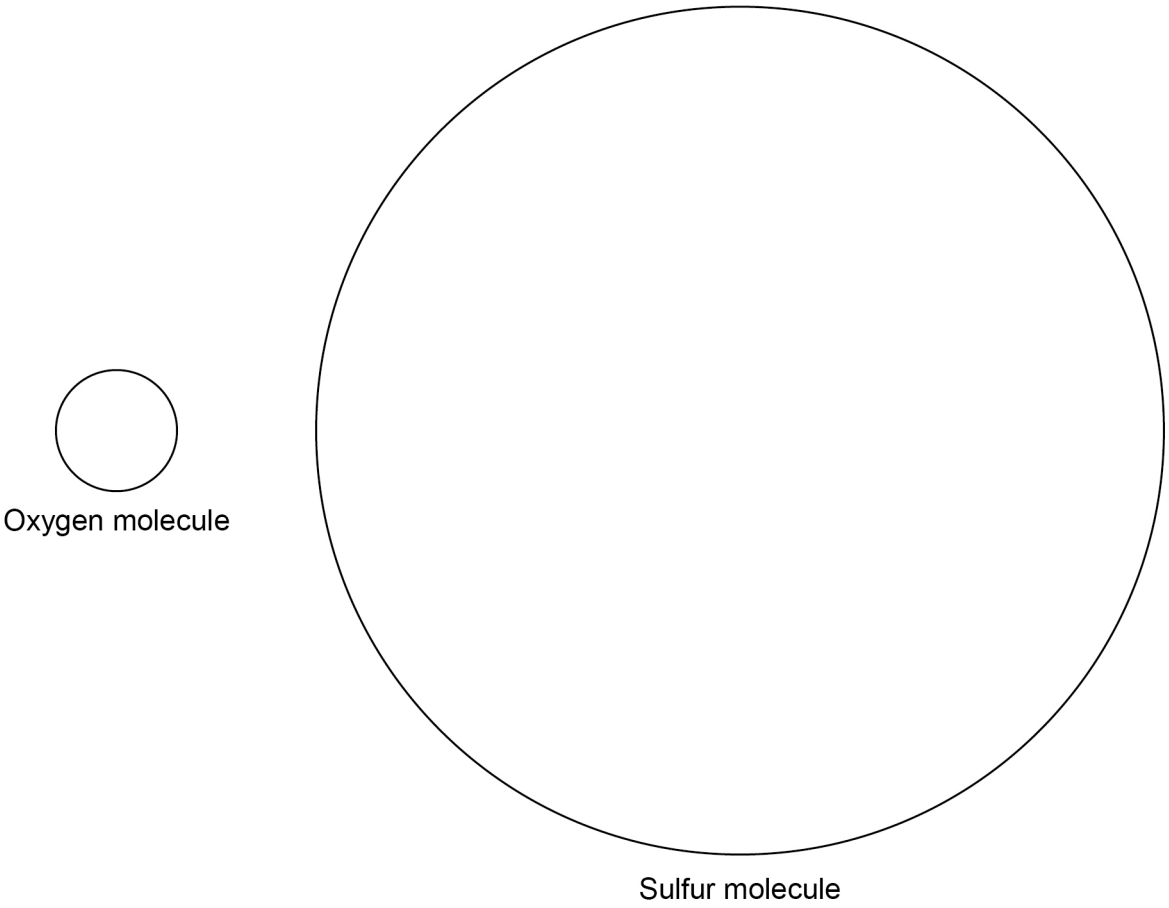
There are _____ bonds between the atoms of oxygen in an oxygen molecule.

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 01 · 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

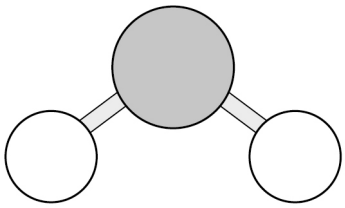
5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 02

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

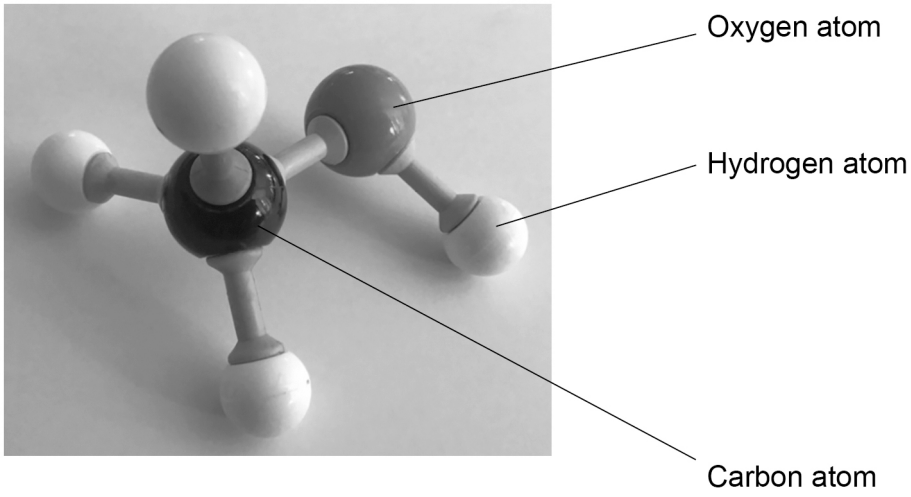
intermolecular forces are _____.

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 02 · 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

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 02 · 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

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 03

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

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

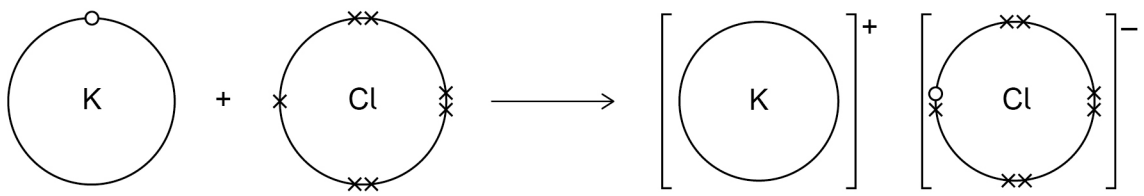
Question 03 · continued

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]

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

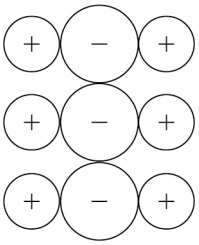
Question 03 · continued

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

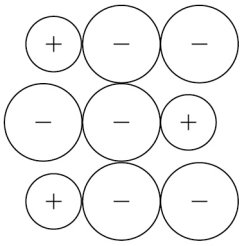
Which structure represents the arrangement of ions in solid potassium chloride?

[1 mark]

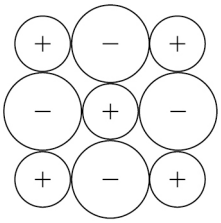
Tick (✓) **one** box.



☐



☐



☐

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

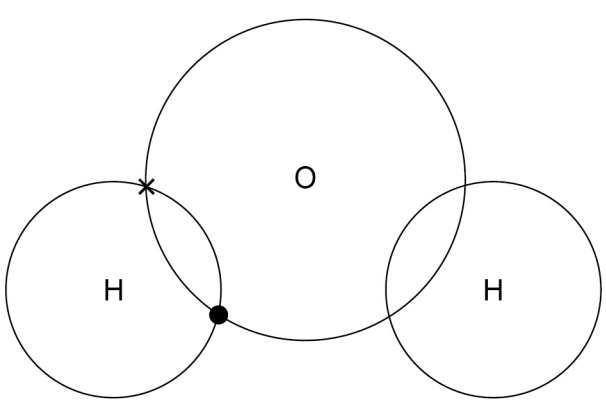
Figure 7 shows part of a dot and cross diagram for a molecule of water.

Complete the dot and cross diagram.

You should only show electrons in the outer shells.

[2 marks]

Figure 7



5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

Question 03 · 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**.

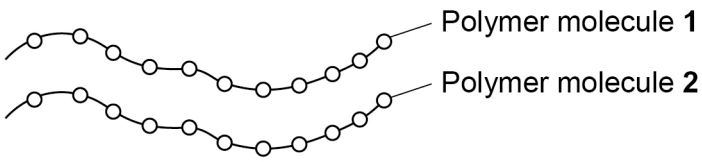
[1 mark]

_____ 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 ☐

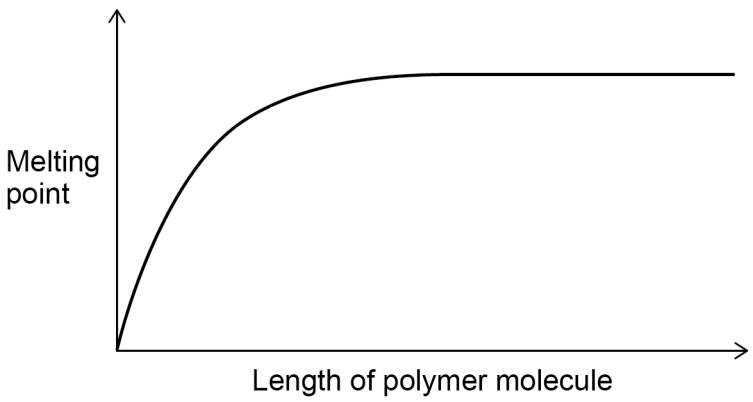
Electrostatic attraction between ions ☐

Weak intermolecular forces ☐

5.2.2.4 Properties of small molecules

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