AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.10.2.1

Life cycle assessment

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**3**
Available paper years	**2018–2022**

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.

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 01

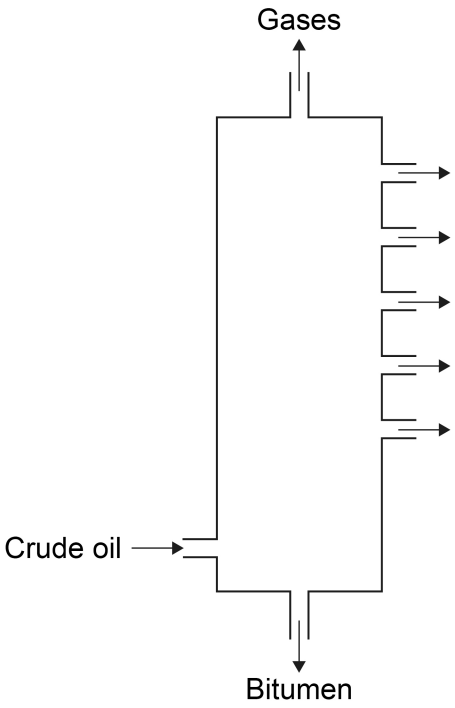
June 2018 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q1

0 1 Crude oil is a mixture of hydrocarbons.

0 1 . 1 The hydrocarbons in crude oil are separated into fractions by fractional distillation.

Figure 1 shows a fractional distillation column.

Figure 1



Crude oil vapour passes up the column.

Complete the sentence.

Choose the answer from the box.

[1 mark]

condenses	**dissolves**	**freezes**	**melts**

Each fraction _____ at a different level.

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 2 Why do the fractions separate?

[1 mark]

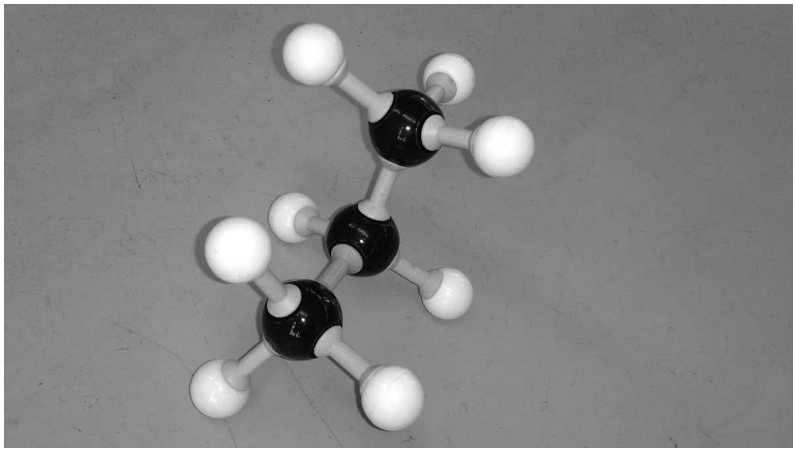
Tick **one** box.

- The fractions have different boiling points. ☐
- The fractions have different flammability. ☐
- The fractions have different melting points. ☐
- The fractions have different viscosity. ☐

Most of the hydrocarbons in crude oil are alkanes.

0 1 . 3 **Figure 2** represents an alkane molecule.

Figure 2



Name the alkane.

[1 mark]

_____

Question 1 continues on the next page

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 01 · continued

0 1 . 4 Methane (CH_4) is an alkane.

What is the general formula for alkanes?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

C_nH_n ☐

C_nH_{2n} ☐

C_nH_{2n-2} ☐

C_nH_{2n+2} ☐

0 1 . 5 Alkanes burn in oxygen.

Balance the equation for methane burning.

[1 mark]

____ CH_4 + ____ O_2 → ____ CO_2 + ____ H_2O

0 1 . 6 Ethene is an alkene.

Which reagent is used to test for alkenes?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

Anhydrous copper sulfate ☐

Bromine water ☐

Damp litmus paper ☐

Limewater ☐

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 01 · continued

Table 1 shows data from a life cycle assessment (LCA) for the disposal of 10 000 biodegradable plastic bags.

Table 1

	Burning and using the energy to generate electricity	Landfill
Mass of carbon dioxide produced in kg	25	15
Mass of solid residue in kg	0.050	0.070
Mass of sulfur dioxide produced in kg	0.20	0.30

0 1 . 7 Why are life cycle assessments (LCA) done?

[1 mark]

0 1 . 8 Compare the **two** methods for the disposal of biodegradable plastic bags.

Use information from **Table 1**

[4 marks]

11

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 02

November 2021 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q5

0 5 Atmospheric pollution is emitted by cars.

Some car emissions contain nitrogen dioxide.

0 5 . 1 Describe how nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is produced in the engine of a car that burns fossil fuels.

[3 marks]

Table 3 shows the concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in three different areas for 1 week.

Table 3

	Concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in micrograms per m^3		
Day	**City centre**	**Countryside**	**Motorway**
Monday	35	8	22
Tuesday	37	8	23
Wednesday	37	8	23
Thursday	34	8	23
Friday	37	8	23
Saturday	29	7	20
Sunday	**X**	6	17

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 02 · continued

0 5 . 2 The mean value for nitrogen dioxide in the air for the whole week in the city centre is 33 micrograms per m^3.

Calculate the value (**X**) for the concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in the city centre on Sunday.

[2 marks]

X = _____ micrograms per m^3

0 5 . 3 Each value in **Table 3** has an uncertainty of ± 2 micrograms per m^3.

Explain why this uncertainty is **most** significant for countryside data.

[2 marks]

Question 5 continues on the next page

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 02 · continued

Nitrogen dioxide is removed from car emissions by catalytic converters.

0 5 . 4 In a catalytic converter nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) reacts to produce nitrogen and oxygen.

Complete the equation for the reaction.

You should balance the equation.

[2 marks]

_____ $NO_2 \rightarrow$ _____ + _____

0 5 . 5 The catalyst in a catalytic converter contains platinum.

Platinum is a finite resource.

What is meant by a 'finite resource'?

[1 mark]

0 5 . 6 Emissions from cars contain carbon dioxide.

Explain why carbon dioxide emissions during use and operation are **not** the total carbon footprint for a car.

Refer to the stages of the life cycle assessment of a car in your answer.

[3 marks]

13

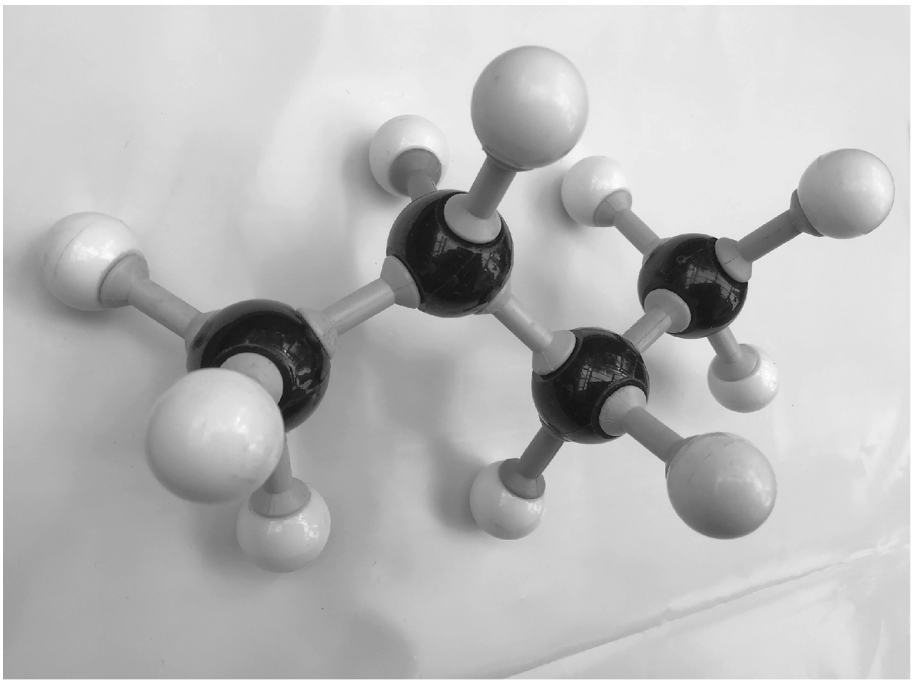
5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 03

0 4 This question is about hydrocarbons and the uses of hydrocarbons.

0 4 . 1 **Figure 6** shows a model of an alkane.

Figure 6



What is the name of the alkane in **Figure 6**?

[1 mark]

0 4 . 2 What is a hydrocarbon?

[1 mark]

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 03 · continued

Large hydrocarbon molecules are cracked.

0 4 . 3 When $C_{11}H_{24}$ is cracked, three products are formed.

Complete the equation for the reaction.

[2 marks]

$$C_{11}H_{24} \rightarrow C_5H_{10} + 2 \text{ _____} + \text{ _____}$$

0 4 . 4 Explain why **one** of the products of cracking is in high demand.

[2 marks]

Question 4 continues on the next page

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

0 4 . 5 Window frames can be manufactured from wood or from plastic.

Table 2 shows data from a life cycle assessment (LCA) for a wooden window frame and a plastic window frame.

Both window frames are the same size.

Table 2

	Wood	Plastic
Sources of hydrocarbons used for production in kg	5.37	18.23
Greenhouse gases released during production, use and disposal in kg equivalent of CO_2	457	487
Oxides of nitrogen and sulfur dioxide produced in arbitrary units	29.6	37.7
Waste materials in kg	16.5	28.8
Total energy consumption in production, use and disposal in MJ	9150	9713
Lifetime cost to customer to buy and maintain in £	147	102

5.10.2.1 Life cycle assessment

Question 03 · continued

Evaluate the sustainability of wooden and plastic window frames.

You should include environmental and economic factors.

[6 marks]

12