AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 5.9.2.4

The carbon footprint and its reduction

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**4**
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.

5.9.2.4 The carbon footprint and its reduction

Question 01

June 2018 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about the Earth's atmosphere.

0 2 . 1 Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas.

What is another greenhouse gas?

[1 mark]

Tick **one** box.

- Argon ☐
- Methane ☐
- Nitrogen ☐
- Oxygen ☐

0 2 . 2 Greenhouse gases cause global climate change.

Give **two** effects of global climate change.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

0 2 . 3 4.1 kg of a plastic, used to make plastic bottles, has a carbon footprint of 6.0 kg of carbon dioxide.

Calculate the carbon footprint of one plastic bottle of mass 23.5 g

[2 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

Carbon footprint = _____ kg of carbon dioxide

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Question 01 · continued

0 2 . 4 Give **one** way that carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced when a plastic bottle is manufactured.

[1 mark]

0 2 . 5 Explain how the percentages of nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere today have changed from the Earth's early atmosphere.

[6 marks]

12

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Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/C/2H | Original Q2

0 2 This question is about atmospheric pollutants from fuels.

0 2 . 1 Fuel burns in a car engine.

Describe how oxides of nitrogen are produced in a car engine.

[2 marks]

Question 2 continues on the next page

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Question 02 · continued

0 2 . 2 **Table 1** shows the carbon footprint during the manufacture and use of three cars.

Table 1

Car	Mass of CO_2 produced during manufacture in kg	Mass of CO_2 produced when driving in kg per km	Total mass of CO_2 produced from manufacture and 40 000 km driving in kg	Total mass of CO_2 produced from manufacture and 100 000 km driving in kg
Car A	14 000	0.123	18 920	26 300
Car B	20 000	0.085	23 400	28 500
Car C	23 000	0.044	24 760	27 400

Evaluate the carbon footprint of the cars.

Use information from **Table 1**.

[6 marks]

8

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Question 03

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

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Question 03 · 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

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Question 03 · 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

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Question 04

0 2 The proportions of most gases in the Earth's atmosphere have not changed much for the past 200 million years.

0 2 . 1 About one-fifth of the atmosphere is oxygen.

Describe the test for oxygen gas.

Give the result of the test.

[2 marks]

Test _____

_____

Result _____

_____

0 2 . 2 **Table 1** shows the percentages of some gases in the Earth's early atmosphere and in the Earth's atmosphere today.

Table 1

	Percentage (%) of gas in the atmosphere	
Gas	**Earth's early atmosphere**	**Earth's atmosphere today**
Carbon dioxide	95	0.04
Nitrogen	3	78.0
Oxygen	Less than 1	21.0

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Question 04 · continued

Explain how the percentages of gases have changed from Earth's early atmosphere to Earth's atmosphere today.

You should refer to all three gases in **Table 1**.

[6 marks]

Extra space

0 2 . 3 Methane is a greenhouse gas.

Give **two** ways to reduce methane emissions into the atmosphere.

[2 marks]

1

2

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Question 04 · continued

The percentage of sulfur dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere increased between 1850 and 1980.

0 2 . 4 Describe how sulfur dioxide emissions are produced.

[2 marks]

0 2 . 5 Give **one** harmful effect of sulfur dioxide emissions.

[1 mark]

0 2 . 6 Suggest **one** reason why the percentage of sulfur dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere has decreased since 1980.

[1 mark]

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