

HL Paper 2

In beta minus (β^-) decay a d quark decays into a u quark, an electron and an electron antineutrino.

- a. Show that lepton number is conserved in this decay. [1]
- b. A nucleus of phosphorus-32 (${}_{15}^{32}\text{P}$) decays by beta minus (β^-) decay into a nucleus of sulfur-32 (${}_{16}^{32}\text{S}$). The binding energy per nucleon of ${}_{15}^{32}\text{P}$ is 8.398 MeV and for ${}_{16}^{32}\text{S}$ it is 8.450 MeV. [3]
- (i) State what is meant by the binding energy of a nucleus.
- (ii) Determine the energy released in this decay.
- c. Quarks were hypothesized long before their existence was experimentally verified. Discuss the reasons why physicists developed a theory that involved quarks. [3]

Markscheme

- a. «lepton number on» LHS = 0 and «lepton number on» RHS = 0 +1-1

OR

quarks have no/0/zero lepton number and the lepton number for electron and the antineutrino cancel

- b. (i)

energy released when a nucleus forms from constituent nucleons

OR

minimum energy needed/work done to break a nucleus up into its constituent nucleons

Do not allow reference to "atom".

Award [0] for "energy to assemble nucleus".

Do not allow "particles", "constituents" or "components" for "nucleons".

- (ii)

«energy/mass difference \Rightarrow 8.450 – 8.398 \Leftarrow 0.052 MeV»

Q = 1.7 **or** 1.66 **or** 1.664 MeV

OR

2.66×10^{-13} J

- c. quark theory is simpler **OR** Occam's razor example **OR** simple model explains complex observations

quotes experiment that led to quark theory, eg deep inelastic scattering or electron scattering

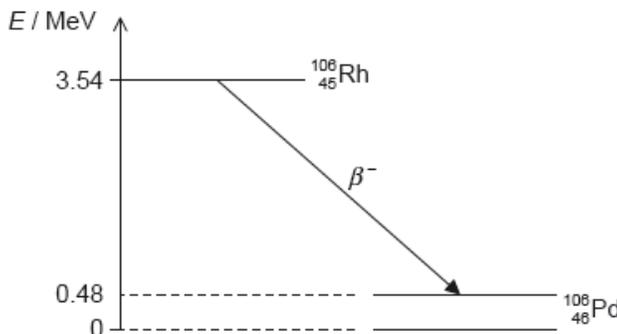
model incorporates strong/weak interactions/forces between protons and neutrons

model incorporates conservation rules

Examiners report

- a. [N/A]
- b. [N/A]
- c. [N/A]

Rhodium-106 ($^{106}_{45}\text{Rh}$) decays into palladium-106 ($^{106}_{46}\text{Pd}$) by beta minus (β^-) decay. The diagram shows some of the nuclear energy levels of rhodium-106 and palladium-106. The arrow represents the β^- decay.



b. Bohr modified the Rutherford model by introducing the condition $mvr = n \frac{h}{2\pi}$. Outline the reason for this modification. [3]

c.i. Show that the speed v of an electron in the hydrogen atom is related to the radius r of the orbit by the expression [1]

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{ke^2}{m_e r}}$$

where k is the Coulomb constant.

c.ii. Using the answer in (b) and (c)(i), deduce that the radius r of the electron's orbit in the ground state of hydrogen is given by the following expression. [2]

$$r = \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2 k m_e e^2}$$

c.iii. Calculate the electron's orbital radius in (c)(ii). [1]

d.i. Explain what may be deduced about the energy of the electron in the β^- decay. [3]

d.ii. Suggest why the β^- decay is followed by the emission of a gamma ray photon. [1]

d.iii. Calculate the wavelength of the gamma ray photon in (d)(ii). [2]

Markscheme

b. the electrons accelerate and so radiate energy

they would therefore spiral into the nucleus/atoms would be unstable

@TOPhysicsTutor
electrons have discrete only certain energy levels

the only orbits where electrons do not radiate are those that satisfy the Bohr condition « $mvr = n \frac{h}{2\pi}$ »

[3 marks]

c.i. $\frac{m_e v^2}{r} = \frac{ke^2}{r^2}$

OR

KE = $\frac{1}{2}$ PE hence $\frac{1}{2} m_e v^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{ke^2}{r}$

«solving for v to get answer»

Answer given – look for correct working

[1 mark]

c.ii. combining $v = \sqrt{\frac{ke^2}{m_e r}}$ with $m_e v r = \frac{h}{2\pi}$ using correct substitution

«eg $m_e \frac{2 ke^2}{m_e r} r^2 = \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2}$ »

correct algebraic manipulation to gain the answer

Answer given – look for correct working

Do not allow a bald statement of the answer for MP2. Some further working eg cancellation of m or r must be shown

[2 marks]

c.iii « $r = \frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34})^2}{4\pi^2 \times 8.99 \times 10^9 \times 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \times (1.6 \times 10^{-19})^2}$ »

$r = 5.3 \times 10^{-11}$ «m»

[1 mark]

d.i. the energy released is $3.54 - 0.48 = 3.06$ «MeV»

this is shared by the electron and the antineutrino

so the electron's energy varies from 0 to 3.06 «MeV»

[3 marks]

d.ii the palladium nucleus emits the photon when it decays into the ground state «from the excited state»

[1 mark]

d.iii Photon energy

$E = 0.48 \times 10^6 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} = 7.68 \times 10^{-14}$ J»

$\lambda = \frac{hc}{E} = \frac{6.63 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{7.68 \times 10^{-14}} \Rightarrow 2.6 \times 10^{-12}$ «m»

Award [2] for a bald correct answer

Allow ECF from incorrect energy

[2 marks]

Examiners report

b. [N/A]

c.i. [N/A]

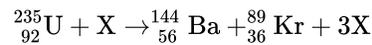
c.ii. [N/A]

@TOPhysicsTutor

c.iii. [N/A]
 d.i. [N/A]
 d.ii. [N/A]
 d.iii. [N/A]

This question is about nuclear reactions.

A reaction that takes place in the core of a particular nuclear reactor is as shown.



In the nuclear reactor, 9.5×10^{19} fissions take place every second. Each fission gives rise to 200 MeV of energy that is available for conversion to electrical energy. The overall efficiency of the nuclear power station is 32%.

- a.i. State the nature of X. [1]
- a.ii. State **one** form of energy that is instantaneously released in the reaction. [1]
- b.i. Determine the mass of U-235 that undergoes fission in the reactor every day. [3]
- b.ii. Calculate the power output of the nuclear power station. [2]
- c. In addition to the U-235, the nuclear reactor contains graphite that acts as a moderator. Explain the function of the moderator. [3]
- d. Outline how energy released in the nuclear reactor is transformed to electrical energy. [3]

Markscheme

a.i. neutron / ${}^1_0\text{n}$;

a.ii. kinetic energy / gamma radiation / binding energy;

b.i. number of fissions in one day = $9.5 \times 10^{19} \times 24 \times 3600$ (= 8.2×10^{24});

mass of uranium atom = $235 \times 1.661 \times 10^{-27}$ (= 3.9×10^{-25} kg);

mass of uranium in one day (= $8.2 \times 10^{24} \times 3.9 \times 10^{-25}$) = 3.2 kg;

b.ii. energy per fission = $200 \times 10^6 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ (= 3.2×10^{-11} J);

power output = ($9.5 \times 10^{19} \times 3.2 \times 10^{-11} \times 0.32$) = 9.7×10^8 W;

Award [1] for an answer of 6.1×10^{27} eVs⁻¹.

c. neutrons have to be slowed down (before next fission);

because the probability of fission is (much) greater (with neutrons of thermal energy);

neutrons collide with/transfer energy to atoms/molecules (of the moderator);

d. kinetic energy of neutrons/thermal energy of core is transferred into thermal energy

of the coolant (and elsewhere);

(thermal energy) is converted into kinetic energy in moving steam;

(kinetic energy of steam) is transferred into (rotational) kinetic energy of turbine;

(kinetic energy of turbine) is transferred into electrical energy by dynamo/generator;

Examiners report

a.i. X is a neutron and almost all answers were correct. G2 comments suggested that the term “State the nature of X” was rather vague. This is a helpful comment, but on this occasion candidates did not seem to be affected by it.

a.ii. Instantaneous energy release: Binding energy, (particle) kinetic energy, gamma radiation were all accepted. Heat energy was not accepted.

b.i. Quite a few candidates found the mass defect rather than the mass of U-235 fissioned. The mass of a Uranium atom was often incorrect – candidates were expected to determine it from the mass number. A few stated the mass as 235g. Another common error was to find mass per second, rather than per day. However many correct answers were seen.

b.ii. Working was often unclear. The power station efficiency of 0.32 was often overlooked. Whilst many candidates were eventually able to determine the power output of the power station in W, there were also answers giving the energy output per day. Quite a few candidates used eV/s and this was accepted for 1 mark.

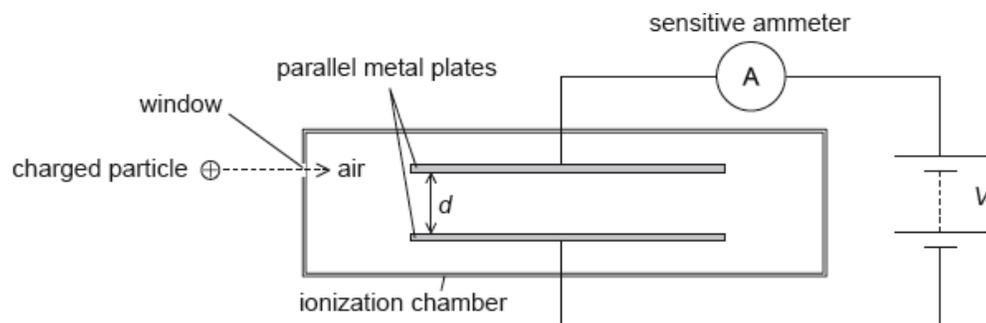
c. There was some confusion between a moderator and control rods. However, most candidates knew that the graphite moderator slowed neutrons (due to inelastic collisions) to thermal energies to maximise the probability of further fission.

d. Outlining the energy transfers occurring in a nuclear power plant is a frequent question, but answers were often poorly organised. A simple flow diagram would suffice. Thermal energy of core > thermal energy of coolant > KE of steam > KE of turbine > Electrical energy from generator, or similar. Far too many candidates barely mentioned energy; “...heat up water to make steam which turns a turbine...” gained no marks.

This question is in **two** parts. **Part 1** is about electric fields and radioactive decay. **Part 2** is about waves.

Part 1 Electric fields and radioactive decay

An ionization chamber is a device which can be used to detect charged particles.

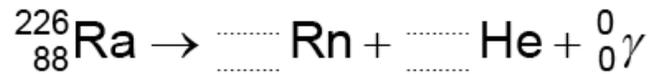


The charged particles enter the chamber through a thin window. They then ionize the air between the parallel metal plates. A high potential difference across the plates creates an electric field that causes the ions to move towards the plates. Charge now flows around the circuit and a current is detected by the sensitive ammeter.

The separation of the plates d is 12 mm and the potential difference V between the plates is 5.2 kV. An ionized air molecule M with charge $+2e$ is produced when a charged particle collides with an air molecule.

Radium-226 (${}^{226}_{88}\text{Ra}$) decays into an isotope of radon (Rn) by the emission of an alpha particle and a gamma-ray photon. The alpha particle may be detected using the ionization chamber but the gamma-ray photon is unlikely to be detected.

- a. On the diagram, draw the shape of the electric field between the plates. [2]
- b.i. Calculate the electric field strength between the plates. [1]
- b.ii. Calculate the force on M . [2]
- b.iii. Determine the change in the electric potential energy of M as it moves from the positive to the negative plate. [3]
- c.ii. Construct the nuclear equation for the decay of radium-226. [2]



- c.iii. Radium-226 has a half-life of 1600 years. Determine the time, in years, it takes for the activity of radium-226 to fall to 5% of its original activity. [3]

Markscheme

- a. minimum of three lines equally spaced and distributed, perpendicular to the plates and downwards; edge effect shown; } (*condone lines that do not touch plates*)

b.i. $4.3 \times 10^5 \text{ (NC}^{-1}\text{)}$

- b.ii. ($F = Eq =$) $4.3 \times 10^5 \times 2 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$; (*allow ECF from (b)(i)*)

$1.4 \times 10^{-13} \text{ (N)}$;

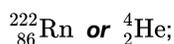
Award [2] for a bald correct answer.

- b.iii. $\Delta E_P = q\Delta V$ **or** $3.2 \times 10^{-19} \times 5.2 \times 10^3$;

$1.7 \times 10^{-15} \text{ (J)}$;

negative/loss;

- c.ii. (${}^{226}_{88}\text{Ra} \rightarrow {}^{222}_{86}\text{Rn} + {}^4_2\text{He} + {}^0_0\gamma$)



numbers balance top and bottom on right-hand side;

- c.iii. $\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{1600} = 4.33 \times 10^{-4} \text{ (yr}^{-1}\text{)}$;

$0.05 = e^{-\lambda t}$;

6900 (years);

Award [3] for a bald correct answer.

Award [2 max] for 2.18×10^{11} (s).

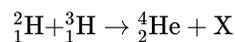
Award [1 max] to a candidate who identifies time as about 4.3 half-lives but cannot get further or gives an approximate reasoned answer.

Examiners report

- a. Field patterns were often negligently drawn. Lines did not meet both plates, edge effects were ignored, and the (vital) equality of spacing between drawn lines was not considered. Candidates continue to show their inadequacy in responding to questions that demand a careful and accurate diagram.
- b.i. This sequence of calculations was often undertaken well with appropriate figures carried through from part to part.
- b.ii. This sequence of calculations was often undertaken well with appropriate figures carried through from part to part.
- b.iii. This sequence of calculations was often undertaken well with appropriate figures carried through from part to part. The only common error was the omission of a consideration of the gain or loss of the energy change in part (iii).
- c.ii. As one of the easiest questions on the paper this was predictably well done.
- c.iii. In the past candidates have found calculation involving exponential change difficult. On this occasion, however examiners saw a large number of correct and well explained solutions from candidates.

This question is about nuclear processes.

- a. Describe what is meant by [4]
- (i) radioactive decay.
 - (ii) nuclear fusion.
- b. Tritium is a radioactive nuclide with a half-life of 4500 days. It decays to an isotope of helium. [3]
- Determine the time taken for 90% of a sample of tritium to decay.
- c. A nuclide of deuterium (${}^2_1\text{H}$) and a nuclide of tritium (${}^3_1\text{H}$) undergo nuclear fusion. The reaction equation for this process is [1]



Identify X.

Markscheme

- a. (i) refers to unstable nucleus/isotope / refers to spontaneous/random process;
which emits named radiation (from nucleus) / forms different nucleus/isotope;
- (ii) combination of two nuclei / OWTTE; (do not allow "particles" or "atoms")
to form new nuclide with greater mass/larger nucleus/greater number of nucleons;

b. $\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{4500} (= 1.54 \times 10^{-4});$

$$0.1N_0 = N_0 e^{-1.54 \times 10^{-4} t};$$

$$1.5 \times 10^4 (\text{d}) \text{ or } 1.3 \times 10^9 (\text{s});$$

Award **[2 max]** if answer is time to lose 10% (680 d).

Allow answer to be expressed in any time units.

Award **[3]** for a bald correct answer.

or

$$\ln 0.1 = \frac{-0.69t}{\frac{t_1}{2}};$$

$$t = 3.3 \times 4500;$$

$$1.5 \times 10^4 (\text{d});$$

Award **[2 max]** if answer is time to lose 10% (680 d).

Allow answer to be expressed in any time units.

Award **[3]** for a bald correct answer.

c. $\frac{1}{0} n$ /neutron;

Examiners report

- a. [N/A]
 b. [N/A]
 c. [N/A]

This question is about the Rutherford model of the atom.

The isotope gold-197 ($^{197}_{79}\text{Au}$) is stable but the isotope gold-199 $^{199}_{79}\text{Au}$ is not.

A nucleus of $^{199}_{79}\text{Au}$ decays to a nucleus of $^{199}_{80}\text{Hg}$. State the **two** particles, other than γ -photon, emitted in this decay.

Markscheme

electron/beta (condone lack of sign);

anti neutrino / $\bar{\nu}$;

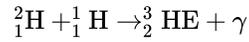
Allow undefined symbols if unambiguous.

Examiners report

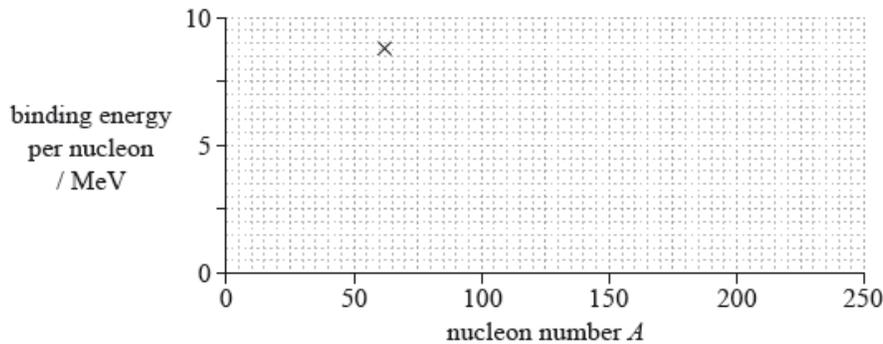
Most candidates could write with confidence about the repulsive nature of the proton-proton interaction and the attractive nature of the strong nuclear force. Few gave good accounts of the balance between these two forces or described the energy situation (a better way to answer). Weak candidates could not name the strong nuclear force adequately.

This question is about binding energy and mass defect.

- (i) The nuclear mass of the nuclide helium-3 (${}^3_2\text{He}$) is 3.014931 u. Show that the binding energy per nucleon for the nuclide is about 2.6 MeV.
- (ii) The binding energy per nucleon for deuterium (${}^2_1\text{H}$) is 1.11 MeV. Calculate the energy change in the following reaction.



- (iii) The cross on the grid shows the binding energy per nucleon and nucleon number A of the nuclide nickel-62.



On the grid, sketch a graph to show how the average binding energy per nucleon varies with nucleon number A .

- (iv) State and explain, with reference to your sketch graph, whether energy is released **or** absorbed in the reaction in (b)(ii).

Markscheme

- (i) mass defect ($[2 \times 1.007276 + 1.008665] - 3.014931 =$) 0.008286 u;

binding energy per nucleon ($\frac{0.008286 \times 931.5}{3} =$) $\frac{7.7}{3}$ **or** 2.58 (MeV);

- (ii) binding energy of left-hand side = 1.11×2 and binding energy of right-hand side = 3×2.6 ; } (both needed) (allow ECF)

energy release = 5.58 (MeV); (ignore sign)

- (iii) line goes through Ni point and nickel is the maximum ± 2 small squares horizontally; } (allow Fe-56 as maximum – this is just outside the range allowed)

line starts at 0, downward trend for A after 62, trend after nickel less steep than before;

Line must go through part of the X to award first marking point.

Line must not flatten out to award second marking point.

Allow smooth curve for low A .

Allow incorrect variations at low A .

- (iv) nucleus produced in the reaction is higher up the curve than the reactants / OWTTE; } (must see reference to graph)

reference to binding energy/other valid reason results in energy release;

Award [0] for a bald correct answer.

Award [0] for any discussion of fission.

Examiners report

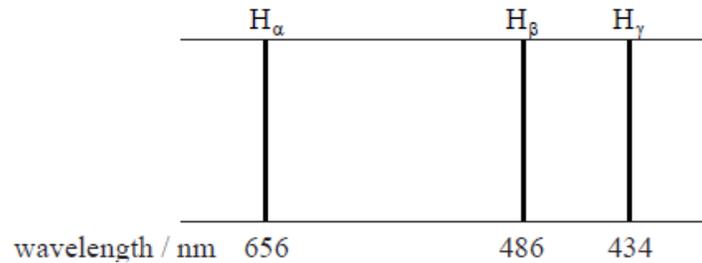
- (i) This relatively easy problem was not well done. There were many permutations of the numbers, and almost all were poorly explained. Completely correct solutions were rare and even these tended to have a poor level of explanation.

(iii) Candidates are required to be able to draw and annotate this plot. This question proved that very many do not appreciate the features. There were mis-drawings on both sides of the maximum; the maximum itself was often misplaced by more than the specified tolerance (showing that candidates do not appreciate the minimum value of the binding energy per nucleon at the Fe-56 or Ni position). Other errors included inappropriate gradients on the right-hand side of the graph compared to the left and failures to begin the curve at the correct place.

(iv) Few candidates referred their knowledge to the graph and simply recalled – often correctly – some physics about the stability of the fusion product. However, this was rarely referred to the relative position of reactants and product on the graph.

Part 2 Energy levels of the hydrogen atom

The diagram represents the three principal spectral lines in the visible region of the spectrum of atomic hydrogen.



The electron in the hydrogen atom can only occupy certain allowed energy levels.

- (i) Outline how the spectral lines provide evidence for the existence of these energy levels.
- (ii) Determine the difference in energy between the **two** levels from which electron transitions give rise to the H_α and H_γ spectral lines respectively.

Markscheme

(i) spectral lines are discrete;

therefore energy of photon is discrete/quantized;

photon energy is equivalent to difference in energy that electron has in each (discrete) level / $\Delta E = hf$ / *OWTTE*;

(so electron levels are themselves discrete)

(ii) difference in energy = $hc \left[\frac{1}{\lambda_\gamma} - \frac{1}{\lambda_\alpha} \right]$;
 $= 6.6 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8 \times 10^7 \times 0.0780 = 1.54 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$;

or

$$E_\alpha = \left[\frac{hc}{\lambda_\alpha} \right] = \frac{6.6 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{6.56 \times 10^{-7}} = 3.02 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J or } 1.89 \text{ eV}$$

$$E_\gamma = \left[\frac{hc}{\lambda_\gamma} \right] = \frac{6.6 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{4.34 \times 10^{-7}} = 4.56 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J or } 2.85 \text{ eV } \{ \text{both needed for the mark} \}$$

difference in energy = $1.54 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J or } 0.963 \text{ eV}$;

Examiners report

(i) Although a good chain of argument was seen from many, some candidates struggled to relate the diagram to the existence of energy levels.

Sometimes this resulted in a description of photon release that was accurate but irrelevant.

(ii) Simple algebraic misconceptions prevented many from obtaining a correct solution. It was common to see a subtraction of the values of the two

wavelengths rather than a subtraction of the reciprocals. Candidates who carried both energies through separately scored more highly than those who attempted early subtractions.

Part 3 Atomic energy levels

b. Outline how atomic emission spectra provide evidence for the quantization of energy in atoms. [2]

c. Consider an electron confined in a one-dimensional “box” of length L . The de Broglie waves associated with the electron are standing waves [3]
with wavelengths given by $\frac{2L}{n}$, where $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

Show that the energy E_n of the electron is given by

$$E_n = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8m_e L^2}$$

where h is Planck’s constant and m_e is the mass of the electron.

d. An electron is confined in a “box” of length $L=1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ m in the $n=1$ energy level. Its position as measured from one end of the box is [4]
 $(0.5 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-10}$ m. Determine

(i) the momentum of the electron.

(ii) the uncertainty in the momentum.

Markscheme

b. all particles have an associated wavelength / *OWTTE*;

wavelength is given by $\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$, where h is Planck’s constant and p is momentum;

c. from de Broglie hypothesis, $p_n = \frac{h}{\lambda_n} = \frac{nh}{2L}$;

kinetic energy given by $E_K = \frac{p^2}{2m_e}$;

combined and manipulated to obtain result;

d. (i) $\lambda = \frac{2L}{n} = \frac{2 \times 1.0 \times 10^{-10}}{1} = 2.0 \times 10^{-10}$;

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda} = \frac{6.6 \times 10^{-34}}{2.0 \times 10^{-10}} = 3.3 \times 10^{-24} \text{ kgms}^{-1};$$

Award [2] for alternative methods, e.g. calculating energy then momentum.

(ii) use of $\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$;

$$\text{to get } \Delta p \geq \frac{6.6 \times 10^{-34}}{4\pi \times 0.5 \times 10^{-10}} = 1.1 \times 10^{-24} \text{ kgms}^{-1};$$

Examiners report

b. [N/A]

c. [N/A]

d. [N/A]

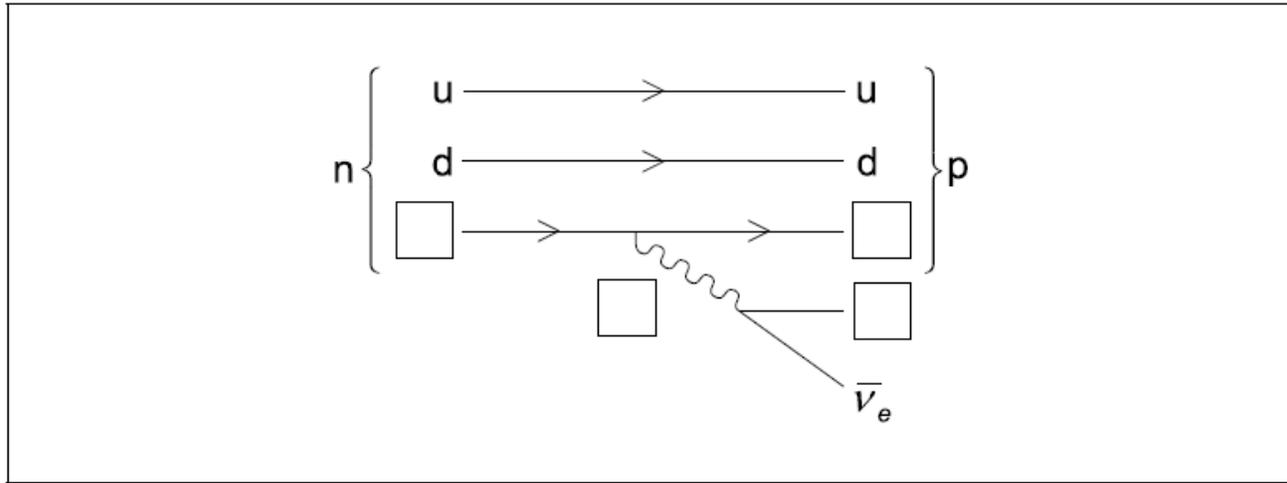
a. A particular K meson has a quark structure $\bar{u}s$. State the charge, strangeness and baryon number for this meson. [2]

Charge:

Strangeness:

Baryon number:

b. The Feynman diagram shows the changes that occur during beta minus (β^-) decay. [3]



Label the diagram by inserting the **four** missing particle symbols **and** the direction of the arrows for the decay particles.

d. C-14 decay is used to estimate the age of an old dead tree. The activity of C-14 in the dead tree is determined to have **fallen to** 21% of its original value. C-14 has a half-life of 5700 years. [4]

- (i) Explain why the activity of C-14 in the dead tree decreases with time.
- (ii) Calculate, in years, the age of the dead tree. Give your answer to an appropriate number of significant figures.

Markscheme

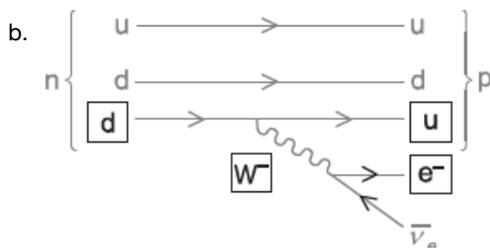
a. charge: $-1\ll e \gg$ **or** negative **or** K^-

strangeness: -1

baryon number: 0

Negative signs required.

Award **[2]** for three correct answers, **[1 max]** for two correct answer and **[0]** for one correct answer.



correct symbols for both missing quarks

exchange particle and electron labelled W^- **or** W^- and e^- **or** e^-

Do not allow W^+ or e^+ or β^+ . Allow β or β^- .

arrows for both electron and anti-neutrino correct

Allow ECF from previous marking point.

d. i

number of C-14 atoms/nuclei are decreasing

OR

decreasing activity proportional to number of C-14 atoms/nuclei

OR

$A = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ so A decreases as t increases

Do not allow "particles"

Must see reference to atoms or nuclei or an equation, just "C-14 is decreasing" is not enough.

ii

$$0.21 = (0.5)^n$$

OR

$$0.21 = e^{-\left(\frac{\ln 2 \times t}{5700}\right)}$$

$n = 2.252$ half-lives or $t = 12834$ «y»

Early rounding to 2.25 gives 12825 y

13000 y rounded correctly to two significant figures:

Both needed; answer must be in year for MP3.

Allow ECF from MP2.

Award **[3]** for a bald correct answer.

Examiners report

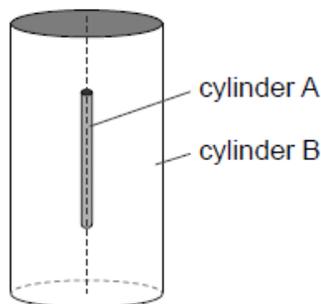
a. [N/A]

b. [N/A]

d. [N/A]

The first scientists to identify alpha particles by a direct method were Rutherford and Roys. They knew that radium-226 (${}^{226}_{86}\text{Ra}$) decays by alpha emission to form a nuclide known as radon (Rn).

At the start of the experiment, Rutherford and Roys put 6.2×10^{-4} mol of pure radium-226 in a small closed cylinder A. Cylinder A is fixed in the centre of a larger closed cylinder B.



At the start of the experiment, all the air was removed from cylinder B. The alpha particles combined with electrons as they moved through the wall of cylinder A to form helium gas in cylinder B.

a. Write down the nuclear equation for this decay. [2]

b.i. Deduce that the activity of the radium-226 is almost constant during the experiment. [2]

b.ii. Show that about 3×10^{15} alpha particles are emitted by the radium-226 in 6 days. [3]

c.i. The wall of cylinder A is made from glass. Outline why this glass wall had to be very thin. [1]

c.ii. The experiment was carried out at a temperature of 18°C . The volume of cylinder B was $1.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3$ and the volume of cylinder A was negligible. Calculate the pressure of the helium gas that was collected in cylinder B over the 6 day period. Helium is a monatomic gas. [3]

Markscheme

a. ${}^4_2\alpha$

OR

${}^4_2\text{He}$

${}^{222}_{86}\text{Rn}$

These **must** be seen on the right-hand side of the equation.

b.i. **ALTERNATIVE 1**

6 days is $5.18 \times 10^5 \text{ s}$

activity after 6 days is $A_0 e^{-1.4 \times 10^{-11} \times 5.8 \times 10^5} \approx A_0$

OR

$A = 0.9999927 A_0$ **or** $0.9999927 \lambda N_0$

OR

states that index of e is so small that $\frac{A}{A_0}$ is ≈ 1

OR

$A - A_0 \approx 10^{-15} \ll \text{s}^{-1}$

ALTERNATIVE 2

shows half-life of the order of 10^{11} s or $5.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}$

converts this to year «1600 y» or days and states half-life much longer than experiment compared to experiment

Award **[1 max]** if calculations/substitutions have numerical slips but would lead to correct deduction.

eg: failure to convert 6 days to seconds but correct substitution into equation will give MP2.

Allow working in days, but for MP1 must see conversion of λ or half-life to day^{-1} .

b.ii **ALTERNATIVE 1**

use of $A = \lambda N_0$

conversion to number of molecules = $nN_A = 3.7 \times 10^{20}$

OR

initial activity = $5.2 \times 10^9 \text{ «s}^{-1}\text{»}$

number emitted = $(6 \times 24 \times 3600) \times 1.4 \times 10^{-11} \times 3.7 \times 10^{20}$ **or** 2.7×10^{15} alpha particles

ALTERNATIVE 2

use of $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$

$N_0 = n \times N_A = 3.7 \times 10^{20}$

alpha particles emitted «= number of atoms disintegrated = $N - N_0 \Rightarrow N_0(1 - e^{-\lambda \times 6 \times 24 \times 3600})$ **or** 2.7×10^{15} alpha particles

Must see correct substitution or answer to 2+ sf for MP3

c.i. alpha particles highly ionizing

OR

alpha particles have a low penetration power

OR

thin glass increases probability of alpha crossing glass

OR

decreases probability of alpha striking atom/nucleus/molecule

Do not allow reference to tunnelling.

c.ii. conversion of temperature to 291 K

$$p = 4.5 \times 10^{-9} \times 8.31 \times \left\langle \frac{291}{1.3 \times 10^{-5}} \right\rangle$$

OR

$$p = 2.7 \times 10^{15} \times 1.3 \times 10^{-23} \times \left\langle \frac{291}{1.3 \times 10^{-5}} \right\rangle$$

0.83 **or** 0.84 «Pa»

Allow ECF for 2.7×10^{15} from (b)(i).

Examiners report

a. [N/A]

b.i. [N/A]

b.ii. [N/A]

c.i. [N/A]

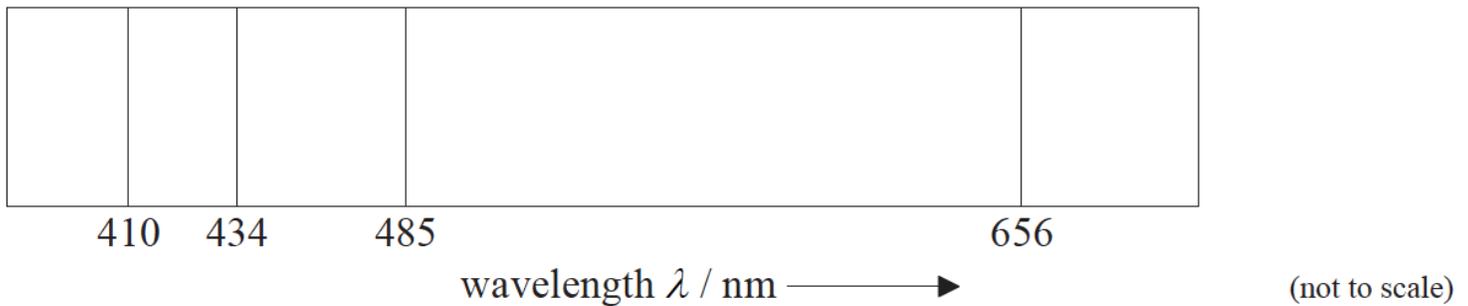
c.ii. [N/A]

This question is in **two** parts. **Part 1** is about simple harmonic motion (SHM) and waves. **Part 2** is about atomic and nuclear energy levels.

Part 1 Simple harmonic motion (SHM) and waves

Part 2 Atomic and nuclear energy levels

- a. A particle P moves with simple harmonic motion. [3]
- (i) State, with reference to the motion of P, what is meant by simple harmonic motion.
- (ii) State the phase difference between the displacement and the velocity of P.
- d. The diagram shows four spectral lines in the visible line emission spectrum of atomic hydrogen. [6]



- (i) Outline how such a spectrum may be obtained in the laboratory.
- (ii) Explain how such spectra give evidence for the existence of discrete atomic energy levels.
- e. The energies of the principal energy levels in atomic hydrogen measured in eV are given by the expression [4]
- $$E_n = -\frac{13.6}{n^2} \text{ where } n=1, 2, 3, \dots$$
- The visible lines in the spectrum correspond to electron transitions that end at $n=2$.
- (i) Calculate the energy of the level corresponding to $n=2$.
- (ii) Show that the spectral line of wavelength $\lambda=485\text{nm}$ is the result of an electron transition from $n=4$.
- f. The alpha particles and gamma rays produced in radioactive decay have discrete energy spectra. This suggests that nuclei also possess [2]
- discrete energy levels. However, beta particles produced in radioactive decay have continuous energy spectra. Describe how the existence of the antineutrino accounts for the continuous nature of beta spectra.

Markscheme

- a. (i) the acceleration (of a particle/P) is (directly) proportional to displacement;
and is directed towards equilibrium/in the opposite direction to displacement;
Do not accept "directed towards the centre".
- (ii) $\frac{\pi}{2}/90^\circ$ /quarter of a period;
- d. (i) light from a hydrogen discharge tube/hot hydrogen gas/ hydrogen tube with potential difference across it;
is passed onto a prism/diffraction grating;
and then is observed on a screen/through a telescope;

Accept good labelled diagram for explanation of any marking point.

(ii) each wavelength corresponds to the energy of the photon emitted;
when an electron makes a transition from a higher to lower energy level;
since only discrete wavelengths/finite number of wavelengths are present, then only discrete energy levels are present / OWTTE;

e. (i) -3.40 eV;

Award **[0]** for omitted negative sign.

$$(ii) \text{ energy difference between levels} = \frac{hc}{\lambda e} = \frac{6.63 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{4.85 \times 10^{-7} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}};$$

$$= 2.55 \text{ eV};$$

$$[3.40 - 2.55] = 0.85 = \frac{13.6}{n^2} \text{ to give } n^2 = 16;$$

$$n = 4;$$

Award **[3]** for reversed argument.

f. the total emitted energy is shared between the electron and the antineutrino;

the energy/velocity can be shared/distributed in an infinite number of ways / OWTTE;

Examiners report

a. [N/A]

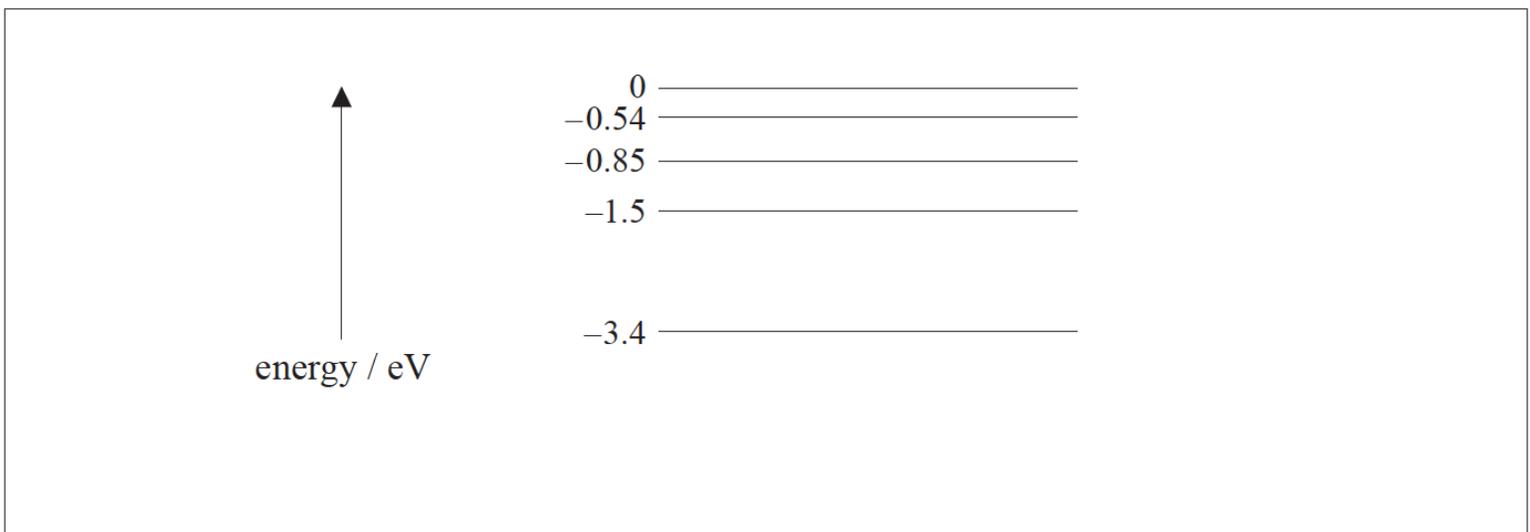
d. [N/A]

e. [N/A]

f. [N/A]

Part 2 Atomic spectra

The diagram shows some of the principal energy levels of atomic hydrogen.



The emission line spectrum of atomic hydrogen contains a blue line of wavelength 490 nm.

(i) Calculate, in eV, the energy of a photon of wavelength 490 nm.

(ii) On the diagram above, identify with an arrow, the electron transition that gives rise to the emission line of wavelength 490 nm.

Markscheme

(i) $\frac{6.7 \times 10^{-34} \times 3.0 \times 10^8}{4.9 \times 10^{-7}}$;

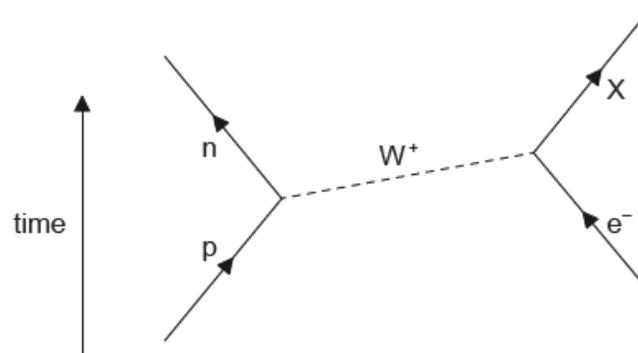
2.5 **or** 2.6 eV;

(ii) transition between -0.85 and -3.4 ;
correct direction of arrow (down);

Examiners report

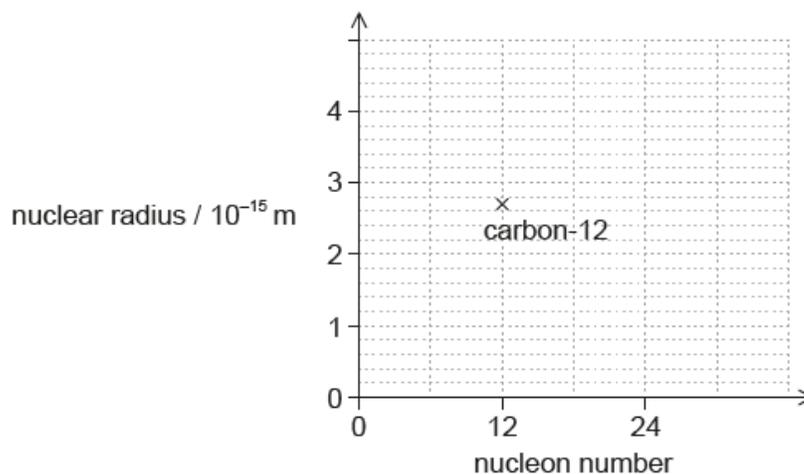
[N/A]

The Feynman diagram shows electron capture.



Particles can be used in scattering experiments to estimate nuclear sizes.

Electron diffraction experiments indicate that the nuclear radius of carbon-12 is 2.7×10^{-15} m. The graph shows the variation of nuclear radius with nucleon number. The nuclear radius of the carbon-12 is shown on the graph.



a.i. State and explain the nature of the particle labelled X.

@TOPhysicsTutor

[3]

facebook.com/TheOnlinePhysicsTutor

- b.i. Outline how these experiments are carried out. [2]
- b.ii. Outline why the particles must be accelerated to high energies in scattering experiments. [3]
- c. State and explain **one** example of a scientific analogy. [2]
- d.i. Determine the radius of the magnesium-24 nucleus. [2]
- d.ii. Plot the position of magnesium-24 on the graph. [1]
- d.iii. Draw a line on the graph, to show the variation of nuclear radius with nucleon number. [2]

Markscheme

a.i. «electron» neutrino

it has a lepton number of 1 «as lepton number is conserved»

it has a charge of zero/is neutral «as charge is conserved»

OR

it has a baryon number of 0 «as baryon number is conserved»

Do not allow antineutrino

Do not credit answers referring to energy

b.i. «high energy particles incident on» thin sample

detect angle/position of deflected particles

reference to interference/diffraction/minimum/maximum/numbers of particles

Allow “foil” instead of thin

b.ii $\lambda \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{E}}$ **OR** $\lambda \propto \frac{1}{E}$

so high energy gives small λ

to match the small nuclear size

Alternative 2

$E = hf$ /energy is proportional to frequency

frequency is inversely proportional to wavelength/ $c = f\lambda$

to match the small nuclear size

Alternative 3

higher energy means closer approach to nucleus

to overcome the repulsive force from the nucleus

so greater precision in measurement of the size of the nucleus

Accept inversely proportional

*Only allow marks awarded from **one** alternative*

c. two analogous situations stated

one element of the analogy equated to an element of physics

eg: moving away from Earth is like climbing a hill where the contours correspond to the equipotentials

Atoms in an ideal gas behave like pool balls

The forces between them only act during collisions

d.i. $R = 2.7 \times 10^{-15} \times 2^{\frac{1}{3}}$

$3.4 - 3.5 \times 10^{-15}$ «m»

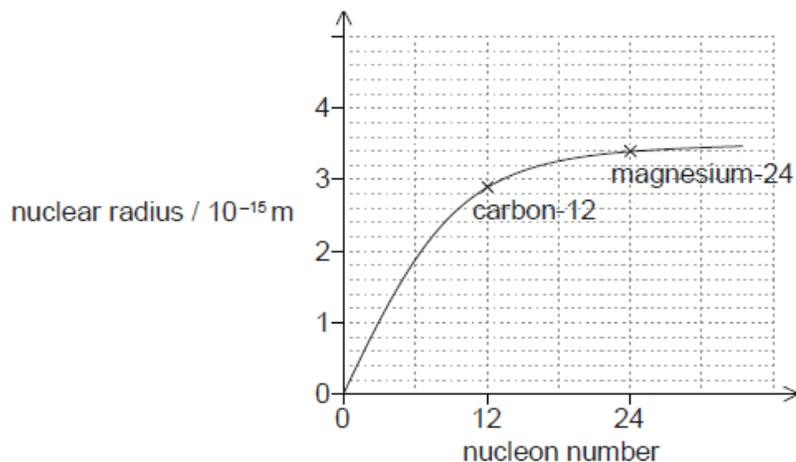
Allow use of the Fermi radius from the data booklet

d.ii. correctly plotted

Allow ECF from (d)(i)

d.iii. single smooth curve passing through both points with decreasing gradient

through origin

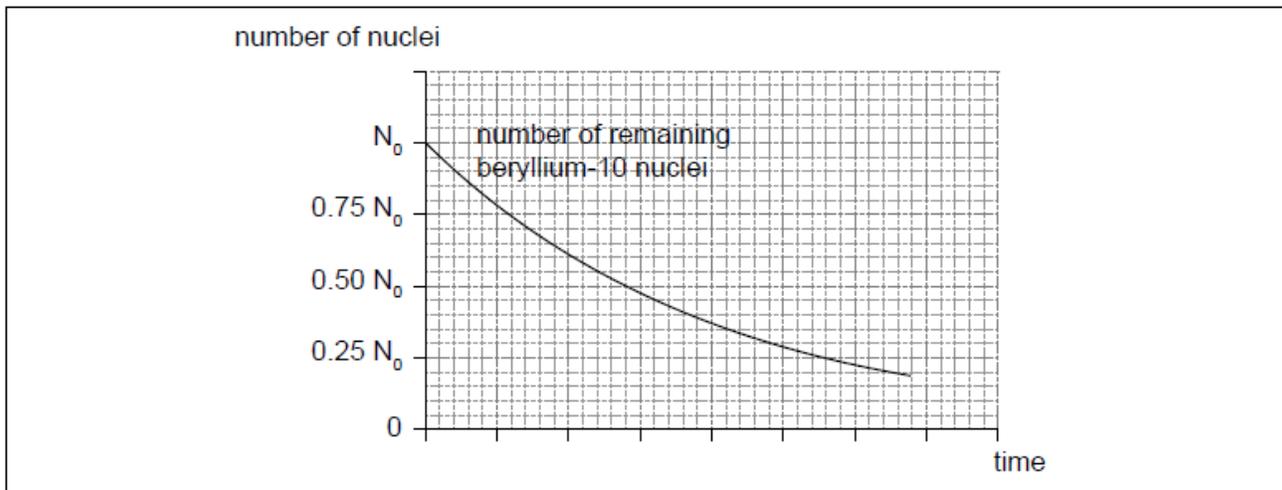


Examiners report

- a.i. [N/A]
- b.i. [N/A]
- b.ii. [N/A]
- c. [N/A]
- d.i. [N/A]
- d.ii. [N/A]
- d.iii. [N/A]

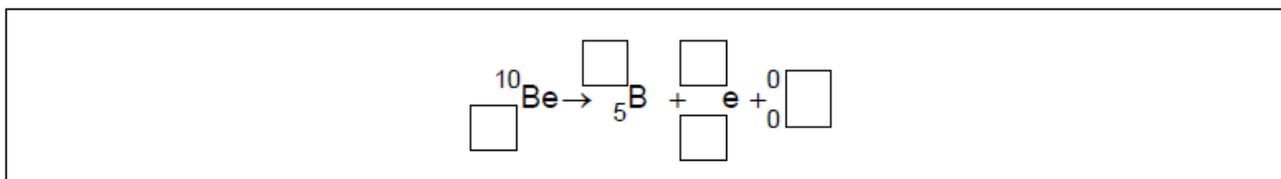
The radioactive nuclide beryllium-10 (Be-10) undergoes beta minus (β^-) decay to form a stable boron (B) nuclide.

The initial number of nuclei in a pure sample of beryllium-10 is N_0 . The graph shows how the number of remaining **beryllium** nuclei in the sample varies with time.



An ice sample is moved to a laboratory for analysis. The temperature of the sample is $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

a. Identify the missing information for this decay. [2]

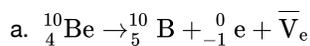


b.iii Beryllium-10 is used to investigate ice samples from Antarctica. A sample of ice initially contains 7.6×10^{11} atoms of beryllium-10. The present activity of the sample is 8.0×10^{-3} Bq. [3]

Determine, in years, the age of the sample.

c.iv The temperature in the laboratory is higher than the temperature of the ice sample. Describe **one** other energy transfer that occurs between the ice sample and the laboratory. [2]

Markscheme



antineutrino **AND** charge **AND** mass number of electron ${}^0_{-1}\text{e}$, $\bar{\nu}$

conservation of mass number **AND** charge ${}^5_{10}\text{B}$, ${}^4_{10}\text{Be}$

Do not accept V.

Accept $\bar{\nu}$ without subscript e.

[2 marks]

b.iii $\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{1.4 \times 10^6} = 4.95 \times 10^{-7} \text{ y}^{-1}$

rearranging of $A = \lambda N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ to give $-\lambda t = \ln \frac{8.0 \times 10^{-3} \times 365 \times 24 \times 60 \times 60}{4.95 \times 10^{-7} \times 7.6 \times 10^{11}}$ «= -0.400»

$t = \frac{-0.400}{-4.95 \times 10^{-7}} = 8.1 \times 10^5 \text{ y}$

Allow ECF from MP1

[3 marks]

c.iv from the laboratory to the sample

conduction – contact between ice and lab surface.

OR

convection – movement of air currents

Must clearly see direction of energy transfer for MP1.

Must see more than just words “conduction” or “convection” for MP2.

[2 marks]

Examiners report

a. [N/A]

b.iii. [N/A]

c.iv. [N/A]

Part 2 Radioactivity

Radium-224 ($^{224}_{88}\text{Ra}$) is a radioactive nuclide that decays to form radon-220. Radon-220 is itself radioactive and undergoes a further decay. The table shows the series of radioactive nuclides that are formed as the decays proceed. The series ends with a stable isotope of lead.

Parent nuclide	Emitter	Half-life	Daughter nuclide(s)
radium-224	alpha	3.64 days	radon-220 (Rn)
radon-220	alpha	55 seconds	polonium-216 (Po)
polonium-216	alpha	0.15 seconds	lead-212 (Pb)
lead-212	beta	10.6 hours	bismuth-212 (Bi)
bismuth-212	beta alpha	60.6 minutes	polonium-212 thallium (Tl)
polonium-212	alpha	3.0×10^{-7} seconds	lead-208 (stable)
thallium	beta	3.1 minutes	lead-208 (stable)

f. For the final thallium nuclide, identify the

(i) nucleon number.

[2]

(ii) proton number.

g. Radon-220 is a radioactive gas. It is released by rocks such as granite. In some parts of the world, houses are built from materials containing granite. Explain why it is unlikely that radon-220 will build up in sufficient quantity to be harmful in these houses. [2]

h. (i) Calculate, in hour^{-1} , the decay constant of lead-212. [6]

(ii) In a pure sample of lead-212 at one instant, 8.0×10^{-3} kg of the lead-212 is present. Calculate the mass of lead-212 that remains after a period of 35 hours.

(iii) A sample of pure radium begins to decay by the series shown in the table. At one instant, a mass of 8.0×10^{-3} kg of lead-212 is present in the sample. Suggest why, after 35 hours, there will be a greater mass of lead-212 present in the sample than the value you calculated in (h)(ii).

Markscheme

f. (i) 208;

(ii) 81;

g. because the half-life is (only) 55 s;

radon is produced slowly but decays quickly (so cannot build up);

h. (i) $\left(\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{T_{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{0.693}{10.6} = \right) 6.5 \times 10^{-2} \text{hour}^{-1}$

(ii) use of λ from (h)(i);

correct substitution into $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$;

8.0 to 8.3×10^{-4} kg;

(iii) the rate of decay/activity of polonium/radium;
is greater than the rate of decay/activity of lead;

Examiners report

f. [N/A]

g. [N/A]

h. [N/A]
