Practice Question Set For GCSE
Subject : Physics
Paper-1 Topic: GCSE Triple Science Atomic Structure (Standard Demand Questions)

Name of the Student:_____
Max. Marks : 24 Marks **Time : 24 Minutes**

Mark Schemes

Q1.

(a) (an equal amount of) positive charge

*do **not** accept charge on the atom / nucleus is positive*

1

(b) (i) a (significant) number of alpha particles were scattered by more than 4°
or
alpha particles deflected backwards

accept (some) measurements / results were unexpected

1

measurements / results could not be explained by 'plum pudding' model
or
measurements / results did not support predictions

can be explained by the nuclear model is insufficient

accept measurements / results did not support hypothesis

1

(ii) many / (over)100 000 measurements / results taken

accept Rutherford(and Marsden) were respected scientists
or
scientists were respected

accept measurements / results taken over several months

the experiment was repeated many times is insufficient

1

(c) Marks awarded for this answer will be determined by the Quality of Written Communication (QWC) as well as the standard of the scientific response. Examiners should also refer to the information on page 5 and apply a 'best-fit' approach to the marking.

0 marks
no relevant content

Level 1 (1−2 marks)
A brief description is given with some particles correctly named

Level 2 (3−4 marks)
A description is given with all three particles named
plus either
the polarity of charge associated with the
three particles
or
the relative mass of the three particles

or
the relative mass for one particle and the relative charge for one particle given

Level 3 (5−6 marks)
A more detailed description is given, naming the particles and polarity of charge
and either
the relative mass is given for at least two particles
or
the relative charge is given for at least two particles

Examples of the points made in the response

brief description

contains protons, neutrons and electrons

protons are positive
electrons are negative
neutrons are uncharged

has a nucleus

relative charge

proton +1
electron − 1
neutron 0

relative mass

proton 1
neutron 1
electron (about) 1 / 2000

accept protons and neutrons have the same mass

accept electrons have tiny / negligible mass
zero mass is neutral

more detailed description

protons and neutrons make up the nucleus
electrons orbit the nucleus
electrons are in shells
most of the atom is empty space
nucleus occupies a very small fraction of the volume of the atom
electrons orbit at a relatively large distance from the nucleus
most of the mass of the atom is contained in the nucleus
the nucleus as a whole is positively charged total number of protons in the nucleus equals the total number of electrons orbiting it in an atom

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Q2.

(a) (average) time taken for the amount / number of nuclei / atoms (of the isotope in a sample) to halve
or
time taken for the count rate (from a sample containing the isotope) to fall to half

accept (radio)activity for count rate

1

(b) *60 ±3* (days)

1

indication on graph how value was obtained

1

(c) (i) cobalt(-60)

1

gamma not deflected by a magnetic field
or
gamma have no charge

dependent on first marking point
accept (only) emits gamma
gamma has no mass is insufficient
*do **not** accept any reference to half-life*

1

(ii) strontium(-90)

1

any **two** from:

- *only* has beta
- alpha would be absorbed
- gamma unaffected
- *beta penetration / absorption depends on thickness of paper*

*if thorium(-232) or radium(-226) given, max **2** marks can be awarded*

2

(iii) cobalt(-60)

1

shortest half-life

accept half-life is 5 years
dependent on first marking point

1

so activity / count rate will decrease quickest

1

(iv) *americium(-241) / cobalt(-60) / radium(-226)*

1

gamma emitter

1

(only gamma) can penetrate lead *(of this box)*

do not allow lead fully absorbs gamma

1

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