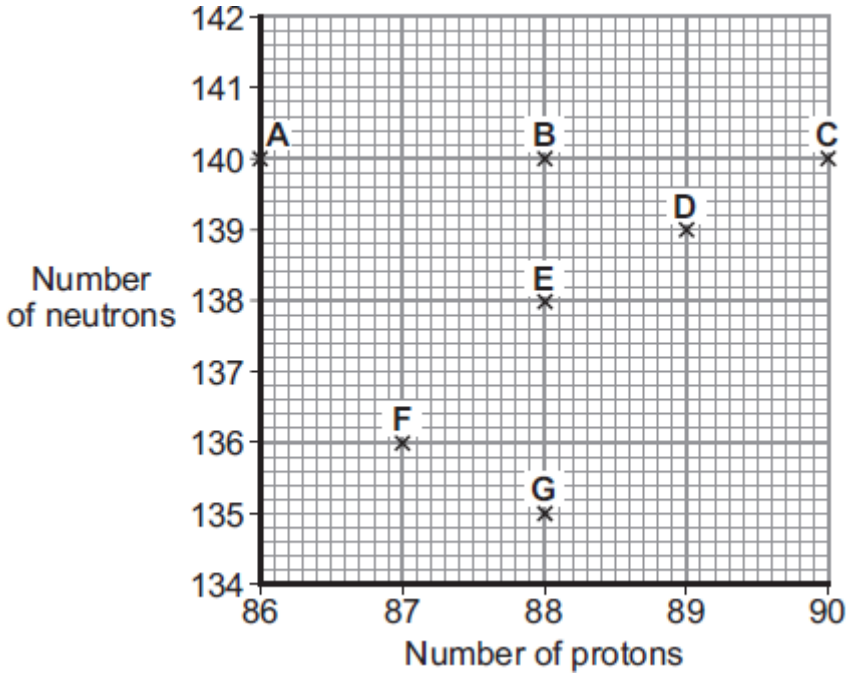
Practice Question Set For GCSE
Subject : Physics
Paper-1 Topic: Atomic Structure (High Demand)

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Name of the Student:_____
Max. Marks : 22 Marks **Time : 22 Minutes**

Q1.

(a) The chart gives the number of protons and neutrons within the nuclei of 7 different atoms, **A – G**.



Which of these atoms are isotopes of the same element?

_____

Give a reason for your answer.

_____

_____

(2)

(b) Radium-226 is a radioactive isotope that decays into radon gas by emitting alpha particles.

The decay can be represented by the equation below.

$$^{226}_{88}Ra \longrightarrow \square\ \square + \text{Rn} + \text{alpha particle}$$

(i) Complete the equation by writing the correct number in each of the boxes.

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(2)

(ii) A sample of radium-226 has a count rate of 400 counts per second.
The half-life of radium-226 is 1600 years.

How long will it be before the count rate has fallen to 50 counts per second?

Show clearly how you work out your answer.

_____

_____

_____

Length of time = _____ years

(2)

(c) In 1927, a group of women who had been employed to paint watch faces with a luminous paint sued their former employer over the illnesses caused by the paint. The women had been told that the paint, which contained radium, was harmless.

The company owners and the scientists working for the company knew that radium was harmful and took precautions to protect themselves from the radiation. The women were given no protection.

What important issue did the treatment of the women by the company owners and scientists raise?

Draw a ring around your answer.

economic **environmental** **ethical** **social**

Give a reason for your answer.

_____

_____

(2)

(d) In the 1920s, many people, including doctors, thought that radium could be used as a treatment for a wide range of illnesses. Medical records that suggested radium could be harmful were generally ignored. When some of the women who had used the luminous paint died, their deaths were not blamed on radium.

Suggest a reason why the evidence suggesting that radium was harmful was generally ignored.

_____

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(1)

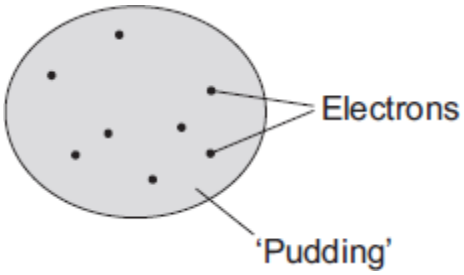
(Total 9 marks)

Q2.

The ‘plum pudding’ model of the atom was used by scientists in the early part of the 20th century to

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explain atomic structure.



(a) Those scientists knew that atoms contained electrons and that the electrons had a negative charge. They also knew that an atom was electrically neutral overall.

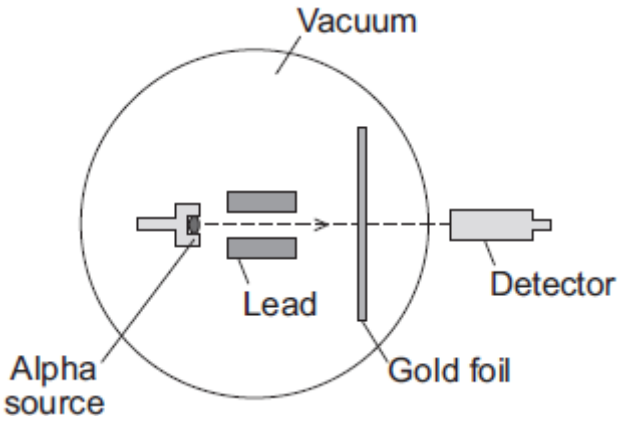
What did this allow the scientists to deduce about the 'pudding' part of the atom?

_____

_____

(1)

(b) An experiment, designed to investigate the 'plum pudding' model, involved firing alpha particles at a thin gold foil.



If the 'plum pudding' model was correct, then most of the alpha particles would go straight through the gold foil. A few would be deflected, but by less than 4°.

The results of the experiment were unexpected. Although most of the alpha particles did go straight through the gold foil, about 1 in every 8 000 was deflected by more than 90°.

Why did this experiment lead to a new model of the atom, called the nuclear model, replacing the 'plum pudding' model?

_____

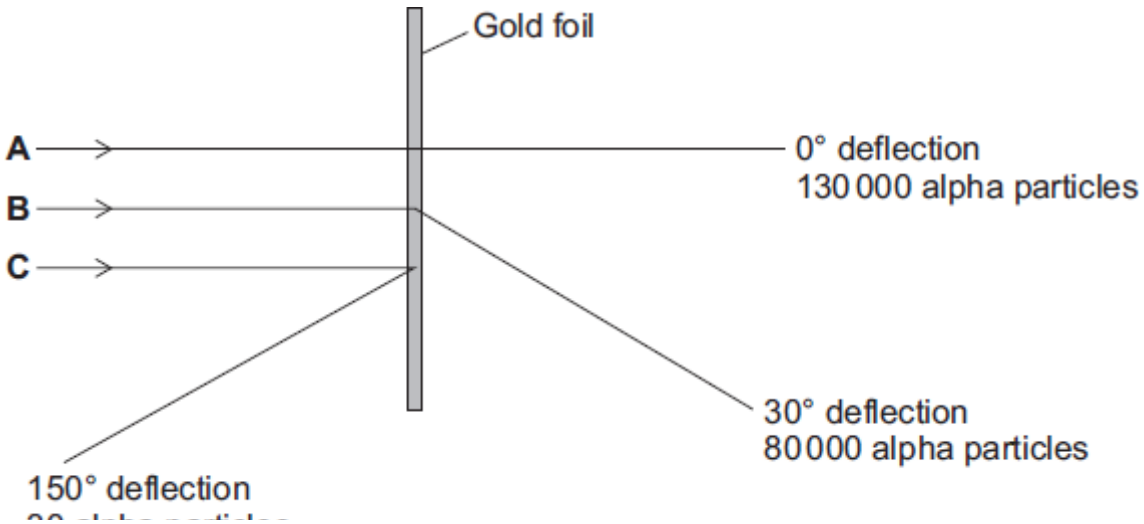
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(1)

(c) The diagram shows the paths, **A**, **B** and **C**, of three alpha particles. The total number of alpha particles deflected through each angle is also given.

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(i) Using the nuclear model of the atom, explain the three paths, **A**, **B** and **C**.

A _____

_____

B _____

_____

C _____

_____

(3)

(ii) Using the nuclear model, the scientist E. Rutherford devised an equation to predict the proportion of alpha particles that would be deflected through various angles.

The results of the experiment were the same as the predictions made by Rutherford.

What was the importance of the experimental results and the predictions being the same?

_____

_____

(1)

(Total 6 marks)

Q3.

(a) Atoms of the isotope bismuth-212 decay by emitting either an alpha particle or a beta particle. The equation represents what happens when an atom of bismuth-212 decays by beta emission into an atom of polonium-212.

$$^{212}_{83}\text{Bi} \longrightarrow {}^{212}_{84}\text{Po} + \text{beta particle}$$

(i) The bismuth atom and the polonium atom have the same mass number (212).

What is the *mass number* of an atom?

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_____

(1)

(ii) Beta decay does **not** cause the mass number of an atom to change.

Explain why not.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

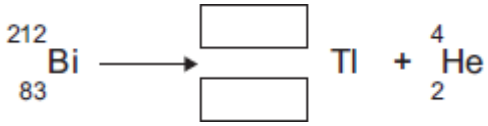
(b) When an atom of bismuth-212 emits an alpha particle, the atom decays into an atom of thallium.

An alpha particle is the same as a helium nucleus.
The symbol below represents an alpha particle.

$$^{4}_{2}He$$

(i) The equation below represents the alpha decay of bismuth-212.

Complete the equation by writing the correct number in each of the two boxes.



(2)

(ii) It is impossible for the alpha decay of bismuth-212 to produce the same element as the beta decay of bismuth-212.

Explain why.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(Total 7 marks)

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