Practice Question Set For GCSE
Subject : Physics
Paper-1 Topic : 6_ Radioactivity

Merit Minds
www.merit-minds.com
Exam Preparation and Free Resources

Name of the Student:_____
Max. Marks : 25 Marks **Time : 25 Minutes**

Mark Schemes
Q1.

Question Number	Answer	Acceptable answers	Mark
(a)(i)	proton(s) (1)	NOT photon	**(1)**

Question Number	Answer	Acceptable answers	Mark
(a)(ii)	electron(s) (1)		**(1)**

Question Number	Answer	Acceptable answers	Mark
(b)(i)	evidence of halving activity eg line on graph at 80 (Bq) or two lines at, say, 100 and 50. (1) 8 (days) gains both marks (2)	accept halving in answer space e.g. 160 -> 80 or 80 -> 40 or 160 ÷ 2 = 80 NOT 160 ÷ 40 or 131 ÷ {2 or 4} or 40 ÷ 2 (unless clearly an activity)	**(2)**

Question Number	Answer	Acceptable answers	Mark
(b)(ii)	idea of two half-lives (1) but, 16 (days) gains both marks (2)	halving of 800 twice, e.g. 400 AND 200 seen Allow ECF from graph eg allow half-life from graph x 2 for both marks	**(2)**

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com

Question Number		Indicative Content	Mark
QWC	* **(c)**	A discussion including some of the following points Advantages - (currently) large resources of **fuel**/ **fuel** (reserves) will last a long time - (Produces) large amount of (electrical) energy/electricity - Does not produce (much/any) carbon dioxide - Does not produce (much/any) sulphur dioxide - Does not add to global warming/climate change - Good safety record (under normal operating conditions) - Only small amount of fuel needed to produce large amount of energy/electricity - Reliable supply/provides continuous supply of electricity (for a long time) - Reduces dependence on foreign supplies of energy - Conserves fossil fuel supplies - (Spent) fuel can be processed (to produce fuel for other reactors) - Provides employment/jobs Disadvantages - Produces nuclear/radioactive {waste/materials} - nuclear/radioactive waste/materials can cause mutations in DNA/cells/people/animals - Non- renewable (energy source) - Difficulties in transporting nuclear/radioactive waste/material - Difficulty in (safely) storing/disposing nuclear waste/material - Nuclear accidents (can) pollute large areas - Nuclear accidents pollute for a long time - Accept named example of accidents eg Fukishima, Chernobyl, 3-mile island - Mining and processing fuel both produce large amounts of carbon dioxide - Expensive to build and/or decommission (nuclear power stations) - Reference to target for terrorist attacks - Produces material which can be used to develop nuclear weapons/by terrorists - Negative public perception OWTTE ignore references such as unsightly, large area needed, noisy as true for most large buildings. Ignore cost of generation or restating stem ie generates electricity or supplies electricity to homes etc.	**(6)**

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com

Level	0	No rewardable content
1	1 - 2	• A limited discussion giving one fact e.g. they give people jobs (in that area) OR they can have accidents like in Japan (after the tsunami). • the answer communicates ideas using simple language and uses limited scientific terminology. • spelling, punctuation and grammar are used with limited accuracy
2	3 - 4	• A simple discussion that states one advantage and one disadvantage OR states more than one advantage OR states more than one disadvantage. e.g. they are a reliable energy source and do not produce any carbon dioxide. OR they do not cause any global warming as they do not produce sulphur dioxide. OR they produce radioactive waste and many people don't want them built. • the answer communicates ideas showing some evidence of clarity and organisation and uses scientific terminology appropriately • spelling, punctuation and grammar are used with some accuracy
3	5 - 6	• A detailed discussion of either advantages or disadvantages AND at least a mention of the other one. e.g. They produce large amounts of electricity and don't produce carbon dioxide but they produce radioactive materials (in the fuel rods). OR They are a reliable source of energy but they can damage large areas if there is an accident and the fuel is non-renewable. • the answer communicates ideas clearly and coherently uses a range of scientific terminology accurately • spelling, punctuation and grammar are used with few errors

(Total for Question =12 marks)

Q2.

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com

	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(i)	**One** from: cell damage (1) cancer (1) radiation sickness / poisoning (1) mutation (1) chromosomal damage (1) dna damage (1) skin damage (1) (named) organ damage (1) burns (1) releases ionising radiation (1)	allow ionises / kills cells	**(1)** **AO1**

	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(ii)	**any one** from: Geiger (Muller) (tube/counter) photographic film dosimeter	accept recognisable spellings GM film badge	**(1)** **A01**

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com

	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(iii)	**any two** from: beta(minus)/β(-) (1) beta + (1) x-rays (1) gamma/γ (1)	accept positron in place of beta + accept proton beam accept electron beam maximum of 1 mark if one incorrect radiation given zero marks if two incorrect radiations given	(2) **AO1**

Q3.

Question Number	Answer	Acceptable answers	Mark
(i)	An explanation to include two from: Radiation is ionising (1) Radiation can cause specified damage e.g. cancer or damage/mutate DNA (1) if dose/exposure is too high (1)	 (causes) ionisation/ (can) ionise/ mutate cells/tissue ignore radiation poisoning/death/make you ill ignore {damage/kill} cells/tissue if absorb(ing) too much (radiation) or so you don't absorb too much (radiation) Accept for both marks: Too much radiation can cause cancer (after a while)	(2)

Question Number	Answer	Acceptable answers	Mark
(ii)	☒ C we have a better understanding of the risks from radiation (1)		(1)

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com

Question Number		Indicative Content	Mark
QWC	***(iii)**	An explanation including some of the following points • identification of alpha, beta, gamma as possible types of radiation • identification of X-rays as possible type of radiation • film is dark(er)/changes colour where radiation is absorbed • different areas of the film are exposed to different types of radiation • gamma (or X-rays) affect all areas of film • beta absorbed/stopped by aluminium/passes through paper • beta only reaches (top) part of film • alpha unlikely to be detected at all • the lead will stop (some of) gamma or (some) gamma will pass through lead/aluminium/paper • the paper will stop/absorb alpha throughout the question accept symbols for types of radiation	**(6)**

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com

Level	0	No rewardable content
1	1 - 2	• a limited explanation which gives one relevant fact about types of radiation or the film badge e.g. types of radiation are alpha, beta and gamma OR beta absorbed by aluminium OR the radiation affects the film OR gamma can pass through lead • the answer communicates ideas using simple language and uses limited scientific terminology • spelling, punctuation and grammar are used with limited accuracy
2	3 - 4	• A simple explanation, giving more than one relevant fact about types of radiation OR the film badge OR at least one fact about both. e.g. The 3 types of radiation are alpha, beta and gamma. Gamma can pass through lead. OR The 3 types of radiation are alpha, beta and gamma. Radiation makes the film change colour. OR beta will get through the paper but alpha will be stopped (by paper). OR Radiation makes the film change colour. The lab. will compare how much got through the paper, aluminium and lead • the answer communicates ideas showing some evidence of clarity and organisation and uses scientific terminology appropriately • spelling, punctuation and grammar are used with some accuracy
3	5 - 6	• a detailed explanation giving more than two relevant points about the film badge OR at least one fact about the types of radiation AND more than one about the film badge e.g. Beta will get through the paper but alpha will be stopped (by paper).Gamma can penetrate the aluminium. OR The film detects radiation. The aluminium will stop beta but, not gamma. OR The 3 types of radiation are alpha, beta and gamma. Beta will get through the paper but alpha will be stopped (by paper). • the answer communicates ideas clearly and coherently uses a range of scientific terminology accurately • spelling, punctuation and grammar are used with few errors

Downloaded from www.merit-minds.com