

Practice Question Set For A-Level
Subject : Physics
Paper-2 Topic : 11_Nuclear Radiation

Name of the Student: _____

Max. Marks : 20 Marks

Time : 20 Minutes

Mark Schemes

Q1.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	<p>MAX 5</p> <p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student has calculated the coun rate rather than the activity of the source (1) The counts haven't been corrected for background (so there is systematic error in his data) (1) The GM tube is too far away from the source (1) α-radiation won't reach the GM-tube as it only has a short range in air (1) Radiation spreads out from the source, so not all the emitted radiation reaches the GM-tube (1) GM tube won't detect all the gammas which enter it (1) 		5

Q2.

Question Number	Acceptable answers	Additional guidance	Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> so the proportion of unstable nuclei does not change significantly over time (1) Or activity does not change significantly over time 		1

Q3.

Question Number	Acceptable answers	Additional guidance	Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculation of mass difference in kg (1) • Use of $E = c^2 \Delta m$ (1) • $E = 2.77 \times 10^{-11} \text{ J}$ (1) 	<p>Example of calculation:</p> $(235.0439 + 1.008665) \text{ u} - (140.9144 + 91.9262 + (3 \times 1.008665)) \text{ u} = 0.186 \text{ u}$ $(0.1860 \text{ u} \times 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}) \times (3 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1})^2 = 2.77 \times 10^{-11} \text{ J}$	3

Q4.

Question Number	Answer	Mark
(a)(i)	${}^7_3\text{Li} + {}^1_1\text{X} \rightarrow 2 \times {}^4_2\text{He}$ <p>X is a proton [Accept X is hydrogen/H]</p>	<p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>2</p>
(a)(ii)	<p>Attempt at calculation of mass difference (1)</p> <p>Use of $1 \text{ MeV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}$ (1)</p> <p>$\Delta E = 2.77 \times 10^{-12} \text{ (J)}$ (1)</p> <p><u>Example of calculation:</u></p> $\Delta m = 6533.8 \text{ MeV}/c^2 + 938.3 \text{ MeV}/c^2 - (2 \times 3727.4 \text{ MeV}/c^2) = 17.3 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $\Delta E = 17.3 \text{ MeV}$ $\Delta E = 17.3 \text{ MeV} \times 1.60 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J MeV}^{-1} = 2.768 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}$	3
(b)	<p>Max 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely high temperature and density needed (1) • High temperature because nuclei need high <u>energy</u> to overcome the (electrostatic) repulsive force (1) • Since nuclei must come very close for fusion to occur Or since nuclei must come close enough for (strong) nuclear force to act (1) • Very high density is needed to maintain a sufficient collision rate (1) • Reference to extreme conditions leading to containment problems (1) 	4