LO RADIATION ANSWERS

QUANTITIES FOR THE RADIATION UNIT

For this unit copy and complete the table.

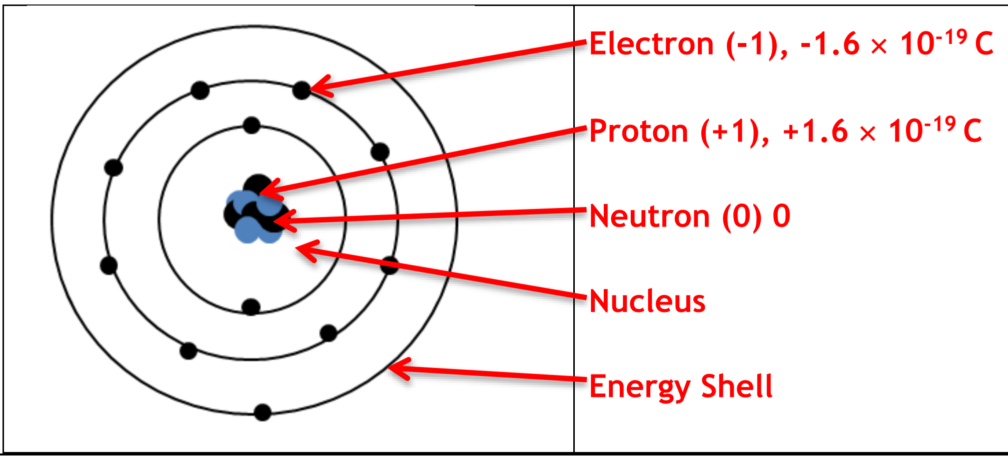
Quantity	Symbol	Unit	Unit Symbol	Scalar / Vector
Time	t	second	s	S
Activity	A	Becquerel	Bq	S
Equivalent Dose	H	Sievert	Sv	S
Absorbed Dose	D	Gray	Gy	S
Absorbed Dose Rate	$\dot{D}$	Gray/day Gray/year	Gy/h, Gy/y	S
Equivalent Dose Rate	$\dot{H}$	Sieverts/ hour, Sieverts/day, Sieverts/ year	Sv/h, Sv/d	S
Radiation weighting factor	w_R	____________	__	S
Energy	E	Joule		S
Mass	m	Kilogram	kg	S
Number of radioactive nuclei decaying	N	_______________	__	S

THE RADIATION UNIT IN NUMBERS

Quantity	Value
State the charge on an alpha particle	(+2) , $+3.2\times10^{-19}$ C
State the charge on a beta particle	(-1) , -1.6×10^{-19} C
State the mass of an alpha particle	6.64×10^{-27} kg
State the mass of a beta particle	9.11×10^{-31} kg
State the average annual background radiation in the UK	2.2 mSv
State the average annual effective dose limit for a member of the public in the UK	1 mSv
State the average annual effective dose limit for radiation workers in the UK.	20 mSv
State the radiation weighting factor of an alpha particle	20
State the radiation weighting factor of a beta particle	1

Quantity	Value
State the radiation weighting factor of a gamma particle	1
State the radiation weighting factor of a fast neutron	10
State the radiation weighting factor of a slow neutron	3
State the speed of a gamma wave in air	3×10^{8} ms^{-1}

No.	CONTENT
Nuclear Radiation	
20.1	I understand the nature of alpha, beta and gamma radiation: including the relative effect of ionization, their relative penetration.
20.1.1	Copy the simple diagram of an atom and label the nucleus, proton, neutron and electron. State the charge on each particle.



No.	CONTENT
20.1.2	Define the term ionisation (repeat)
	Ionisation is the gaining or losing of electrons from atoms
20.1.3	State from where all ionizing radiations originate.
	The nucleus
20.1.4	Describe the following in as much detail as you can a) Alpha particle b) Beta particle c) Gamma radiation

No.	CONTENT
Alpha	Symbol = α, He nucleus, 2 protons and 2 neutrons, highly ionising, travels very short distances in air (a few cm), stopped by paper and anything more dense, charge +2 or 3.2×10^{-19} C. Radiation weighting factor of 20
Beta	Symbol β, fast moving electron, produced when neutron is converted to a proton, and the process creates an electron and an electron antineutrino, charge -1 or or -1.6×10^{-19} C. Travels a few cm in air and stopped by a few mm of aluminium or anything denser. Radiation weighting factor of 1
Gamma	Symbol γ: a transverse high energy wave travelling at 3×10^{8} ms^{-1}, which has no charge and no mass. It travels through air and is partially stopped by a few cm of lead or several metres of concrete. It has a radiation weighting factor of 1. It is the least ionising radiation and can travel many km in air.
20.1.5	State what happens to radiation energy as it passes through the medium.
	Radiation energy is absorbed as it passes through the medium
20.1.6	State the approximate range through air, and absorption of alpha, beta and gamma radiation.

Radiation	Range in air	Minimum absorbing material
Alpha, α	A few cm	A sheet of paper
Beta, β	A few m	A few mm of Al
Gamma, γ	Many km	A few cm of lead or several m of concrete.

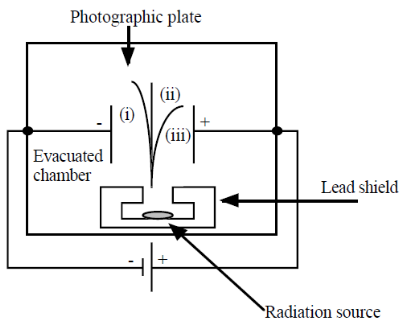
20.1.7	Describe how one of the effects of radiation is used in a detector of radiation. The following web address might help. http://www.darvill.clara.net/nucrad/detect.htm

Detectors of Radiation	Effect on which they work
Geiger Muller	GM tubes work by ionisation. Best at detecting alpha particles, because -particles ionise strongly. The tube is filled with Argon gas, and a high voltage is applied to the thin wire. When a particle enters the tube, it pulls an electron from an Argon atom. The electron is attracted to the central wire, and as it rushes towards the wire, the electron will knock other electrons from Argon atoms, causing an "avalanche". Thus one single incoming particle will cause many electrons to arrive at the wire, creating a pulse which can be amplified and counted.
Photographic Film	Radioactivity will darken ("fog") photographic film, Workers in the nuclear industry USED TO wear "film badges" which

No.	CONTENT
	are sent to a laboratory to be developed, just like your photographs. This allows us to measure the dose that each worker has received different "windows" with different thickness and materials allowing the type of radiation to be identified.
Gold leaf electroscope	This uses ionisation. When an electroscope is charged, the gold leaf sticks out, because the charges on the gold repel the charges on the metal stalk. When a radioactive source comes near, the air is ionised, and starts to conduct electricity. This means that the charge can "leak" away, the electroscope discharges and the gold leaf falls.
Spark Counter	This works a little like the GM tube. A high voltage is applied between the gauze and the wire. When a radioactive source is brought close, the air between the gauze and the wire is ionised, and sparks jump where particles pass
Cloud Chamber	These work by ionisation. Alpha or beta particles leave trails in the vapour in the chamber. The chamber contains a supersaturated vapour (e.g. methylated spirits), which condenses into droplets when disturbed and ionised by the passage of a particle
Bubble Chamber	Particles leave trails of tiny bubbles in a liquid. The chamber would be surrounded by powerful magnets, so any charged particles passing though the chamber would move in curved paths. The shapes of the curves tell us about the charge, mass and speed of each particle, so we can work out what they are.

20.1.8

In an experiment, radiation from a sample of radium is passed through an electric field.



It is split into three different components (as shown in the diagram below).

(a) Name the radiations labelled (i), (ii) and (iii).

(i)	Alpha	It is positively charged so is attracted towards the negatively charged plate
(ii)	Gamma	It is not charged so continues in a straight line
(iii)	Beta	Is negatively charged so is attracted towards the positively charged plate

(b) Which radiation is deflected most by the electrostatic field?

Beta

(c) What is the function of the lead shield?

To absorb the radiation not travelling in the right direction and to prevent particles from the outside getting in

<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>CONTENT</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>(d) Why is the experiment carried out in an evacuated chamber?
So the radiation travel as far as the photographic film and do not ionise the air.
(e) What is the purpose of the photographic film?
To detect the radiation</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.1.9
OEQ</td><td>Alpha, beta and gamma are types of nuclear radiation, which have a range of properties and effects. Using your knowledge of physics, comment on the similarities and/or differences between these types of nuclear radiation.

See previous questions. Talk about some of the following and use previous questions to fill in details. You'd need to specify things like mass, charge, structure:

<table>
<tr><th>Similarities</th><th>Difference (you need to state these in more detail)</th></tr>
<tr><td>All originate from atomic nucleus</td><td>Charge, mass,</td></tr>
<tr><td>All can kill or cause damage to cells</td><td>range in air,</td></tr>
<tr><td>$D=E/m$</td><td>structure</td></tr>
<tr><td>$H=Dw_R$</td><td>Ionising properties, Ionising density</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Different dose equivalents and radiation weighting factors, so different biological harms</td></tr>
</table>
Here is a possible answer. NO idea if I'd get the full 3 marks!

Alpha, Beta and Gamma are all forms of ionising radiation that originate in the nucleus. They can all cause damage to tissue and kill and change the nature of cells as they pass through them.

Alpha is a He nucleus, so has a charge of $+3.2 \times 10^{-19}$ C so it is highly ionising and is absorbed by a few cm of air or a sheet of paper.

Beta is a fast moving electron and is formed by a neutron changing to a proton and emitting a beta particle and an antineutrino. It has a negative charge of -1.6×10^{-19} C. It is much less massive than an Alpha particle by 5 orders of magnitude (9.11×10^{-31} kg, cf 6.64×10^{-27} kg) but can travel a few metres in air.

Gamma is a transverse electromagnetic wave with no mass and no charge and can travel many kilometres in air. It is the least ionising so the most penetrating.

Due to the difference is charge, mass and other properties each radiation type is given a separate radiation weighting factor, which takes account of the biological harm of the radiation. Alpha has a w_R of 20, Beta w_R of 1 and gamma a w_R of 1</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.2</td><td>I can explain the term 'ionisation'.</td></tr>
</table>

No.	CONTENT
20.2.1	Explain the term ionisation.
	Ionisation is the gaining or losing of electrons from atoms
20.1.2	State what remains after an atom has been ionised.
	The atom has become an ion
20.3	I can state that which nuclear radiation is most ionising, and which is the least ionising.
20.3.1	From the list of alpha, beta and gamma radiation, (i) state which is least ionising. **Gamma** (ii) state which is most ionising **Alpha**
20.3.2	Give a piece of evidence to show that your answer to 20.3.1 is correct.
	This can be seen from the tracks in a bubble chamber or cloud chamber, see 20.1.8
20.3.3	State the effect radiation can have on living cells
	Radiation can kill living cells or change the nature of living cells. ***The biological effect of radiation depends on the absorbing tissue and the nature of the radiation*** ***Equivalent dose, measured in Sieverts, takes account of the type and energy of radiation.***
20.4	I can state the distances alpha, beta and gamma radiation can travel in air and the penetration through different materials.
20.4.1	State the approximate distance (range) travelled in air by: a) alpha particles : **a few cm in air** b) beta particles: **a few m in air** c) gamma rays **many km in air**
20.4.2	State the minimum object, and the thickness that can stop: a) alpha particles **a single sheet of paper** b) beta particles **a few mm of aluminium** c) gamma rays **partly absorbed by a few cm of lead or several metres of concrete.**

No.	CONTENT
20.4.3	Copy and complete the table below to show if each type of radiation passes or is absorbed by each type of material.
20.4.4	Describe one use of radiation based on the fact that radiation is easy to detect.
	(see over)

Type of radiation	Range in air	Effect of passing radiation through			
		0.1 mm paper	3 mm aluminium	3 mm lead	10 m concrete
Alpha	Few cm	Absorbed	absorbed	absorbed	absorbed
Beta	Few m	None	absorbed	absorbed	Absorbed
Gamma	Many km	None	none	Partly absorbed	Absorbed
X-rays	Many km	None	none	Partly absorbed	Absorbed

No.	CONTENT

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No.	CONTENT

20.4.5

The table below represents data obtained from an absorption experiment using three separate radioactive sources (background count = 20 counts per minute).

	Count rate (per minute)		
Type of radiation	**Source A**	**Source B**	**Source C**
Air	3125	900	420
Paper	3130	880	38
1mm Aluminium	3000	380	20
10 mm lead	1900	20	21

(a) What effect did paper have on each of the three sources?

(b) Use the data in the table to try to identify the type of radiation from each source.

(a) The paper had no effect on sources A and B but significant effect on source C

(b) Source C is therefore Alpha, Source B is reduced by aluminium and totally absorbed by 10 mm of lead so is a Beta source, Source A is unaffected by paper and 1mm of alumimium and is reduced by 10 mm of lead so is a gamma source

20.5 I can state that Activity is the number of nuclear disintegrations per second.

20.5.1 Explain the term activity of a radioactive source.

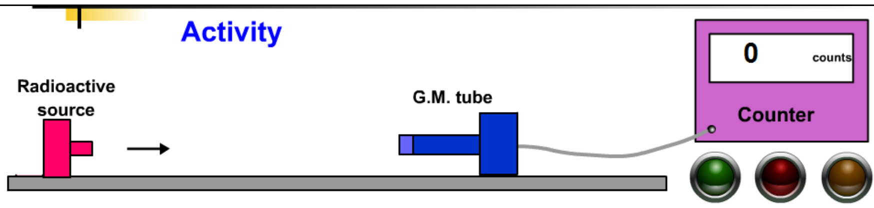
Activity is the number of decays / disintegrations per second

20.5.2 State what happens to the Activity of a source with time.

Activity decreases with time

20.5.3 Describe an experiment to find the activity of a radioactive source using the following equipment:

Stopwatch, Geiger-Muller Tube, Counter.



NB This will not give you the total activity of the source as the GM tube and counter will only count the particles that arrive at the detector, many radioactive particles will not be detected.

Use the GM tube and counter to detect the background radiation (no source).

Then place the radioactive source close to the GM tube and switch on the counter. Note the count in one minute (60 seconds). Record the number of counts on the counter. Find the Activity using $A=N/t$ where A is the activity in Becquerels, N is the count, t is the time in seconds.

No.	CONTENT
20.6	I can state the units of activity.
20.6.1	State the units of the Activity of a source.
	Activity is measured in Becquerels, symbol Bq (but Bq alone wouldn't get you a mark)
20.7	I can use ***A=N/t*** to solve problems involving activity, number of nuclear disintegrations and time.
20.7.1	Copy this table and calculate the missing numbers, there is no need to complete the table, just show the working underneath using **IESSUU**.

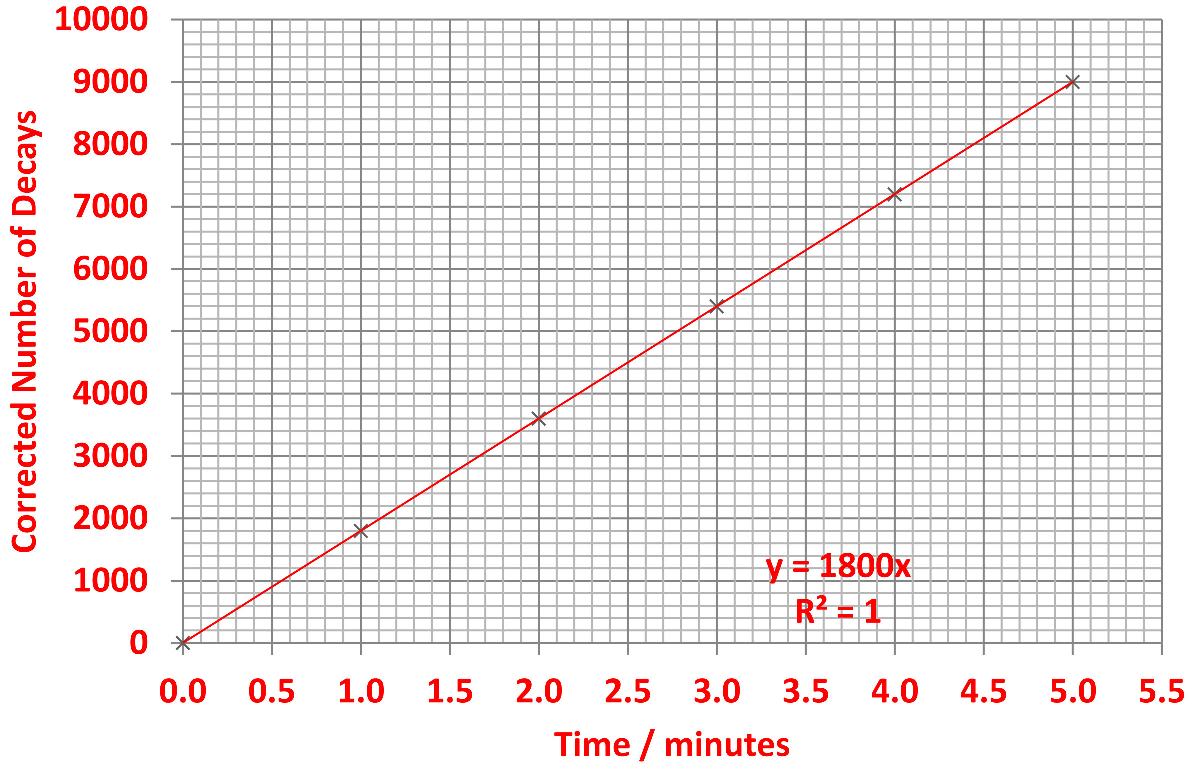
	Activity / Bq	*Number of Decays*	*Time / s*	*working*
(a)	**12 Bq**	720	60	$A=\frac{N}{t}=\frac{720}{60}=12\ \mathrm{Bq}$
(b)	**25 Bq**	4500	180	$A=\frac{N}{t}=\frac{4500}{180}=25\ \mathrm{Bq}$
(c)	1000	$1\times10^5\ \mathrm{Bq}$	100	$N=A\times t=1000\times 10=1\times10^5\ \mathrm{Bq}$
(d)	12 500	$6.3\times10^6\ \mathrm{Bq}$	500	$N=A\times t=12500\times500$ $=6.3\times10^6\ \mathrm{Bq}$
(e)	40 000	3.0 x 10^7	**750 s**	$t=\frac{N}{A}=\frac{3.0\times10^7}{40000}=750\ \mathrm{s}$
(f)	2.5 x 10^6	5.0 x 10^8	**200 s**	$t=\frac{N}{A}=\frac{5.0\times10^8}{2.5.\times10^6}=200\ \mathrm{s}$

20.7.2	Move to later in the question group. In a laboratory, the background activity is measured as 1.5 Bq. A Geiger-Muller tube is used to measure the activity of a source in the laboratory. In three minutes, 1440 counts are recorded. Calculate the activity of the source.
	$A=\frac{N}{t}=\frac{1440}{3\times60}=\frac{1440}{180}=8\ \mathrm{Bq}$ $Asource=8-1.5\ (\text{due to Background})=6.5\ \mathrm{Bq}$
20.7.3	Calculate the activity of a source that has 210 decays in a minute.
	$A=\frac{N}{t}=\frac{210}{60}=3.5\ \mathrm{Bq}$
20.7.4	A source has an activity of 2.0 kBq. Calculate the number of counts recorded from the source by a Geiger-Muller tube (and counter) in 30 seconds.

No.	CONTENT
	2.0 kBq = 2.0 $\times 10^3$ Bq $$A = \frac{N}{t}$$ $$2.0 \times 10^3 = \frac{N}{30}$$ $$N = 2.0 \times 10^3 \times 30 = 6.0 \times 10^4$$
20.7.5	Calculate the time it takes a source with an activity of 1.8 MBq to have 8.1 x 10^8 radioactive decays.
	1.8 MBq = 1.8 $\times 10^6$ Bq $$A = \frac{N}{t}$$ $$1.8 \times 10^6 = \frac{8.1 \times 10^8}{t}$$ $$t = \frac{8.1 \times 10^8}{1.8 \times 10^6} = 506\ s$$
20.7.6	In an experiment, the number of decays from a radioactive source is recorded. The background count is then taken away. The results of this are shown. (see table below) Draw a line graph of these results, and use the gradient of the straight line to calculate the activity of the source.

Time / minutes	*Corrected Number of Decays*
0	0
1	1800
2	3600
3	5400
4	7200
5	9000

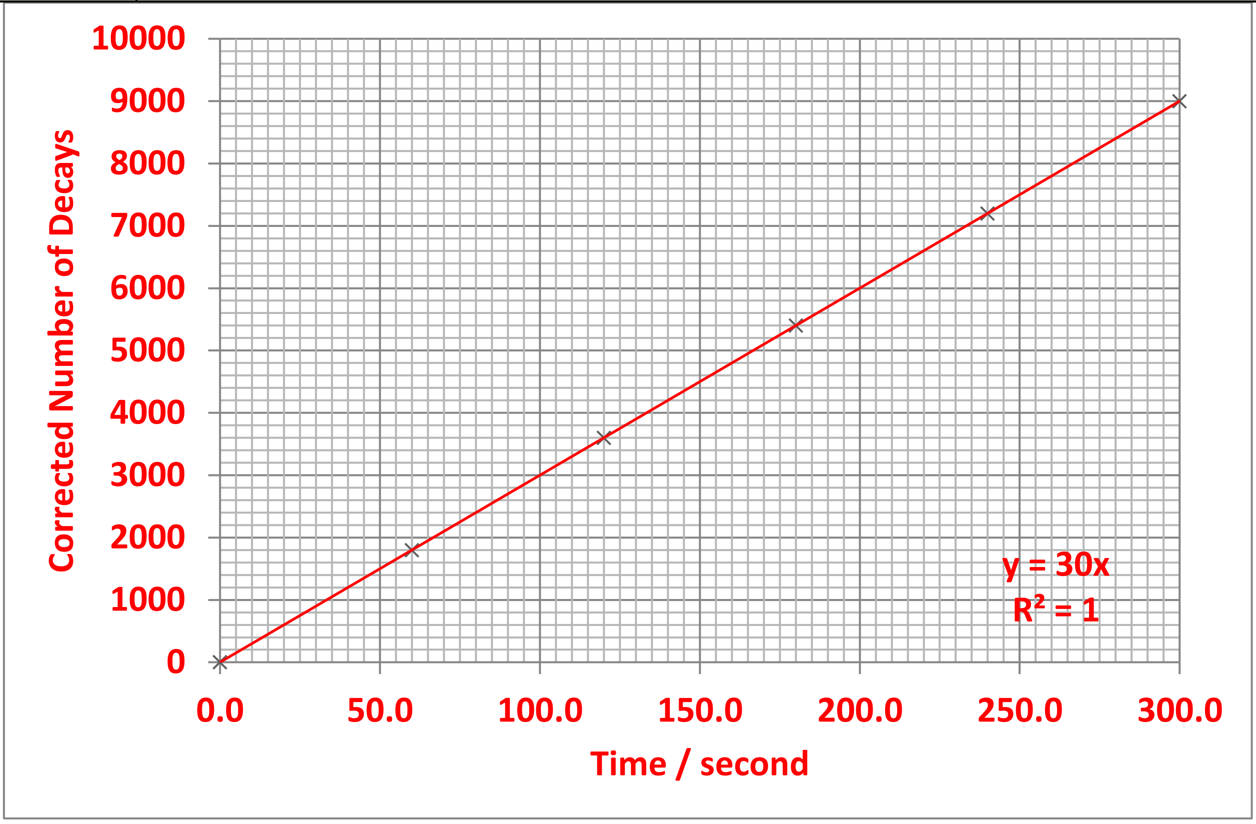
No.	CONTENT

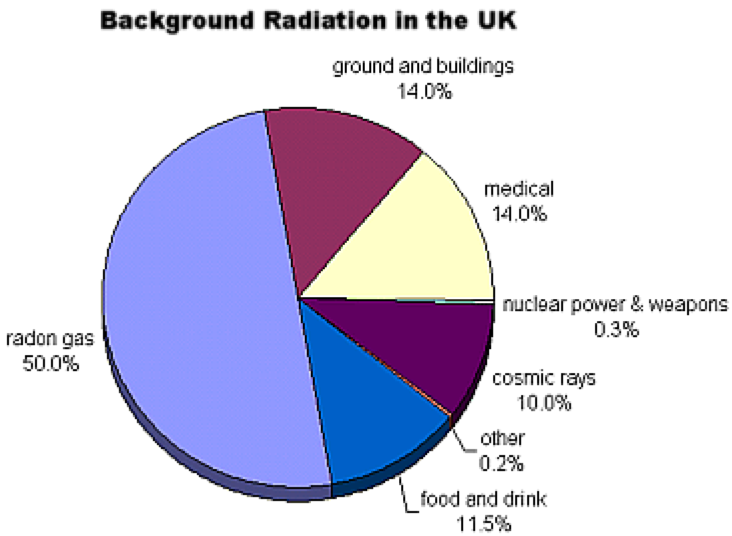


Now remember the gradient is given in corrected counts per minute and Activity in counts per second. A gradient of 1800 must be divided by 60 to get an Activity in Becquerels. This would give an Activity of 30 Bq

Time / minutes	*Time / s*	*Corrected Number of Decays*
0	0	0
1	60	1800
2	120	3600
3	180	5400
4	240	7200
5	300	9000

Or you could add an additional column in the table and plot time in seconds against corrected decays. This is still using the data in the table and would give a gradient equal to the Activity- which is a much better way of answering the question

No.	CONTENT
	
20.8	I can identify background sources of radiation.
20.8.1	State what is meant by the term background radiation.
	Background radioactivity is mainly natural radioactivity, all around us. ***Many people don't realise that your radiation dose from cosmic rays is increased considerably if you fly a great deal. This is because our atmosphere provides some protection against cosmic rays, so the higher you fly the more you get. This only tends to be a problem if you're an airline pilot or an astronaut.***
20.8.2	Identify background sources of radiation.

No.	CONTENT
	
20.8.3	State three natural sources that contribute to background radiation.
	(see table below)
20.8.4	State three artificial sources (manmade) that contribute to background radiation.

Source	Annual Equivalent dose /mSv
Cosmic Radiation (sea Level)*	0.25
Inhaled radioactive gas (radon)	1.0
Radioactivity from rocks, soil, buildings	0.3
Radioactivity in human body	0.4
Inhaled Radon and daughter products	1.0

No.	CONTENT
	Source
	Medical **Such as** • **X-rays,** • **Radiotherapy,** • **PET scans,** • **CAT Scans**
	Nuclear Power Stations which emit next to nothing ***If you live within a 50 mile radius of a working Nuclear Plant your average annual dose***
	(releases due to incidents major and small),
	and weapon release (Hiroshima and Nagasaki)
	Nuclear weapons tests carried out by **0.02%** • *United States of America.* • *Soviet Union.* • *United Kingdom.* • *France.* • *China.* • *India.* • *Pakistan.* • *North Korea.*
20.9	Knowledge of the dangers of ionising radiation to living cells and of the need to measure exposure to radiation
20.9.1	State how the equivalent dose a person receives can be reduced.
	Monitor: Do not go near a source unless totally necessary and limit any exposure **Distance: Keep as far away from the source as possible, handle with tongs or remote arms, as this increases the distance to the source.** **Shield: put layers of shielding between the source and the user, such as gloves and lab coat (for alpha only) and aluminium for beta lead for gamma.** *Do not choose two answers from the same group, choose one from each section in a question.*
20.9.2	Explain why airline pilots and crews receive higher doses of radiation than the ground crew working in the airport.
	Gamma radiation is absorbed by the atmosphere. As aircraft pilots are higher in the sky there is less atmosphere to absorb this harmful radiation.
20.9.3	State three factors that can affect the biological harm of radiation.

No.	CONTENT
	The biological effect of radiation depends on: • **The absorbed dose** • **the type of radiation (alpha, beta, gamma or x-rays) and** • **the type of tissue absorbing the radiation**
20.9.4	State three ways to reduce the biological harm on a person due to radiation.
	1.Keep your distance, 2 Limit exposure time, 3 Use shielding.
20.9.5	Several people have been poisoned by Polonium-210. Describe their symptoms prior to death.
	Symptoms would depend on the strength of polonium used. **They would likely include:** • **nausea and vomiting** • **anorexia** • **hair loss** • **lowered white blood cell count, or lymphopenia** • **diarrhoea** • **damage to bone marrow** **The higher the dose, the faster the effect will be.** • **After these acute symptoms, the patient may appear to recover, but bone marrow damage will continue, resulting in lower white blood cell and platelet counts.** • **Next, depending on the dose, various body organs will be affected, including the bone marrow, the gastrointestinal system, and the cardiovascular and central nervous system (CNS).** • **If the CNS is affected, this is irreversible and leads to death. At high doses, this can lead to confusion, convulsion, and coma within minutes of the poisoning.** • **Finally, the person will either die or recover.**
20.10	I can use appropriate relationships to solve problems involving absorbed dose and equivalent dose energy, mass and radiation weighting factor. $(H = Dw_R,\ D = \frac{E}{m})$
20.10.1	State the difference between am absorbed dose and an equivalent dose.
	Absorbed dose is E/m and takes into account the energy of the radiation and the mass of the absorbing tissue. Equivalent Dose takes into account the biological harm done by the radiation and is H=D w_R or H=E/m $\times w_R$

No.	CONTENT
20.10.2	State what is indicated by the radiation weighting factor for each radiation.
	The radiation weighting factor takes account of the biological harm done by each type of radiation.
20.10.3	Copy this table and calculate the missing numbers, there is no need to complete the table, just show the working underneath. Show all the working using IESSUU.

	Absorbed Dose / Gy	*Energy/ J*	*Mass / kg*	*working*
(a)	**1.2 x 10^{-5}**	6 x 10^{-6}	0.5	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $D = \frac{6 \times 10^{-6}}{0.5}$
(b)	**1.4 x 10^{-4}**	3.5 x 10^{-5}	0.25	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $D = \frac{3.5 \times 10^{-5}}{0.25}$
(c)	8.8 x 10^{-5}	**4.4 x 10^{-6}**	0.05	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $8.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{E}{0.05}$ $E = 8.8 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.05$
(d)	6.5 x 10^{-5}	**1.7 x 10^{-5}**	0.26	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $6.5 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{E}{0.26}$ $E = 6.5 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.26$
(e)	1.1 x 10^{-5}	3.3 x 10^{-6}	**0.30**	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $1.1 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{3.3 \times 10^{-6}}{m}$ $m = \frac{3.3 \times 10^{-6}}{1.1 \times 10^{-5}}$
(f)	1.2 x 10^{-5}	1.8 x 10^{-6}	**0.15**	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $1.2 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{1.8 \times 10^{-6}}{m}$ $m = \frac{1.8 \times 10^{-6}}{1.2 \times 10^{-5}}$

No.	CONTENT
20.10.4	Calculate the equivalent dose absorbed by a person exposed to 5mGy of radiation with a radiation weighting factor of 6.

<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>CONTENT</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>

$$H = Dw_R$$
$$H = 5 \times 10^{-3} \times 6$$
$$H = 0.03\ Sv$$

OR

$$H = Dw_R$$
$$H = 5 \times 6 = 30\ mSv$$

Here I've kept the dose in mGy which will give an answer in mSv. BEWARE if you use this that you check your sig fig and numbers.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.10.5</td><td>The absorbed dose to a mass of skin is 10 μGy. Calculate the mass of skin exposed if the energy of the radiation is 4.2 μJ.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>

$$D = \frac{E}{m}$$
$$10\mu = \frac{4.2\mu}{m}$$
$$m = \frac{4.2\mu}{10\mu} = 0.42\ kg$$
</td><td>

$$D = \frac{E}{m}$$
$$10 \times 10^{-6} = \frac{4.2 \times 10^{-6}}{m}$$
$$m = \frac{4.2 \times 10^{-6}}{10 \times 10^{-6}} = 0.42\ kg$$
</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.10.6</td><td>An equivalent dose of 4μSv is received by a patient from radiation with a radiation weighting factor of 20, calculate the absorbed dose.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>

$$H = Dw_R$$
$$4 \times 10^{-6} = D \times 20$$
$$\frac{4 \times 10^{-6}}{20} = D = 2.0 \times 10^{-6}\ Gy$$
</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.10.7</td><td>Visitors to a nuclear reprocessing plant are informed that they have absorbed an equivalent dose of 2.0 μSv from a measured absorbed dose of 2.0 μGy.
(i) Calculate the radiation weighting factor of the radiation they were exposed to.
(ii) Using tables in the notes identify possible types of radiation.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>

(i)

$$H = Dw_R$$
$$2 \times 10^{-6} = 2 \times 10^{-6} \times w_R$$
$$\frac{2 \times 10^{-6}}{2 \times 10^{-6}} = w_R = 1$$

Radiation weighting factors

<table>
<tr><th>Type of radiation</th><th>Radiation weighting factor</th></tr>
<tr><td>alpha</td><td>20</td></tr>
<tr><td>beta</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>fast neutrons</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>gamma</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>slow neutrons</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>X-rays</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table>

This could be due to beta, gamma or X-rays
</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.10.8</td><td>In the course of his work an industrial worker receives an equivalent dose of 200 μSv. Determine the absorbed dose if he is exposed to alpha particles, with a radiation weighting factor of 20.</td></tr>
</table>

No.	CONTENT
	$H = Dw_R$ $200 \times 10^{-6} = D \times 20$ $\frac{200 \times 10^{-6}}{20} = D = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}\ Gy$ OR $H = Dw_R$ $200\mu = D \times 20$ $\frac{200\mu}{20} = D = 10\ \mu Gy$
20.10.9	Calculate the absorbed dose of a 400 g hand that absorbs 7 µJ of alpha particles.
	m=400 g, this must be converted to kg =0.4 kg. NB The fact that they are alpha particles doesn't affect the absorbed dose! $D = \frac{E}{m}$ $D = \frac{7 \times 10^{-6}}{0.4}$ $D = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}\ Gy = 18\ \mu Gy$
20.10.10	A tumour of mass 150 g is exposed to gamma rays. The absorbed dose from this exposure is 5.1 x 10^{-5} µGy. What is the energy of the gamma rays absorbed by the tumour?
	$D = \frac{E}{m}$ $5.1 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{E}{0.150}$ $E = 5.1 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.150 = 7.6 \times 10^{-6}\ J = 7.6\mu J$
20.10.11	A sample of tissue is exposed to 15 µGy of alpha radiation and 20 µGy of gamma radiation. Calculate the total equivalent dose received by the tissue is
	Work out the two doses and add them as scalar quantities $H = Dw_R$, $H = 15\mu \times 20 = 300\mu Sv$ | $H = Dw_R$, $H = 20\mu \times 1 = 20\mu Sv$ $H_{Total} = H\alpha + H\gamma = 300 + 20 = 320\ \mu Sv$ or 0.32 mSv

No.	CONTENT
20.10.12	A worker spends some time in an area where she is exposed to the following radiations: thermal neutrons = 8 mGy radiation weighting factor = 3 fast neutrons = 40 μGy radiation weighting factor = 10 (a) Calculate the equivalent dose for each type of neutron. (b) Calculate the total equivalent dose for the exposure.
	Work out the two doses and add them as scalar quantities **Be careful you cannot just add milli Sieverts and microSieverts so you might want to put them all into scientific notation if you cannot convert between the two.** $H = Dw_R$ $H = 8m \times 3 = 24\ mSv$ $H = Dw_R$ $H = 40\mu \times 10 = 400\mu Sv = 0.4\ mSv$ $\underline{\underline{H_{total} = 24.4\ mSv}}$ $H = Dw_R$ $H = 8 \times 10^{-3} \times 3 = 24\ \times 10^{-3} Sv$ $H = Dw_R$ $H = 40 \times 10^{-6} \times 10 = 400 \times 10^{-6} Sv$ $H_{total} = 24\ \times 10^{-3} +\ 400 \times 10^{-6} = 24.4 \times 10^{-3} Sv$
20.10.13	An unknown radioactive material has an absorbed dose of 500 μGy and gives a dose equivalent of 1.0 mSv. Calculate the radiation weighting factor of the material.
	When the prefixes are different it is best to convert everything to base units $H = Dw_R$ $1.0 \times 10^{-3} = 500 \times 10^{-6} \times w_R$ $\frac{1.0 \times 10^{-3}}{500 \times 10^{-6}} = w_R = 2$
20.10.14	A patient receives a chest X-ray with an equivalent dose of 2.0 mSv. If the radiation weighting factor of the X-ray is 1, calculate the absorbed dose of the patient.
	$H = Dw_R$ $2.0 \times 10^{-3} = D \times 1$ $\frac{2.0 \times 10^{-3}}{1} = D = 2.0 \times 10^{-3} Gy = 2.0\ mGy$
20.10.15	A lady has a dental X-ray which produces an absorbed dose of 0.3 mGy. Calculate the equivalent dose of this X-ray.
	$H = Dw_R$ $H = 0.3 \times 10^{-3} \times 1$ $H = 0.3 \times 10^{-3} Sv = 0.3\ mSv$

No.	CONTENT
20.10.16	A nuclear worker is exposed to a radioactive material producing an absorbed dose of 10 mGy. She finds that the material emits particles with a radiation weighting factor of 3. Calculate the equivalent dose for this exposure.
	$H = Dw_R$ $H = 10 \times 10^{-3} \times 3$ $H = 30 \times 10^{-3} Sv = 30\ mSv$
20.10.17	A physics teacher uses a gamma source in an experimental demonstration on absorption. The teacher receives an absorbed equivalent dose of 0.5 μSv. Calculate her absorbed dose if the radiation weighting factor for gamma radiation is 1.
	$H = Dw_R$ $0.5 \times 10^{-6} = D \times 1$ $\frac{0.5 \times 10^{-6}}{1} = D = 0.5 \times 10^{-6} Gy = 0.5\ \mu Gy$
20.10.18	(a) Alpha particles produce an equivalent dose of 50 mSv from an absorbed dose of 2.5 mGy. Calculate the radiation weighting factor of the alpha particles. (b) Explain why exposure to alpha radiation increases the risk of cancer more than X-rays or gamma rays.
	$H = Dw_R$ $50 \times 10^{-3} = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \times w_R$ $\frac{50 \times 10^{-3}}{2.5 \times 10^{-3}} = w_R = 20$ **Alpha particles are more ionising so causes more biological harm to cells that X rays or gamma rays**
20.10.19	The unit for absorbed dose is the gray, Gy. Explain this term and give an equivalent unit for absorbed dose.
	Absorbed dose is the energy from the radiation per kilogram of absorbing tissue, so its alternative units for Gy must be Jkg^{-1}
20.11	I can state that the unit for absorbed dose, the unit for equivalent dose is the Sievert (Sv) and the radiation weighting factor has no unit
20.11.1	State the symbol, unit, and unit symbol for the following a) Absorbed dose **D Grays, Gy** b) Equivalent dose **H Sieverts Sv** c) Radiation weighting factor **w_R no units**
20.11.2	Write out the relationships for the dosimetry formula and for each one write them in words and symbols. Use the relationships sheet to help you

No.	CONTENT
	$H = Dw_R$ Equivalent dose = Absorbed Dose x radiation weighting factor. $D = \frac{E}{m}$ Absorbed Dose =Energy of radiation divided by mass of the absorbing tissue. Combining these gives $H = \frac{E}{m} w_R$
20.12	I can use (**H dot**) $\dot{H}$=**H/t** to solve problems involving equivalent dose and time to calculate an equivalent dose rate.
20.12.1	A sample of tissue receives an equivalent dose rate of 0·40 mSv h^{-1} from a source of alpha radiation. Calculate the equivalent dose received by the sample in 30 minutes.
	NB Beware there is a conflict of units here! The equivalent dose is given in $mSvh^{-1}$, the time in minutes so this needs to be converted to hours $t = 30mins = 0.5\ h$ $\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$ $0.40 = \frac{H}{0.5}$ $0.40 \times 0.5 = H = 0.2\ mSv$
20.12.2	A worker in a nuclear power plant is receives an annual equivalent dose of 6.10 mSv. Calculate the worker's equivalent dose rate, in μSvh^{-1}
	For this question we need to find hours in a year. **We'll just take an ordinary year!** **365 day= 365 × 24 = 8760 hour** **Put the milli sieverts into sieverts to make changing to microsieverts easier.** $\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$ $\dot{H} = \frac{6.10 \times 10^{-3}}{8760} = 0.70\ \mu Svh^{-1}$
20.12.3	Radiation workers can receive an average equivalent dose rate of $2.2\mu Svh^{-1}$ to still be within limits for radiation workers. Calculate the annual equivalent dose a radiation worker can receive.
	$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$ $2.2 \times 10^{-6} = \frac{H}{8760}$ $2.2 \times 10^{-6} \times 8760 = H = 19\ mSv$

No.	CONTENT
20.12.4	SQA N5 2014 An airport worker passes suitcases through an X-ray machine. (a) The worker has a mass of 80·0 kg and on a particular day absorbs 7·2 mJ of energy from the X-ray machine. (i) Calculate the absorbed dose received by the worker. (ii) Calculate the equivalent dose received by the worker. (iii) If this equivalent dose rate is received over a period of 10 hours, calculate the equivalent dose rate received by the worker.

	Answer	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
(i)	$D=\frac{E}{m}$ (1) $=\frac{7\cdot2\times10^{-3}}{80\cdot0}$ (1) $=9\cdot0\times10^{-5}$ Gy (1)	3	
(ii)	$H=Dw_R$ (1) $=9\cdot0\times10^{-5}\times1$ (1) $=9\cdot0\times10^{-5}$ Sv (1)	3	Or answer consistent with 8(a)(i) If wrong radiation weighting factor selected then (1) MAX for correct equation.
	When an **atom** gains / loses / gains or loses electrons.	1	Ignore additional information.

$$\dot{H}=\frac{H}{t}$$

$$\dot{H}=\frac{9.0\times10^{-5}}{10}$$

$$\dot{H}=9.0\ \mu Svh^{-1}$$

No.	CONTENT
20.12.5	As a part of his job, an airport security guard has to expose her hand to X-rays (w_R = 1) as she removes blockages from a baggage scanner. On average, each time she does this, the absorbed dose of her hand is 0.03 μGy. a) Calculate the equivalent dose of her hand each time she removes a blockage. b) The safety rules in the airport state that the maximum equivalent dose for his hand in one hour is 0.6 μSv. Determine how many times can the airport security guard safely put her hand in the scanner in an hour. c) If the security guard works for an 8 hour shift over a 24 hour period and puts her hand through the scanner 25 times during one shift, calculate the security guard's equivalent dose rate per day.

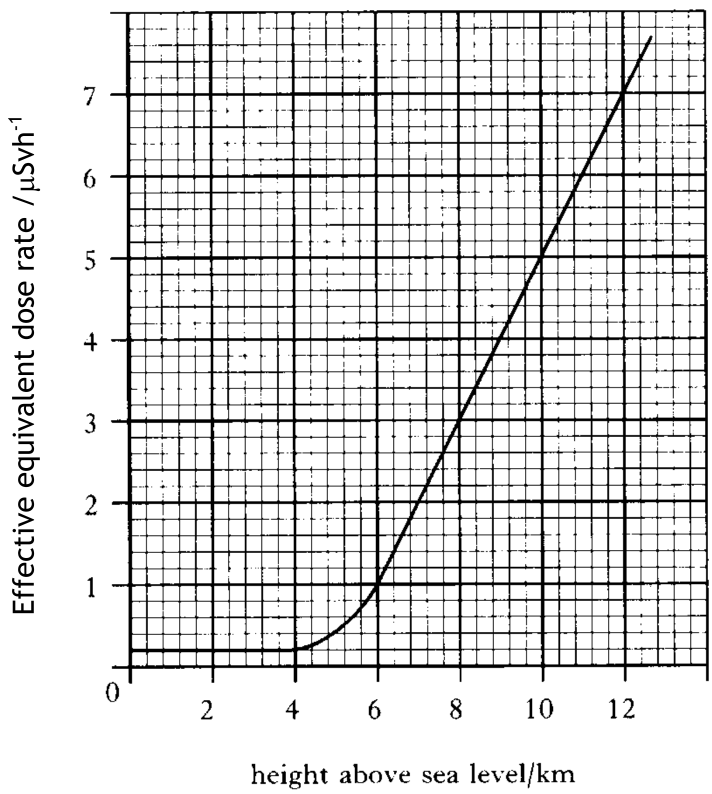
No.	CONTENT
	a) $$H = Dw_R$$ $$H = 0.03 \times 1 = 0.03\ \mu Sv$$ b) If we take the equivalent dose we are allowed and divide that by the equivalent dose for one blockage clearance we can find the total number of blockages she can perform in this time and be within the limits $$n = \frac{H}{H_1} = \frac{0.6}{0.03} = 20$$ c) So here the length of a shift isn't important as it is over a 24 hour period. It is a red herring. Yes the worker gets a higher dose during this time but for the other 16 hours she gets very little so we average it out. So her equivalent dose is $$H = H_1 \times n = 0.03 \times 25 = 0.75\ \mu Sv$$ $$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$ $$\dot{H} = \frac{0.75 \times 10^{-6}}{24}$$ $$\dot{H} = 0.031\ \mu Svh^{-1} = 31\ nSvh^{-1}$$
20.12.6	It is found that a radiation worker has received an equivalent dose of 500 μSv in the course of a 25-hour working week. Calculate the equivalent dose rate in μSv h^{-1}. I think this question is ambiguous and wouldn't be in an exam paper so I will adapt it for the second version

<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th colspan="2">CONTENT</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">For the working week
$$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$
$$\dot{H} = \frac{500 \times 10^{-6}}{5 \times 24}$$
$$\dot{H} = 4.2\ \mu Svh^{-1}$$
For the whole week
$$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$
$$\dot{H} = \frac{500 \times 10^{-6}}{7 \times 24}$$
$$\dot{H} = 3\ \mu Svh^{-1}$$</td><td>For the hours worked
$$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$
$$\dot{H} = \frac{500 \times 10^{-6}}{25}$$
$$\dot{H} = 20\ \mu Svh^{-1}$$
during the working week but we take it over the whole week</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.12.7</td><td colspan="2">The cosmic ray detector on board an aircraft indicates an equivalent dose rate of 15 μSvh^{-1}.

(i) Calculate the equivalent dose to those on board during a 4-hour flight.
(ii) Calculate the number of these flights would a crew member have to make in a year to receive the maximum permissible equivalent dose of 5.0 mSv in a year?</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">$$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$
$$15\ \mu = \frac{H}{4}$$
$$15\ \mu \times 4 = H = 60\ \mu Sv\ or\ 0.06\ mSv$$
No. of flights per year is the total equivalent dose ÷equivalent dose for 1 flight
$$n = \frac{H}{H_1} = \frac{5.0}{0.06} = 83$$</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.12.8</td><td colspan="2">A worker receives the following absorbed doses:
• γ-radiation 150 μGy
• ~~Thermal~~ slow neutrons 240 μGy
• Fast neutrons 90 μGy.

a) What is the equivalent dose for each radiation?
b) Find the total equivalent dose.
c) If the doses were received in 6 hours, calculate the equivalent dose rate in μSv h^{-1}.</td></tr>
</table>

No.	CONTENT
	For this question you need to find the radiation weighting factor for each radiation. This will be given in the data sheet. *Radiation weighting factors* *Type of radiation* / *Radiation weighting factor*: alpha 20; beta 1; fast neutrons 10; gamma 1; slow neutrons 3; X-rays 1 γ-radiation 150 μGy $w_R=1$ slow neutrons 240 μGy $w_R=3$ Fast neutrons 90 μGy. $w_R=10$ $$H = Dw_R$$ $$H = 150\,\mu \times 1 = 150\,\mu Sv$$ $$H = 240\,\mu \times 3 = 720\,\mu Sv$$ $$H = 90\,\mu \times 10 = 900\,\mu Sv$$ b) Total equivalent dose = sum of equivalent doses $$H = 150\,\mu Sv + 720\,\mu Sv + 900\,\mu Sv = 1.8\,mSv$$ c) $$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$ $$\dot{H} = \frac{1.8 \times 10^{-3}}{6}$$ $$\dot{H} = 0.3\,mSvh^{-1}$$
20.12.9	SQA Exam Questions i) A patient's thyroid gland is to receive an absorbed does of 500 Gy from a source so that the gland absorbs 15 J of energy. From this information what is the mass of the thyroid gland?
	$$D = \frac{E}{m}$$ $$500 = \frac{15}{m}$$ $$m = \frac{15}{500} = 0.03\,kg$$

No.	CONTENT
20.12.10	The following graph shows how the effective equivalent dose rate due to background radiation varies with height above sea level.  a) Name **two** sources of background radiation b) The graph shows that there is an increase in effective equivalent dose rate at altitudes greater than 4 km. Suggest a reason for this increase. c) An aircraft makes a 7 hour flight at a cruising altitude of 10 km. i) Calculate the effective equivalent dose received by a passenger during this flight. ii) A regular traveller makes 40 similar flights in one year and spends the rest of the year at sea level. Calculate the effective equivalent dose of background radiation received by this traveller in that year.

No.	CONTENT

a)

Source	b) The atmosphere absorbs cosmic radiation. There is less radiation arriving at lover levels as more has been absorbed by the atmosphere. For gamma rays with an energy of 1 MeV half will be absorbed every 90 metres
Cosmic Radiation (sea Level)*	Reading from the graph at an altitude on 10 km the effective equivalent dose rate is 5 μSvh^{-1} so for a 7 hour flight
Radon Gas	
Radioactivity from rocks, soil, buildings	
Radioactivity in human body from organic matter	
Medical radiation	$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$ $5 = \frac{H}{7}$ $H = 5 \times 7 = 35\ \mu\text{Sv}$

c) $Total\ flight\ equivalent\ dose = No\ of\ flights\ \times\ equivalent\ dose\ per\ flight$

$$Total\ flight\ equivalent\ dose = 40\ \times 35 = 1400\ \mu Sv$$

Hours in 1 year = 365 × 24 = 8760 hours
Flying hours = 40 × 7 = 280 hours
Hours in the year at ground level = 8760 - 280 = 8480

$$\dot{H} = \frac{H}{t}$$

$$0.2 = \frac{H}{8480}$$

$$H = 0.2 \times 8480 = 1696\ \mu\text{Sv}$$

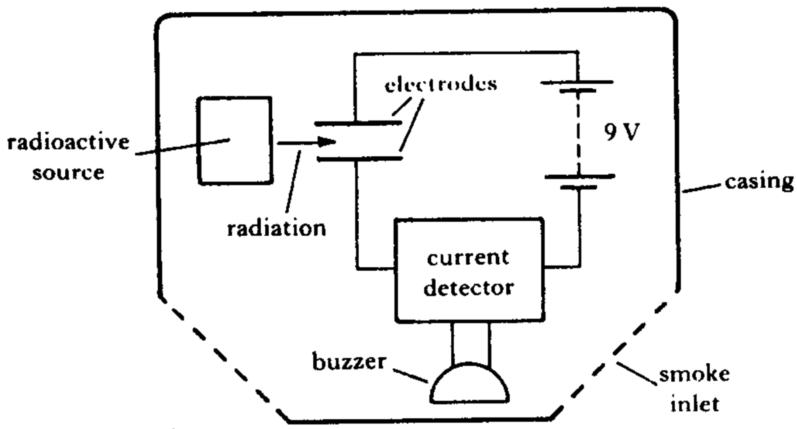
Total background radiation = ground level background + flight background
Total annual background equivalent dose = 1696 + 1400 = 3096 μSv

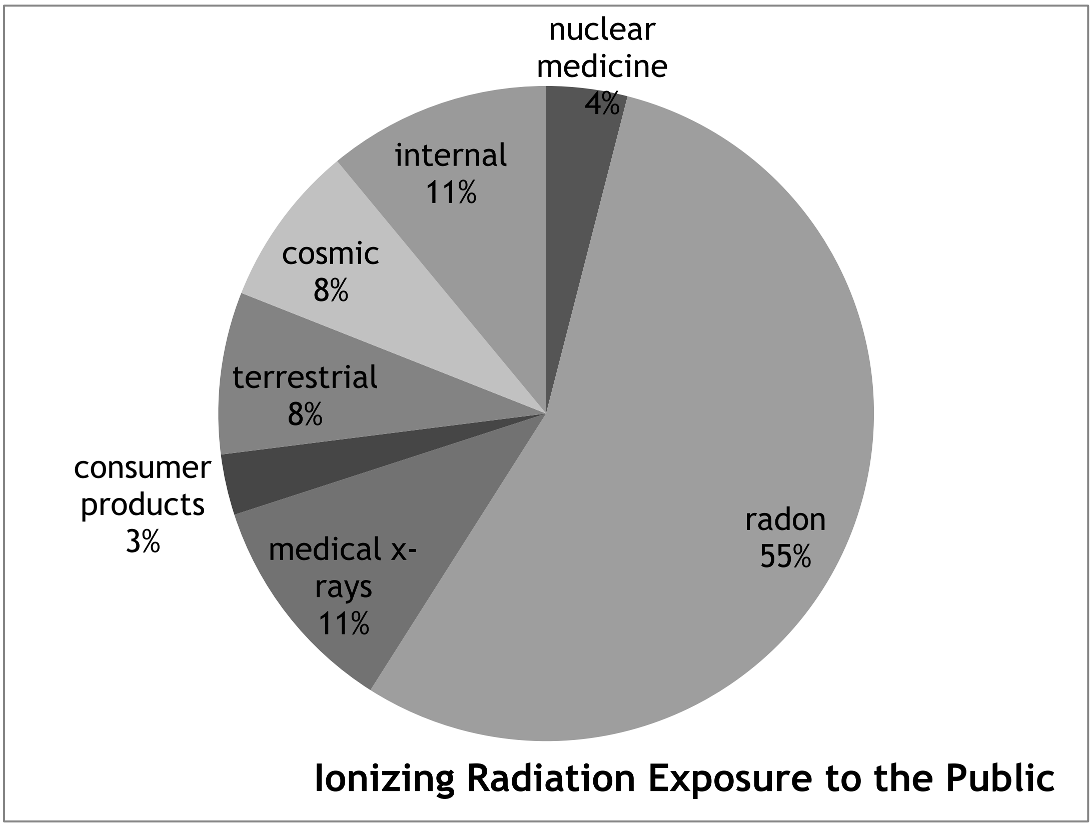
<u>Total annual background equivalent dose = 3 mSv</u>

NB You could also have done this as
Hour at ground level equivalent dose rate at ground level + Hour at 10 km × equivalent dose rate at 10 km

(280 ×5) + (8480 ×0.2) = 3096 μSv

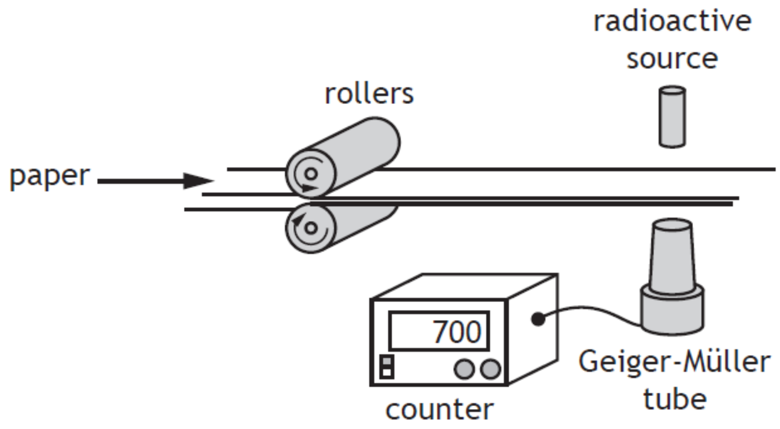
<u>Total annual background equivalent dose = 3 mSv</u>

No.	CONTENT
20.12.11	The radiology department in a hospital uses radioactive iodine to examine the functioning of the thyroid gland in a patient. The thyroid gland of the patient receives an absorbed dose of 750 μGy of radiation from the radioactive iodine. (i) Calculate the total energy absorbed if the gland has a mass of 0.04 kg. (ii) The average equivalent dose rate for the gland is 12.5 μSv h^{-1}. The radioactive iodine is present in the gland of the patient for 120 hours. What is the quality factor of the radiation?
20.12.12	Smoke detectors are important in giving early warning of fire starting in the home. c) The simplified layout of one type of smoke detector is illustrated below.  The following is an extract from the manufacturer's data sheet. "The detector uses a low energy source of ionising radiation, 30 kBq Americium 241, which causes ionisation of the air molecules and hence a small current between the electrodes. When smoke particles enter the space between the electrodes they impede the flow of ions and the current is reduced. When the current falls below a certain value the buzzer sounds." i) The symbol for the radioactive source used is $^{241}_{95}Am$. What information is given by the numbers 95 and 241? ii) What is meant by "30 kBq"? iii) Explain what is meant by ionising radiation. iv) The equation for decay of this source is $$^{241}_{95}Am \rightarrow {}^{237}_{93}Np + radiation$$ Identify the type of radiation emitted in this decay and explain why this particular type of radiation is used in the smoke detector. The half-life of Americium 241 is 458 years. Discuss the advantage of using this source compared to one with a half-life of 5 years.

No.	CONTENT
20.13	I can state the units of H dot.
20.13.1	State the quantity, unit, and unit symbol for the term $\dot{H}$
	$\dot{H}$ is equivalent dose rate and measured in units of Svh^{-1} or Svy^{-1}
20.14	I can compare equivalent dose due to a variety of natural and artificial sources.
20.14.1	A pie chart indicating the exposure of the Public to ionizing radiation is given below.  From data given in the pie chart create (a) State the main source of public exposure to ionizing radiation (b) create a table indicating sources originate naturally sources and which are artificial sources of radiation. (c) Calculate the percentage exposure due to artificial sources. (d) State the percentage exposure from naturally occurring sources. *As an aside…* *Other sources <1% includes* • *Occupational - 0.3%* • *Fallout - <0.3%* • *Nuclear fuel cycle - 0.1%* • *Miscellaneous - 0.1%*

No.	CONTENT
	a) The main source of public exposure is due to radon gas. b) <table><tr><th>Natural Sources</th><th>Artificial sources</th></tr><tr><td>**Radon Gas**</td><td>Medical X-rays</td></tr><tr><td>**Terrestrial**</td><td>Consumer Products</td></tr><tr><td>**Cosmic**</td><td>Medical</td></tr><tr><td>**Internal (Food)**</td><td></td></tr></table> c) The artificial sources are medical (4%) consumer products (3%) and medical (11%) which is a total of 18% d) The natural sources are radon (55%) cosmic (8%) and internal (11%) and terrestrial (8%) which is a total of 82% *Remember that these numbers are rounded to 1 sig fig which is why there are other sources listed below*
20.14.2	State if you are more likely to receive a more uniform dose of radiation from naturally occurring or man-made sources of radiation. You must justify your answer.
20.14.3	SQA N5 2014 A sample of tissue is irradiated using a radioactive source. A student makes the following statements about the sample. **I The equivalent dose received by the sample is reduced by shielding the sample with a lead screen.** II The equivalent dose received by the sample is increased as the distance from the source to the sample is increased. **III The equivalent dose received by the sample is increased by increasing the time of exposure of the sample to the radiation.**
20.14.4	SQA N5 2015 A sample of tissue is irradiated using a radioactive source. A student makes the following statements. The equivalent dose received by the tissue is **I reduced by shielding the tissue with a lead screen** II increased as the distance from the source to the tissue is increased **III increased by increasing the time of exposure of the tissue to the radiation.** *Yes this question really was on 2 years running!*
20.14.5	SQA N5 2015 A paper mill uses a radioactive source in a system to monitor the thickness of paper.

No.	CONTENT



Radiation passing through the paper is detected by the Geiger-Müller tube.

The count rate is displayed on the counter as shown. The radioactive source has a half-life that allows the system to run continuously.

(a) State what happens to the count rate if the thickness of the paper decreases.

(b) The following radioactive sources are available. State which radioactive source should be used. You must explain your answer.

Radioactive Source	Half-life	Radiation emitted
W	600 years	alpha
X	50 years	beta
Y	4 hours	beta
Z	350 years	gamma

(a)		Increases	1	
(b)	(i)	**Choice:** (source) X (1) **Explanation:** beta (source required) (1) long half-life (1)	3	First mark can only be awarded if an explanation is attempted. Choice correct + explanation correct (3) Choice correct + explanation partially correct (2) Choice correct + explanation incorrect (1) Choice correct + no explanation attempted (0) Incorrect or no choice made regardless of explanation (0)

No.	CONTENT

			Having chosen source X, can explain why each of the other three sources should not be used. Having chosen source X, can explain that a beta source should be used but that source Y is not suitable because it has too short a half-life.
(ii)	Time for activity to (decrease by) half **OR** Time for half the nuclei to decay	**1**	Do not accept: Time for radiation/radioactivity/ count rate to half

20.15	I know the average annual background radiation in the UK.
20.15.1	State the average annual background radiation in the UK. 2.2 mSv
20.16	I know the average annual effective dose limit for a member of the public in the UK.
20.16.1	State the average annual effective dose limit for a member of the public in the UK. 1mSv
20.17	I know that the average annual effective dose limit for radiation workers.
20.17.1	State the average annual effective dose limit for radiation workers. 20 mSv
20.18	I can give some applications of nuclear radiation.
20.18.1	State some medical applications of nuclear radiation.
20.18.2	Describe how electrical energy can be obtained from nuclear radiation.
20.18.3	A nuclear reactor produces waste that emits nuclear radiation. State a use of nuclear radiation.

No.	CONTENT
20.19	I can define half-life.
20.19.1	Sketch a graph showing how the activity of a radioactive source varies with time.
20.19.2	State what is meant by the term half-life.
20.19.3	State the units of half-life.
20.20	I can use graphical and numerical data to determine the half-life.
20.20.1	A radioactive material has a half-life of 5 days. If the original activity is 120 Bq, calculate the activity after 20 days.
20.20.2	If a radioactive material has a half-life of 600 years. If the original activity was 80 Bq calculate the time it takes for the activity to fall to 10 Bq.
20.20.3	A radioactive substance has a half-life of 4 hours. Calculate the fraction of the original activity left after one day.
20.20.4	The activity of a source starts at 100 MBq. After 20 days it has fallen to 6.25 MBq. Calculate the half-life of the source.
20.20.5	A radioactive source has an activity of 3072Bq. After 64 days its activity is measured again, and is found to be 48Bq. Calculate its half-life.
20.20.6	Calculate the half-life of a radioactive source if the activity falls from 4000 kBq to 125 kBq in 40 days.

No.	CONTENT
20.20.7	The half-life of Cobalt-60 is 5 years. If the source, 25 years ago, had an activity of 500kBq, calculate the new activity.
20.20.8	A radioactive material has a half-life of 5 days. If the original activity is 120 Bq, calculate the activity after 20 days.
20.20.9	If a radioactive material has a half-life of 600 years. If the original activity was 80 Bq calculate the time it takes for the activity to fall to 10 Bq.
20.20.10	A radioactive substance has a half-life of 4 hours. Calculate the fraction of the original activity left after one day.
20.20.11	The data above was obtained from an experiment to determine the half life of a radioactive source: (see table 20.20.11 below) (a) Describe how you could carry out this experiment. (b) Determine the half-life of the radioactive source.
20.20.12	The table of results below show how the count rate for a radioactive source varies with time. The background count was 60 counts per minute. (see table 20.20.12 below) (a) Copy out the table and find the corrected count rate. (b) Plot a graph of corrected count against time. Determine the half-life of the source from your graph.

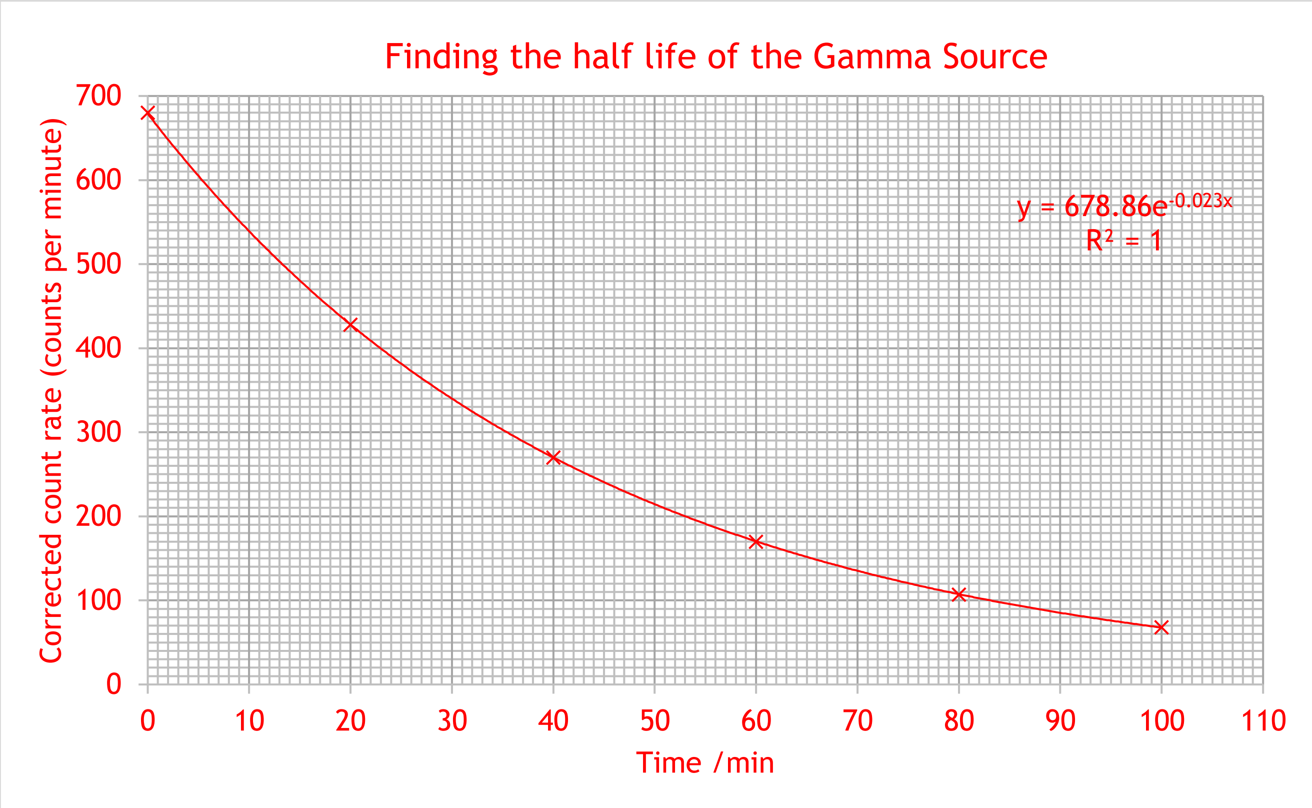
Time	(mins)	0	20	40	60	80
Count rate	(c.p.m.)	100	60	45	30	20

Time	(mins)	0	5	10	15	20
Count rate	(c.p.m.)	1660	1100	750	510	350

No.	CONTENT
20.20.13	SQA H5 2018 A technician carries out an experiment, using the apparatus shown, to determine the half-life of a gamma radiation source. (a) Before carrying out the experiment the technician measures the background count rate. (i) Explain why this measurement is made. (ii) State a source of background radiation. (b) The technician's results are shown in the table.

Time (minutes)	*Corrected count rate* (counts per minute)
0	680
20	428
40	270
60	170
80	107
100	68

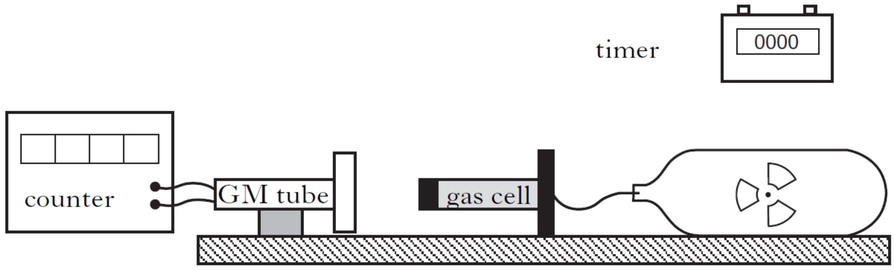
(i) Produce a graph of these results.
(ii) Use your graph to determine the half-life of the gamma radiation source.
(c) The technician repeats the experiment with an alpha radiation source. Suggest a change the technician must make to the experimental set-up to determine the half-life of the alpha radiation source. Justify your answer.

No.	CONTENT
	
20.21	I can describe an experiment to determine the half-life of a radioactive material.
20.21.1	Describe an experiment to measure half-life. Make sure you include how you take background radiation into account, how you measure the activity and the time, and how you use the graph to calculate the half-life.
	Put the source next to a Geiger Muller tube and counter, and repeatedly measure the activity at regular time intervals, until it is a small fraction of its initial value. Now remove the source and measure the background activity. Subtract the background activity from the previous readings, and plot a graph of the corrected activity against time. Use the graph to find how long it takes the activity to half - this is the half life.

No.	CONTENT

20.21.2

An experiment is carried out in a laboratory to determine the half-life of a radioactive source. A Geiger-Müller tube and counter are used to measure the background radiation over a period of 10 seconds. This is repeated several times and an average value of 4 counts in 10 seconds is recorded.



The apparatus shown is used to measure the count rate over a period of time.

The readings are corrected for background radiation.

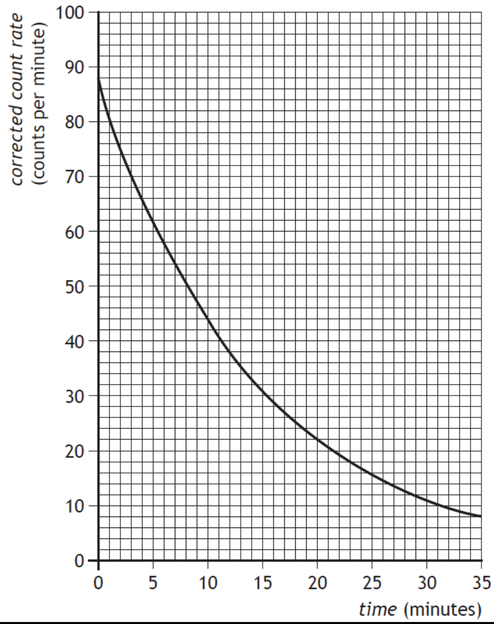
Time (minutes)	Corrected count rate
0	168
2	120
4	84
6	60
8	42
10	30
12	21

(a) Name two factors that affect the background count rate.

(b) Calculate the activity of the background radiation.

(c) Calculate the half-life of the radioactive source.

20.21.3



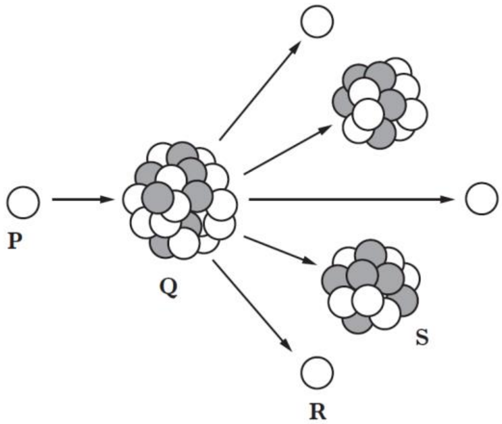
A technician carries out an experiment to determine the half-life of a radioactive source.

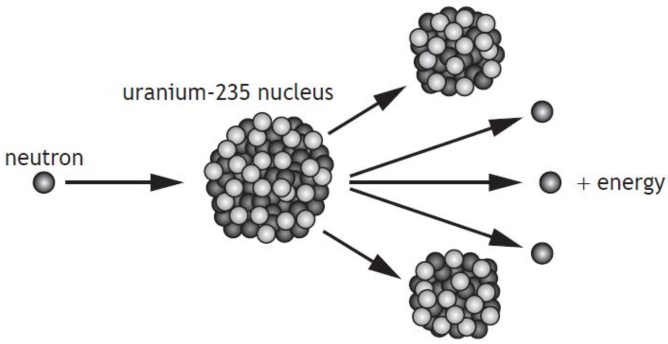
(i) Use information from the graph to determine the half-life of the radioactive source.

(ii) Determine the corrected count rate after 40 minutes.

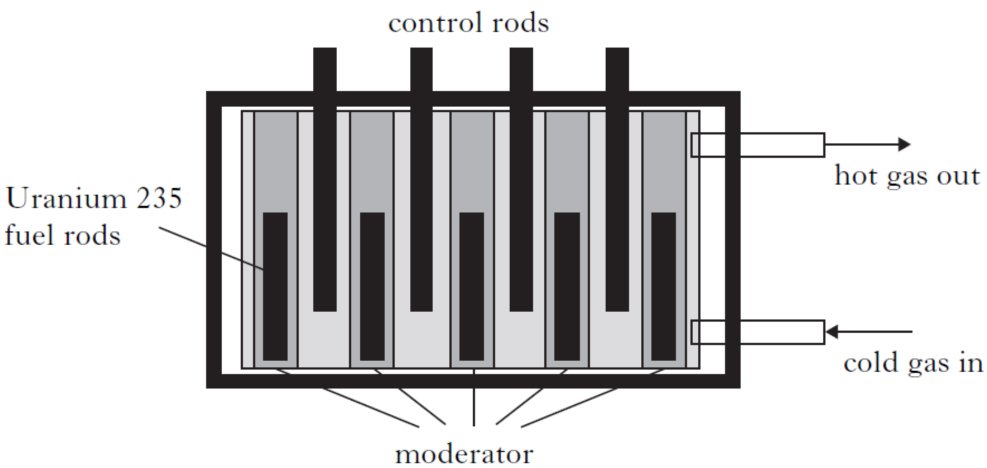
Do not write in this book. Collect a copy of this graph for writing on

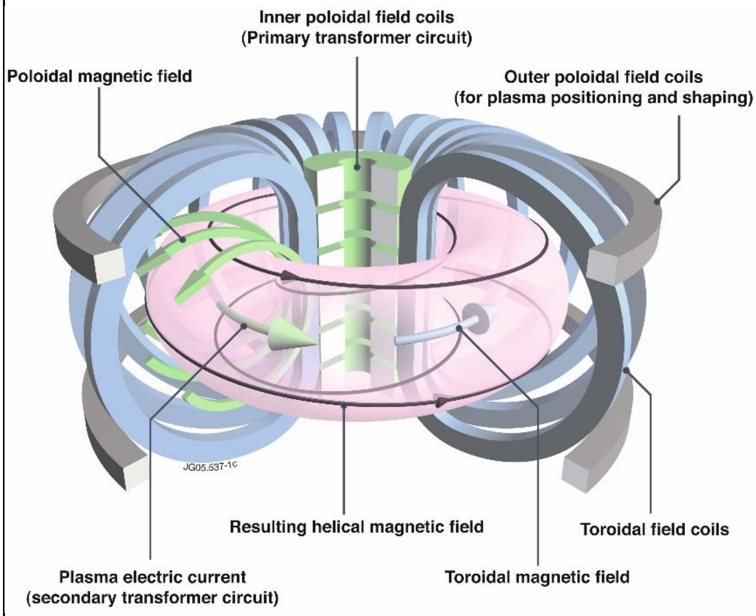
No.	CONTENT
20.22	I can provide a qualitative (info) description of fission chain reactions and their role in the generation of energy.
20.22.1	Explain what is meant by the term nuclear fission.
20.22.2	Nuclear fission can be spontaneous or induced. (i) State the difference between these two types of fission State whether a nuclear reactor would use an isotope that undergoes spontanseously or induced fission, *you must justify your answer*.
20.22.3	Explain what is meant by the term chain reaction.
20.22.4	Describe the function of the following parts of a nuclear reactor (i) Containment vessel (ii) Fuel rods (iii) Moderator (iv) Control Rods Coolant.
20.22.5	State the common element used in nuclear fission to generate energy.
20.22.6	SQA Int 2 2012 A student is researching information on nuclear reactors. The following diagram is found on a website. It illustrates a type of reaction that takes place in a reactor.

<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>CONTENT</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>

(i) State the type of nuclear reaction shown in the diagram.
(ii) The labels have been omitted at positions P, Q, R and S on the diagram.
Copy out the diagram and correctly name the parts labelled P,Q,R and S.
(b) Name the part of the reactor whose function is to prevent release of radiation beyond the reactor.
(c) Disposal of some types of radioactive waste from nuclear reactors is
particularly difficult.
Give a reason for this difficulty.
(d) Electricity can be generated using fossil fuels or nuclear fuel.
State one advantage of using nuclear fuel.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>20.22.7</td><td>

Explain how a single reaction can lead to the continuous generation of energy.</td></tr>
<tr><td>20.22.8</td><td>The nuclear reactor produces waste that emits nuclear radiation.
State a use of nuclear radiation.</td></tr>
</table>

No.	CONTENT
20.22.9	SQA Int 2 2010 Many countries use nuclear reactors to produce energy. A diagram of the core of a nuclear reactor is shown.  (a) State the purpose of: (i) the moderator; (ii) the control rods. (b) One nuclear fission reaction produces 2·9 × 10–11J of energy. The power output of the reactor is 1·4GW. How many fission reactions are produced in one hour? (c) State one advantage and one disadvantage of using nuclear power for the generation of electricity.
20.23	I can provide a qualitative description of fusion, plasma containment, and their role in the generation of energy.
20.23.1	Explain the term nuclear fusion.
20.23.2	Nuclear fusion reactors are in the development stage. (i) State an advantage of nuclear fusion over nuclear fission as a way of generating electrical energy. (ii) State a major difficulty with building fusion reactors (iii) State why this type of generator is not currently in use commercially.
20.23.3	Nuclear fusion is the main way energy is generated in the Sun. State the simplified equation that shows this reaction.

No.	CONTENT
20.23.4	The diagram below shows a functioning nuclear fusion reactor. (i) State the temperatures in the nuclear reactor required to allow fusion. (ii) State material in the reactor is a plasma, explain the term plasma 
20.23.5	State the potential advantages of nuclear fusion over nuclear fission.
20.23.6	Summarise the video clip below, using bullet points. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z4nwmp3
20.23.7	Copy and complete Nuclear _________ is the process by which ________ is released when a large _______ is hit by a _______, becomes unstable and splits into _____ or ______ smaller pieces, called ____________ ___________ plus two or three _________. When fission occurs, some of the ________ of the _________ is 'lost' – it has been converted directly into ________. This energy is in the form of ________ which can be harnessed and used to generate ___________ in a nuclear power station.
20.23.8	Copy and complete the following Nuclear ____________ is the process by which _________ can be released when two ________ nuclei fuse together to form a __________ nucleus.

No.	CONTENT
20.23.9	Copy and complete the following passage.. During a nuclear _________ reaction two nuclei of smaller mass number combine to produce a nucleus of larger mass number. During a nuclear ______ reaction a nucleus of larger mass number splits into two nuclei of smaller mass number. Both of these reactions are important because these processes can release ________ .
20.23.10	State the requirements for a containment vessel used to contain a nuclear fusion reaction.

NOTES

PHYSICS IN NUMBERS

Find the correct number from your notes, learn these numbers. Your syllabus could have many of the answers, so use it! Don't forget to include relevant units or your answer is meaningless.

e.g State the height above the Earth of a satellite if placed in geostationary orbit. 36 000 km

1. State the number of milliamps in an amp.	1000
2. State the number of metres in a kilometre.	1000
3. State the number of ohms in a megaohm.	1 000 000
4. State the number of centimetres in a metre.	100
5. State the number of Joules in a gigajoule.	1 000 000 000
6. State the number of seconds in a minute.	60 s
7. State the number of seconds in an hour.	3600 s
8. State the voltage of the mains supply in the UK.	230 V
9. State the frequency of the mains supply in the UK.	50 Hz
10. State the speed at which a electrical signals is transmitted along a wire at a speed.	Almost 3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
11. State the speed of light in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}

12. State the speed of light in glass, eg in a fibre optic cable.	2.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
13. State the speed of microwaves in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
14. State the speed of a television signal in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
15. State the speed of a radio signals in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
16. State the value of the gravitational field strength on the Earth.	9.8 Nkg^{-1}
17. State the speed of X-rays in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
18. State the speed gamma radiation travels in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
19. State the two usual size of fuse that are usually fitted in a 13A plug.	3A, 13A
20. State the number of joules of energy in 1 kWh.	3 600 000
21. State the initial acceleration of all objects when initially falling to Earth.	9.8 ms^{-2}
22. State the weight of a 1kg object on the Earth	9.8 N
23. State the mass of the 1kg object in space	1 kg
24. State the approximate speed of sound in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
25. State the approximate speed of ultrasound in air.	3.0×10^8 ms^{-1}
26. State if sound travels faster or slower in solids than in air.	Faster in solids

VARIABLES & EXAM QUESTIONS

Paper	Question
SQA 2018	The energy of a water wave can be calculated using $$E = \frac{\rho g A^2}{2}$$ where: E is the energy of the wave in J ρ is the density of the water in kg m^{-3} g is the gravitational field strength in Nkg^{-1} A is the amplitude of the wave in m. A wave out at sea has an amplitude of 3·5 m. The density of the sea water is $1{\cdot}02 \times 10^3$ kgm^{-3} . Calculate the energy of the wave.
SQA N5 2019	The table gives the distance from Earth, the approximate surface temperature and the age of five stars.

Paper	Question
	(table and statements below)

Star	Distance from Earth (light-years)	Approximate surface temperature (K)	Age (years)
Sirius A	8·6	9900	$2·4 \times 10^8$
Polaris	430	6000	$7·0 \times 10^7$
Betelgeuse	640	3600	$7·9 \times 10^6$
Rigel	860	11 000	$8·0 \times 10^6$
VY Canis Majoris	3900	3500	$1·0 \times 10^7$

A student makes the following statements based on this information.

I As the distance from Earth increases, the age of a star decreases.

II As the age of a star increases, the approximate surface temperature of the star increases.

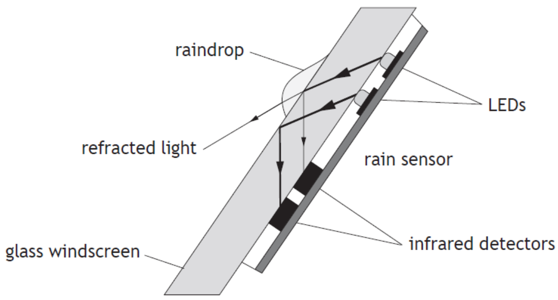
III There is no apparent relationship between the distance from Earth and the approximate surface temperature of a star

Copy out the table and the correct statements.

SQA N5 2018

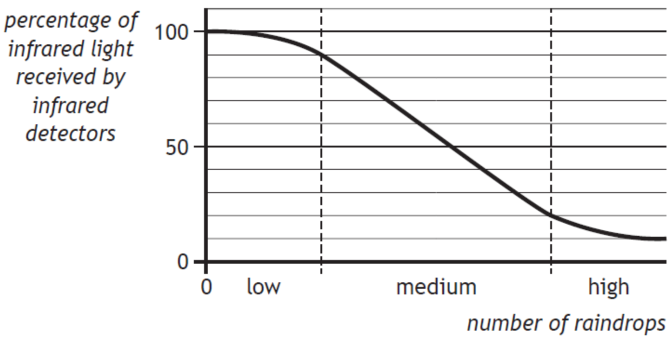
A rain sensor is attached to the glass windscreen of a vehicle to automatically control the windscreen wipers. raindrop

LEDs rain sensor infrared detectors glass windscreen refracted light



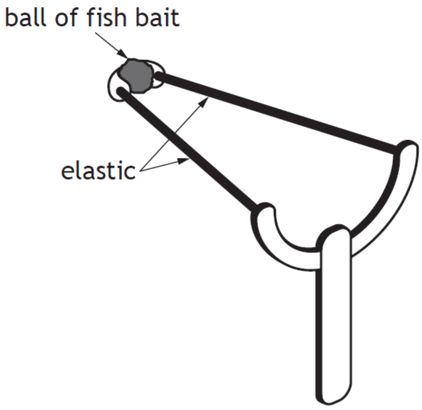
Infrared light is emitted from LEDs and is received by infrared detectors.

The graph shows how the number of raindrops affects the percentage of infrared light received by the infrared detectors.



The percentage of infrared light received by the infrared detectors from the LEDs controls the frequency with which the windscreen wipers move back and forth.

The table shows how the number of times the windscreen wipers move back and forth per minute relates to the number of raindrops.

<table>
<tr><th>Paper</th><th>Question</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Number of raindrops</th><th>Number of times the windscreen wipers move back and forth per minute</th></tr>
<tr><td>low</td><td>18</td></tr>
<tr><td>medium</td><td>54</td></tr>
<tr><td>high</td><td>78</td></tr>
</table>
At one point in time the infrared detectors receive 70% of the infrared light emitted from the LEDs. Show that the frequency of the windscreen wipers at this time is 0·90Hz
</td></tr>
<tr><td>SQA N5
2014</td><td>
Catapults are used by anglers to project fish bait into water.
A technician designs a catapult for this use. Pieces of elastic of different thickness are used to provide a force on the ball.
Each piece of elastic is the same length.
The amount of stretch given to each elastic is the same each time.
The force exerted on the ball increases as the thickness of the elastic increases.


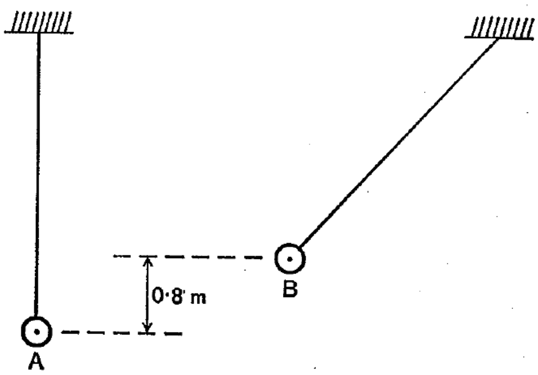
<table>
<tr><th>Thickness of elastic</th><th>Mass of ball</th></tr>
<tr><td>(mm)</td><td>(kg)</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>0.01</td></tr>
<tr><td>10</td><td>0.01</td></tr>
<tr><td>10</td><td>0.02</td></tr>
<tr><td>15</td><td>0.01</td></tr>
<tr><td>15</td><td>0.02</td></tr>
</table>
Which row in the table shows the combination of the thickness of elastic and mass of ball that produces the greatest acceleration?
</td></tr>
<tr><td>SEB O Level 1976</td><td>
Fig 1 shows a pendulum in its rest position A. The pendulum, bob has a mass of 0.3 kg. The bob is pulled to one side as shown in Figure 2 and held in position A which is 0.8 m above the rest position


fig. 1 fig. 2
The bob is released from position B and swings to and fro until it comes to rest.
(a) Find the gain in potential energy of the bob when it is moved from position A to position B.
(b) State the position of the bob when it has its greatest kinetic energy.
(c) Estimate the maximum speed of the bob.
(d) Describe the energy changes which take place from the time the bob is released until it eventually comes to rest.
</td></tr>
</table>

Paper	Question
SQA Int2 2012	A resistor is labelled: "10 Ω ± 10%, 3 W".

This means that the resistance value could actually be between 9 Ω and 11 Ω.

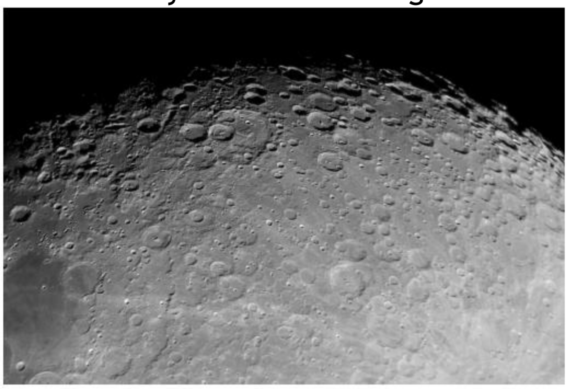
(*a*) A student decides to check the value of the resistance.
Draw a circuit diagram, including a 6 V battery, a voltmeter and an ammeter, for a circuit that could be used to determine the resistance.

(*b*) Readings from the circuit give the voltage across the resistor as 5·7 V and the current in the resistor as 0·60 A.
Use these values to calculate the resistance.

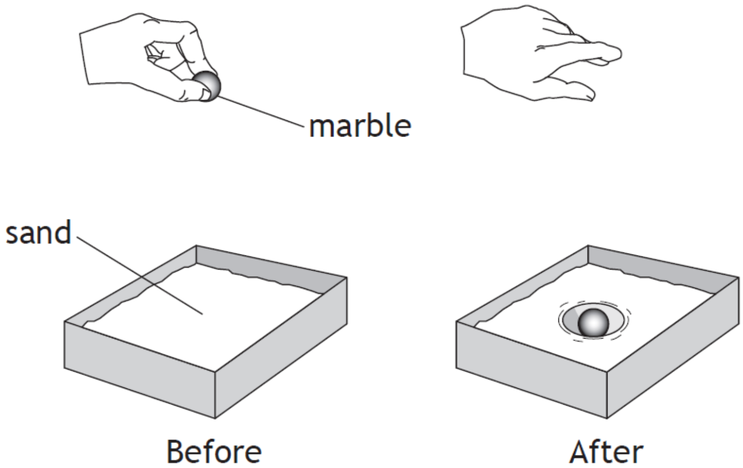
(*c*) During this experiment, the resistor becomes very hot and gives off smoke.
Explain why this happens.
You **must** include a calculation as part of your answer.

(*d*) The student states that **two** of these resistors would not have overheated if they were connected together in parallel with the battery.
Is the student correct? Explain your answer.

Paper	Question
SQA N5 2015	Craters on the Moon are caused by meteors striking its surface.



A student investigates how a crater is formed by dropping a marble into a tray of sand.



(i) Describe the energy change that takes place as the marble hits the sand.
The student drops the marble from different heights and measures the diameter of each crater that is formed.

The table shows the student's results.

height (m)	diameter (m)
0·05	0·030
0·10	0·044
0·15	0·053
0·35	0·074
0·40	0·076
0·45	0·076

(ii) Using the graph paper below, draw a graph of these results.

(iii) Use your graph to predict the diameter of the crater that is formed when the marble is dropped from a height of 0·25 m.

Paper	Question
	(iv) Suggest two improvements that the student could make to this investigation. (v) Suggest another variable, which could be investigated, that may affect the diameter of a crater.