## AQA GCSE Physics Topic 4: Atomic Structure

What is the radius of the nucleus of an atom?	For the following isotopes of chlorine, what are the numbers of protons and neutrons? <sup>35</sup> / <sub>17</sub> Cl protons = neutrons = <sup>37</sup> / <sub>17</sub> Cl protons = neutrons =	Define radioactive deco	ay.		Complete The activities It is meas	the following senter ity of a radioactive s sured in	1.ces.
What is the radius of the nucleus compared to the atom?	Describe the plum pudding model of the atom.						
		Type of Radiation	Description	Penetration		Range in Air	Ionising Power
Fill in the blanks. b   Electrons are arranged in different around the If electromagnetic   is absorbed, then electrons move	Why was the plum pudding model replaced?						
from the (a higher energy level). If electromagnetic is emitted, then the electrons move to a (closer to the nucleus).							
Why does an atom have no overall charge?		Write how alpha and	beta radiation are represe	ented.	What effe of the nu alpha  beta -	ect do alpha and beto cleus?	a decay have on the mass 🔍
it loses one or more electrons?	Summarise the key developments of the nuclear model.						
Give the definition of an isotope.		Complete the following 222 Radium →	g equations: + <sup>4</sup> <sub>2</sub> He + energ	m Iy	My main	areas for improveme	ent in this topic are:
Mass number is		<sup>14</sup> <sub>6</sub> Carbon →	+ <sup>0</sup> <sub>-1</sub> e + energi	y	 		
Atomic number is	What effect can new evidence have on models?	Why doesn't a gamma atomic number?	a ray change the mass nu	umber or <b>n</b>			





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Define half-life of a radioactive isotope	What precautions should be taken when irradiating an dobject?	Describe nuclear fission.	Explain how an explosion could occur in a nuclear reactor.
A radioactive isotope has an initial count rate of 600Bq. After 20 minutes its count rate is 150Bq. What is its half-life?		What type of energy is released in a fission reaction?	
	List some sources of background radiation.		
What is the half-lifeof the radioactive b isotope shown by the graph?		Apart from neutrons and energy, what else is emitted during fission?	Describe the process of nuclear fusion.
Decay of a Radioactive Substance		How can fission lead to a chain reaction?	
	What factors affect a person's level of exposure to background radiation?		Explain why high temperatures are needed for nuclear fusion.
		Complete the diagram of a chain reaction.	
adioactiv	What is radiation dose measured in?	Neutron	Where does nuclear fusion occur naturally?
25 % 25 0	State some medical uses for nuclear radiation.	Uranium 235 nucleus	Give one similarity and one difference between nuclear
Age of sample (years)			fission and fusion.
Phosphorus-32 has a half-life of 14 days. What fraction of			Similarity
the original isotope will remain after 42 days?	Explain why alpha radiation would not be used as a f medical tracer.		Difference
Describe what radioactive contamination is.			My main areas for improvement in this topic are:
Describe irradiation.	Explain the effect that half-life has on the choice of a medical tracer.	Control rods are used to absorb neutrons in a nuclear reactor. Explain the effect that this has on the amount of energy released.	
Compare irradiation and contamination.			





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## AQA GCSE Physics Topic 4: Atomic Structure Answers





Complete the following sentences.

The activity of a radioactive source is **the rate at which it decays**.

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It is measured in **becquerels (Bq)**.

Count rate is **the number of decays recorded each second by a detector**.

		k
	Range in Air	Ionising Power
, per.	A few centimetres	strong
,	Several metres	medium
, ad.	At least a kilometre	weak

What effect do alpha and beta decay have on the mass of the nucleus?

alpha - mass number decreases by 4 and the atomic

number decreases by 2.

beta - no effect on mass number, increases the atomic number by 1.

My main areas for improvement in this topic are:



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## AQA GCSE Physics Topic 4: Atomic Structure Answers





lain	how	an	explosion	could	occur	in	α	nuclear	
tor.									

If the neutrons aren't moderated, then there could be an uncontrolled chain reaction where fission releases large amounts of energy. Increasing numbers of neutrons are released and increasing numbers of fission reactions occur until there is an explosion.

Describe the process of nuclear fusion.

Two light nuclei join together to form a heavier nucleus. Some of the mass is lost and energy is released.

Explain why high temperatures are needed for nuclear fusion.

High temperatures are needed because the nuclei repel. This is because they are both positively charged.

Where does nuclear fusion occur naturally?

In the sun/stars.

Give one similarity and one difference between nuclear fission and fusion.

Similarity - both release energy.

Difference - fusion is the joining of small nuclei, fission is the splitting of large nuclei.

My main areas for improvement in this topic are:

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