

Nuclear physics – Test A

1. Explain **two** safety precautions that should be used when handling alpha particles.
2. Explain how the results from Rutherford's scattering experiment are used to support the nuclear model of an atom.
3. Outline an experiment to investigate how the intensity of radiation varies with distance from the source. Your answer must include how you would analyse the results.
4. Explain why the importance of correcting for background radiation in an experiment is lower for gamma rays than for alpha particles.
5. A student investigated the variation of activity with time for a laboratory radioactive source. The results are shown in the table.

t / s	A / s^{-1}
0	854
60	465
120	287
180	148
240	91
300	42
360	29
420	19

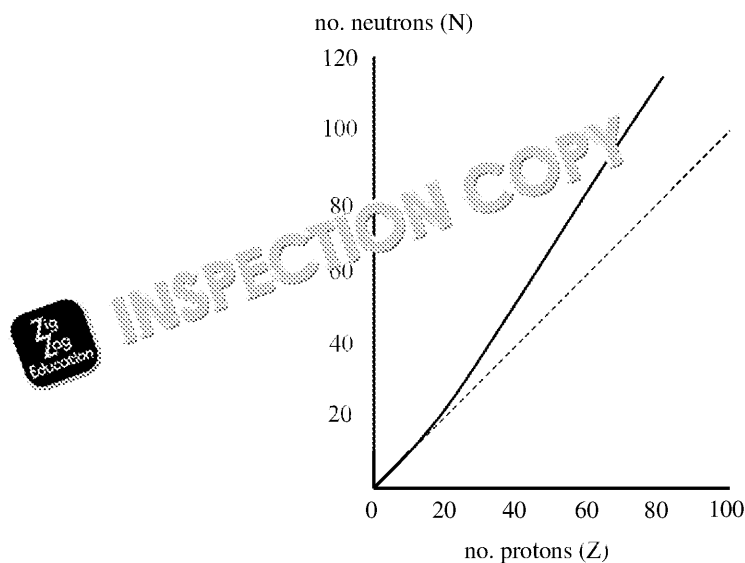
- (a) Use the results in the table to generate a set of derived results that can be plotted on a semi-logarithmic graph.
 - (b) Plot the graph from your derived results and complete it with a line of best fit.
 - (c) Determine the gradient from your graph. Show your working.
 - (d) Use your gradient to determine the decay constant for protactinium-234m.
6. The half-life of radon-222 is 91.2 hours. Calculate the time in hours for a sample of radon-222 to decay to 65 % of its original activity.

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7. The graph shows the variation in neutron number with proton number. One particular nuclide, P, is represented by a dot on the graph.



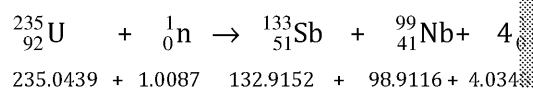
This nuclide decays by emission of:

- one beta minus particle to form nuclide R
- one beta minus particle to form nuclide S
- one alpha particle to form nuclide T

Show this decay series on a graph of N against Z. You do **not** need graph printed here.

8. In an experiment to determine the nuclear radius of $^{27}_{13}\text{Al}$, alpha particles are used. Calculate the force exerted on an alpha particle when it is 250 fm away from the nucleus. Assume there are no other forces from any other particles.

9. The equation shows a nuclear fission reaction and the masses, in atomic mass units, of the reactants and products.



Calculate the energy released when one mole of uranium-235 undergoes this reaction.

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