

## Nuclear physics – Test B

1. Explain **two** safety precautions that should be used when handling gamma radiation.
2. Outline how our understanding of atomic structure has developed since Rutherford's model.
3. An experiment is carried out to investigate how the intensity of radiation from a source varies with distance. State what should be plotted on a graph to verify the inverse square law.
4. Explain why the importance of correcting for background radiation in an experiment is higher for alpha than for gamma radiation.
5. A student investigated the variation of activity with time for a labelled radioactive source. The results are shown in the table.

$t / \text{s}$	$A / \text{s}^{-1}$
0	204
60	105
120	68.9
180	35.5
240	21.8
300	13.8
360	6.96
420	4.56

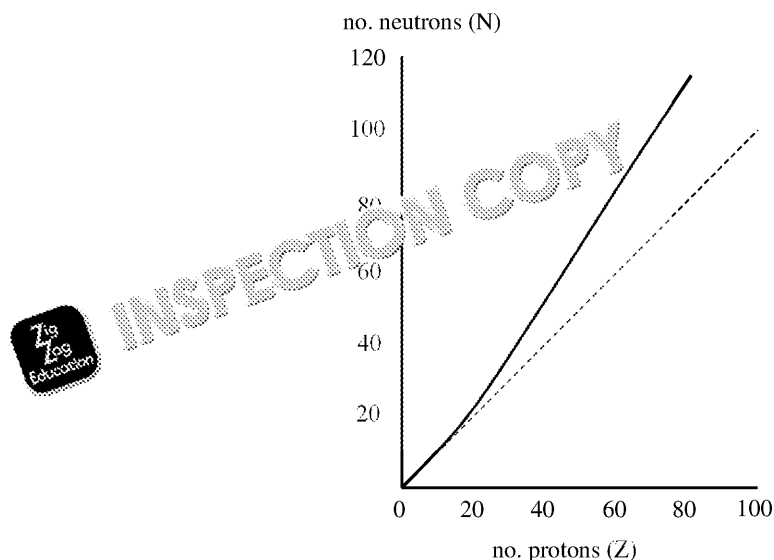
- (a) Use the results in the table to generate a set of derived results that will give a straight-line graph.
  - (b) Plot the graph from your derived results and complete it with a line of best fit.
  - (c) Determine the gradient from your graph. Show your working.
  - (d) Use your gradient to determine the decay constant for protactinium-234.
6. The half-life of cobalt-60 is  $1.93 \times 10^3$  days. Calculate the number of days for a sample of cobalt-60 to decay to 77 % of its original activity.

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



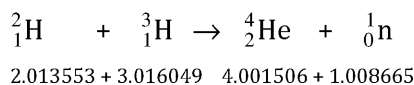
This nuclide decays by emission of:

- one beta plus particle to form nuclide F
- one alpha particle to form nuclide G
- one electron capture to form nuclide H

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  $^{197}_{79}\text{Au}$  alpha particles are used. Calculate the force exerted on an alpha particle when it is 350 fm away from the nucleus. Assume there are no other forces from any other particles.

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



Calculate the energy released when 2 moles of hydrogen-2 undergo fusion with hydrogen-3 in this way.

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## **Preview of Questions Ends Here**

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