# AQA Physics GCSE Student Checklist

### **P7** Radioactivity

Name		Class		Date		
Lesson	Aiming for 4		Aiming for 6		Aiming for 8	
P7.1 Atoms and radiation	I can name the three types of nuclear radiation.		I can describe some safety precautions used when dealing with radioactive materials.		I can describe in detail the decay of an unstable nucleus.	
	I can name the three sub-atomic particles found in an atom (proton, neutron, and electron).		I can describe how a Geiger counter can be used to detect radiation.		I can explain the similarities and differences between nuclear radiation and visible light.	
	I can identify some sources of background radiation.		I can identify natural and man-made sources of background radiation.		I can describe the relative penetrating powers of the three types of nuclear radiation.	
P7.2 The discovery of the nucleus	I can identify the Rutherford (nuclear) model of an atom.		I can describe he plum pudding model of the atom.		I can compare the plum pudding model, Rutherford model, and Bohr model of the atom in terms of the	
	I can identify the locations of protons, neutrons, and electrons in the nuclear model.		I can describe the evidence provided by the Rutherford scattering experiment.		I can explain how Rutherford and Marsden's experiment caused a rejection of the plum pudding model.	
	I can state that electrons can move between fixed energy levels within an atom.		I can describe the properties of protons, neutrons, and electrons.		I can describe how the initial evidence for the nuclear model was processed and how the model came to be	
P7.3 Nuclear reactions	I can identify the mass and atomic number by using nuclear notation.		I can calculate the number of neutrons in an isotope by using nuclear notation.		I can explain why particles are ejected from the nucleus during nuclear decay.	
	I can identify the type of decay taking place from a nuclear equation.		I can describe the differences between isotopes.		I can describe the changes in the nucleus that occur during nuclear decay.	
	I can state that isotopes are atoms of the same element with different atomic		I can complete decay equations for alpha and beta decay.	$\bigcap$	I can write full decay equations for example nuclear decays.	

masses.

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Class Name Date Aiming for 4 Aiming for 6 Aiming for 8 Lesson I can describe how the penetrating I can describe in detail how the I can rank the three types of nuclear radiation in order of their penetrating powers of radiation can be measured. thickness of a material being manufactured can be monitored by power. I can describe the path of radiation types I can rank the three types of nuclear I can compare the ionisation caused by P7.4 More about radiation in order of their range through air. through a magnetic field. different types of nuclear radiation. alpha, beta, and gamma radiation I can state that all three types of nuclear I can describe the process of ionisation. I can evaluate in some detail the risks radiation are ionising. caused by alpha radiation inside and outside the human body. I can state that the activity of a radioactive I can find the ratio of a sample remaining I can compare a physical model of after a given number of half-lives. sample will fall over time. decay with the decay of nuclei, noting the limitations of the model. P7.5 Activity and I can define half-life in simple terms such I can state that all atoms of a particular I can outline how the age of organic half-life material can be determined by using as 'the time it takes for half of the material isotope have an identical chance to decay in a fixed time. to decay'. radioactive dating. I can find the half-life of a substance from a I can calculate the changes in count I can plot a graph showing the decay of rate or nuclei remaining by using an graph of count rate (or nuclei remaining) a sample and use it to determine halfexponential decay function. against time with support. life. I can name some medical applications for I can explain why alpha, beta, or gamma I can describe the use of radioactive radiation is chosen for a particular implants and the hazards associated radioactive substances. medical application. with the technique. I can discuss the factors that need to I can describe how gamma rays can be I can state that the larger the dose of P7.6 Nuclear radiation, the more likely harm will be used to destroy cancerous cells and the be taken into account when selecting a radiation in caused. damage they may cause to healthy medical tracer for a diagnostic test. medicine I can explain how precautions to reduce I can describe some precautions used I can explain how a medical tracer is

work.

exposure to patients and medical staff

during diagnoses or treatments involving

radioactive substances.

used including the function of a gamma

camera.

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Lesson	Aiming for 4		Aiming for 6		Aiming for 8	
P7.7 Nuclear fission	I can state that nuclear fission is the breaking of a large nucleus to form two smaller nuclei.		I can describe induced nuclear fission in terms of neutron impacts and release.		I can explain how a steady-state induced fission reaction can be maintained.	
	I can distinguish between induced fission and spontaneous fission.		I can explain how an escalating induced fission reaction occurs.		I can explain the differences between naturally occurring isotopes and enriched nuclear fuels.	
	I can label the key components of a nuclear reactor.		I can outline the function of the moderator, control rods, and coolant.		I can explain the operation of a nuclear fission reactor, including the choices of appropriate materials.	
P7.8 Nuclear fusion	I can state that nuclear fusion is the energy releasing process in the Sun.		I can outline the process of nuclear fusion.		I can explain why it is difficult to carry out controlled nuclear fusion on Earth.	
	I can state that the Sun fuses (joins together) hydrogen nuclei into helium nuclei.		I can complete a nuclear equation showing simple fusion processes.		I can construct a variety of nuclear equations showing nuclear fusion.	
	I can state that very high temperatures and pressures are required for fusion to take place.		I can describe the key design features of a nuclear fusion reactor.		I can compare the operation of a nuclear fission reactor and a nuclear fusion reactor.	
P7.9 Nuclear issues	I can identify sources of radiation, including medical and background radiation.		I can compare the risks and damage associated with alpha, beta, and gamma radiation.		I can discuss the risks and benefits of nuclear power compared to other methods of electricity generation.	
	I can describe the type of damage caused by large-scale nuclear accidents.		I can describe how damage caused by radioactive material can be reduced.		I can describe and explain the safety precautions that need to take place after a large nuclear accident.	
	I can state that nuclear waste is very dangerous and must be stored safely for very long periods of time.		I can discuss the difficulties associated with the handling and storage of nuclear waste.		I can evaluate in detail a variety of storage or disposal solutions for nuclear waste.	