

## Physics - ICS Part 2 Physics Chapter 21 Short Questions Preparation

Q1. How alpha and beta may ionize an atom without directly hitting the electrons?

**Ans 1:** As alpha and beta are electrically charged particles, so they can cause ionization without hitting an atom either by repelling the electron of target particle.

Q2. What are isotopes? What do they have in common and what are their differences?

**Ans 1:** Isotopes are such nuclei of an element that have the same charge number  $Z$  but have different mass number  $A$ . It means, in the nucleus the number of protons is the same but the number of neutrons is different.

Q3. Define Hadrons and Leptons.

**Ans 1:** Hadrons: These are not elementary particles, they are composed of other elementary particles called quarks. The examples of hadrons are protons, neutrons, mesons etc. They experience strong nuclear force.  
Leptons: These are elementary particles. They do not experience strong nuclear force. The examples of leptons are electrons, muons and neutrinos etc.

Q4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power compared to the use of fossil fuel generated power.

**Ans 1:** Advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power are given below compared to the use of fossil generated power.

**Advantage:**

1. Much more energy is produced.
2. Produces no environmental pollution.
3. Electricity produced in this way is far cheaper than fossil fuel generated power.

**Disadvantage :**

1. Uranium mining is more dangerous than coal mining.
2. Nuclear waste is very injurious and harmful to living things.
3. Nuclear waste can not be transported through areas of population whereas fossil fuel can be.

Q5. What information is revealed by the length and shape of track of an incident particle in Wilson Cloud Chamber?

**Ans 1:** In a Wilson cloud chamber

1. Alpha particles have larger mass and greater ionizing power so its path is straight.
2. Beta particles have less mass and less ionizing power, so its path is thinner, shorter and discontinuous.
3. Gamma particles have no mass and high penetrating power, so it leaves no definite track along its path,

Q6. How much energy is released when 1 amu is converted into energy?

**Ans 1:**  $1 \text{ amu} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$

the energy of 1 amu is  $1 \text{ amu} = 1.494 \times 10^{-10} \text{ J}$

$1 \text{ amu} = 931 \text{ MeV}$

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Q7. What is radioactive tracer? Give its one application each in industry and medicine.

**Ans 1:** Radioactive tracer is a radioactive isotope which acts as an indicator or tracer that makes it possible to follow the course of a chemical or biological process. They are used in

1. Medicine to detect malignant tumors
  2. Agriculture to study the uptake of a fertilizer by a plant.
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Q8. What is the function of control rods in nuclear reactor?

**Ans 1:** Control rods made of Cadmium or Boron are used for the control of number of neutrons, so that of all the neutrons produced in fission, only one neutron produces further fission reaction. In case of emergency or for repair purpose control rods are used to stop the chain reaction and shut down the reactor.

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Q9. Define mass defect and binding energy.

**Ans 1:** Mass defect: The mass of the nucleus is always less than the total mass of the protons and neutrons that make up the nucleus. The difference of the two masses is called mass defect.  
Binding energy: The missing mass is converted into energy at the formation of the nucleus and is called binding energy.

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Q10. If nucleus has a life of one year, does this mean that it will be completely decayed after two years?

**Ans 1:** No it will not decay completely after two years.  
Numbers of atom at initial stage =  $N_0$   
number of atoms decayed after first year =  $1/2 N_0$

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