

Edexcel Chemistry A-level - Electron Configurations

Mark Scheme

Q1.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	<p>An answer that makes reference to the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (energy) released (1) energy is required to overcome the (electrostatic) attraction from the nucleus for the electron (1) 	<p>Allow energy is required to remove an electron Allow (the removal of an electron) is endothermic</p>	(2)

Q2.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	<p>An answer that makes reference to the following point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct electronic configuration 	<p>$(1s^2 2s^2) 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 4s^2 3d^{10} 4p^5$</p> <p>Allow $3d^{10}$ before $4s^2$</p> <p>Ignore repeat of $1s^2 2s^2$ Allow upper case letters, numbers not superscript, numbers subscript and p and / or d orbitals shown (e.g. $2p_x^2$, $2p_y^2$, $2p_z^2$ instead of $2p^6$)</p>	(1)

Question Number	Answer	Mark
(ii)	<p>The only correct answer is B (7)</p> <p><i>A is not correct because this is the number of electrons in the fourth occupied subshell</i></p> <p><i>C is not correct because this assumes the electrons in the 3d orbitals are in the fourth quantum shell</i></p> <p><i>D is not correct because this is the number of electrons in the third quantum shell of bromine</i></p>	(1)

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Q3.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $(1s^2)2s^22p^63s^23p^1$ 	Allow numbers of electrons as subscripts or large numbers Allow p orbitals designated as x, y and z Ignore $1s^2$ repeated	(1)

Q4.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	An answer that makes reference to the following point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (up and down arrows represent) electrons with opposite spin or two electrons in the same orbital with opposite spins 	Answer must refer to spin Ignore just number of electrons Ignore 'moving / opposite direction' in place of 'spin' Ignore comments re repulsion, same orbital etc	(1)

	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	An answer that makes reference to the following point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (three) electrons with parallel / same spin / direction of rotation (because the electrons are in different orbitals) 	Allow 'spinning in the same direction' Allow electrons are added into separate orbitals first because of Hund's rule Do not award for just 'direction' of spin, with no reference to 'same'	(1)

Q5.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	$(1s^2)2s^22p^63s^23p^5$	Ignore repeat of $1s^2$ Allow $1s^2 2s^2.....$ $1S2 2S2.....$ For $3p^5$ accept $3p_x^2, 3p_y^2, 3p_z^1$	(1)

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Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iodine (also) has 7 electrons in the outer shell / is $5s^25p^5$ / is (also) np^5 (1) electronic configurations / number of electrons in the outer shell govern their chemical reactions (1) 	<p>Allow has the same number of electrons in the outer shell / valence electrons for M1</p> <p>M2 is dependent on M1 being scored</p>	(2)

Q6.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	$(1s^2) 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2$	ALLOW $1s^2$ repeated	(1)

Question Number	Answer	Mark
(ii)	<p>The only correct answer is C</p> <p><i>A is not correct because this describes ionic bonding and magnesium has metallic bonding</i></p> <p><i>B is not correct because this describes covalent bonding and magnesium has metallic bonding</i></p> <p><i>D is not correct because this describes intermolecular forces and magnesium has metallic bonding</i></p>	(1)

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Q7.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear charge magnesium (atom) / Mg has more protons than sodium (atom) / Na or magnesium / Mg has a greater (effective) nuclear charge (than sodium / Na) (1) Shielding (outer) electron in magnesium (atom) / Mg in the same (quantum) shell / energy level / sub-shell / orbital as in a sodium atom / Na or shielding in magnesium atom / Mg similar to / same as that in sodium atom / Na (1) Attraction so the force of attraction between the nucleus and the (outer) electron is greater in magnesium (atom) / Mg (than in sodium atom / Na) (1) 	<p>Penalise reference to ion once only</p> <p>Ignore reference to atomic radius</p> <p>Allow correct E.C of both atoms</p> <p>Allow same number of (quantum) shells / energy levels in Mg and Na</p> <p>Allow the (outer) electron in Mg is held more tightly to the nucleus (than in Na)</p> <p>Note An answer that describes the trend across a period, without one reference to either sodium or magnesium, scores maximum (2) marks</p>	(3)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct equation with state symbols 	<p><u>Examples of equations</u></p> $\text{Mg}^{2+}(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{3+}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{-}$ $\text{Mg}^{2+}(\text{g}) - \text{e}^{-} \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{3+}(\text{g})$ <p>Ignore state symbol for the electron</p> <p>Do not allow \rightleftharpoons</p>	(1)

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Q8.

Question Number	Acceptable Answers	Additional Guidance	Mark												
	<p>This question assesses the student's ability to show a coherent and logically structured answer with linkages and fully sustained reasoning.</p> <p>Marks are awarded for indicative content and for how the answer is structured and shows lines of reasoning.</p> <p>The following table shows how the marks should be awarded for indicative content.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="387 645 922 913"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="387 645 655 763">Number of indicative marking points seen in answer</th> <th data-bbox="655 645 922 763">Number of marks awarded for indicative marking points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="387 763 655 792">6</td> <td data-bbox="655 763 922 792">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="387 792 655 822">5-4</td> <td data-bbox="655 792 922 822">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="387 822 655 851">3-2</td> <td data-bbox="655 822 922 851">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="387 851 655 880">1</td> <td data-bbox="655 851 922 880">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="387 880 655 909">0</td> <td data-bbox="655 880 922 909">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of indicative marking points seen in answer	Number of marks awarded for indicative marking points	6	4	5-4	3	3-2	2	1	1	0	0	<p>Guidance on how the mark scheme should be applied:</p> <p>The mark for indicative content should be added to the mark for lines of reasoning. For example, a response with four indicative marking points that is partially structured with some linkages and lines of reasoning scores 4 marks (3 marks for indicative content and 1 mark for partial structure and some linkages and lines of reasoning).</p> <p>If there were no linkages between the points, then the same indicative marking points would yield an overall score of 3 marks (3 marks for indicative content and zero marks for linkages).</p>	<p>(6)</p>
Number of indicative marking points seen in answer	Number of marks awarded for indicative marking points														
6	4														
5-4	3														
3-2	2														
1	1														
0	0														

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	The following table shows how the marks should be awarded for structure and lines of reasoning		<p>In general it would be expected that 5 or 6 indicative points would get 2 reasoning marks, and 3 or 4 indicative points would get 1 mark for reasoning, and 0, 1 or 2 indicative points would score zero marks for reasoning.</p> <p>Reasoning marks may be reduced for extra incorrect chemistry</p>
		Number of marks awarded for structure of answer and sustained lines of reasoning	
	Answer shows a coherent logical structure with linkages and fully sustained lines of reasoning demonstrated throughout	2	
	Answer is partially structured with some linkages and lines of reasoning	1	
	Answer has no linkages between points and is unstructured	0	

	<p>Indicative content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the sum of the first two ionisation energies for barium is lower / barium loses (its outer) electrons more easily barium is a bigger atom/barium has a larger atomic radius/barium has more shells of electrons barium has more shielding these outweigh/exert a greater influence than barium has more proton/greater nuclear charge barium reacts faster/barium is more reactive 	<p>Allow reverse argument for strontium</p> <p>Allow max 5 IPs for reference to general trends only down group 2</p> <p>Allow any reference to single ionisation</p> <p>Do not award for barium 'molecule'</p>	
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Q9.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	<p>An answer that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al below Mg but above /equal to Na (1) rise from Al to Si and then to P and rise from S to Cl to Ar (1) S below P but above / equal to Si (1) 	<p>Example of chart</p> <p>Allow use of dots (·) or other alternatives to X</p> <p>Ignore any lines connecting the crosses (X)</p>	(3)

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	<p>An answer that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> big increase/jump between 1st and 2nd electrons removed and between 9th and 10th electrons removed (1) one / first electron in the outer most / third shell and eight electrons / electron 2 - 9 in the next / second shell and two electrons / electrons 10 & 11 in the inner most/ first shell (1) 	<p>Allow answers in terms of energy levels</p> <p>Allow Na is a group 1 element</p> <p>Allow electronic configuration of Na is 2, 8, 1</p> <p>Allow an answer that relates jump in energy to existence of (new) shells</p> <p>Allow there are three shells of electrons</p>	(2)

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Q10.

Question Number	Answer	Mark
(i)	<p>The only correct answer is C ($S(g) \rightarrow S^+(g) + e^-$)</p> <p><i>A is not correct because the sulfur must be in the gas phase</i></p> <p><i>B is not correct because the sulfur must be individual atoms and in the gas phase</i></p> <p><i>D is not correct because the sulfur must be individual atoms</i></p>	(1)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first ionisation energy decreases down the group because although the number of protons is increasing (1) • the electron being removed is (one shell of electrons) further from the nucleus (1) • (with one shell of electrons) giving more shielding from the nucleus (1) 	<p>Allow greater repulsion between inner electron shells</p>	(3)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • because in sulfur the nuclear charge / atomic number / proton number / number of protons has is less (by 1) (1) • and the electron being removed is from the same sub-shell / a (3)p electron / has similar shielding / is further from the nucleus / (1) 	<p>Do not award just 'the charge has decreased (by 1) in sulfur'</p> <p>Allow effective nuclear charge has decreased by 1 in sulfur</p> <p>Allow has the same shielding</p> <p>Allow atomic radius is larger</p> <p>Do not award ionic radius is larger</p> <p>Ignore same shell</p> <p>Allow reverse arguments for chlorine</p>	(2)

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Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iv)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> because in sulfur (spin) pairing has occurred (for the first time in the 3p sub-shell) or electron being removed from an orbital containing two electrons (1) (resulting in an increase in) repulsion between electrons (so the electron is lost more easily) (1) 	<p>Ignore half-filled (sub-) shell is more stable in phosphorus</p> <p>Ignore reference to shielding and distance to the nucleus</p>	(2)

Q11.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	<p>An answer that makes reference to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> equation (1) state symbol, (g), on both H and H⁺ (1) 	<p>$\text{H(g)} \rightarrow \text{H}^{\text{+}}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{\text{-}}$</p> <p>or</p> <p>$\text{H(g)} - \text{e}^{\text{-}} \rightarrow \text{H}^{\text{+}}(\text{g})$</p> <p>Ignore state symbol for electron</p> <p>$\text{H}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{H}_2^{\text{+}}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{\text{-}}$ scores only M2</p> <p>$\text{H}_2(\text{g}) - \text{e}^{\text{-}} \rightarrow \text{H}_2^{\text{+}}(\text{g})$ scores only M2</p> <p>$\text{H}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 2\text{H}^{\text{+}}(\text{g}) + 2\text{e}^{\text{-}}$ scores 0</p> <p>$\text{X(g)} \rightarrow \text{X}^{\text{+}}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{\text{-}}$ scores only M2</p>	(2)

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Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points: $H < He$:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He more protons than H / He greater nuclear charge than H (1) in helium the outer electron is in the same shell as hydrogen (1) <p>$H > Li$:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in lithium the outer electron is in a higher energy level / a new shell / further from the nucleus / in a 2s orbital (1) (and) is shielded by inner electrons / $1s^2$ electrons (1) 	<p>Ignore references to shielding for H and He</p> <p>Ignore references to atomic radius or electrons being closer to or the same distance from the nucleus in helium</p> <p>Allow lithium has more shells of electrons</p> <p>Allow (outer electron of) lithium has more shielding than hydrogen / is shielded</p>	(4)

Q12.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the outer electron in a sodium atom is closer to the nucleus (than that in potassium) (1) (and) less shielding from inner electron shells (1) these outweigh the greater nuclear charge / number of protons in potassium (1) 	<p>Accept reverse arguments throughout</p> <p>Allow sodium atoms are smaller (than potassium) Allow sodium has electron in 3s whereas potassium has electron in 4s Allow diagram to illustrate Do not award reference to ionic radius</p> <p>Do not award if reference given to both have a +1 charge/ same nuclear charge</p>	(3)

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Q13.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark									
(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any 2 correct (1) all 3 correct (2) 	<p>Example of table</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1st IE</th> <th>2nd IE</th> <th>3rd IE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(590)</td> <td>(1145)</td> <td>(4912)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4s</td> <td>4s</td> <td>3p</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Accept 3p_x / 3p_y / 3p_z for 3rd IE</p> <p>Ignore any superscript numbers by 4s and 3p</p> <p>Allow (1) for just 's, s, p' or 's, s, p' with one or more incorrect numbers in front</p>	1 st IE	2 nd IE	3 rd IE	(590)	(1145)	(4912)	4s	4s	3p	(2)
1 st IE	2 nd IE	3 rd IE										
(590)	(1145)	(4912)										
4s	4s	3p										
(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct equation 	<p>Examples of equations</p> $\text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{Ca}^{3+}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{(-)}$ <p>or</p> $\text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{g}) - \text{e}^{(-)} \rightarrow \text{Ca}^{3+}(\text{g})$ <p>Correct state symbols are required</p> <p>Ignore any state symbol for the electron</p>	(1)									

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Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (there is a much larger difference between the 2nd and 3rd ionisation energies because the) 3rd electron is lost from a shell / energy level / sub- shell / (3p) orbital closer to the nucleus or the 3rd electron is lost from a shell / energy level / sub-shell / (3p) orbital of lower energy <p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (there is a smaller difference between the 1st and 2nd ionisation energies because the) 1st and 2nd electrons removed from the same shell / energy level / sub- level / orbital or the first two electrons experience similar shielding (from the inner electrons) <p>or there is only a small change in electron-electron repulsion as the first two electrons are removed</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>Ignore electron is lost from a full (sub-)shell / a full (sub-)shell is more stable</p> <p>Ignore just '3rd electron lost is more strongly attracted to the nucleus'</p> <p>Allow the same amount of shielding Allow the 3rd electron (to be lost) experiences less shielding (from inner electrons)</p>	(2)

Q14.

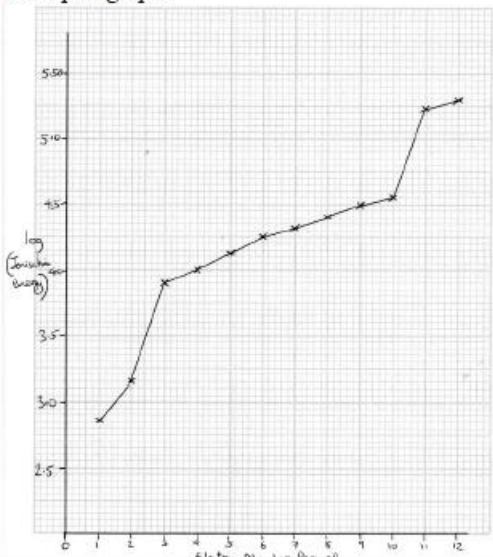
Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> completed table 	4.26 and 5.28	(1)

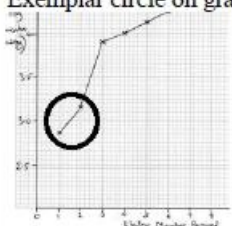
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Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	<p>An answer that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the range of numbers / 738 to 189 371 is too large (to fit on a graph / axis) <p>or</p> <p>logarithms make it easier to plot the numbers</p>	<p>Allow:</p> <p>a (very) long y axis would be needed (some of) the numbers are too large</p> <p>the difference between the ionisation energies is too large</p> <p>so the numbers will fit on the graph</p> <p>logs give smaller (range of) numbers</p> <p>Ignore simpler to read</p> <p>Do not award reference to averages</p>	(1)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iii)	<p>An answer that includes one of the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the same number of protons is attracting a decreasing number of electrons <p>or</p> <p>electron is removed from an increasingly positively charged ion</p> <p>or</p> <p>electron removed is closer to the nucleus</p> <p>or</p> <p>the electron removed is experiencing less electron-electron repulsion</p>	<p>Do not award each electron is removed from shells closer to the nucleus</p>	(1)

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Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iv)	<p>An answer that includes a suitable graph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> labelled axes (1) suitable scale (1) plotting of points and lines joining points (1) 	<p>Do not award if any units given on y axis</p> <p>Plotted points must cover at least $\frac{1}{2}$ the graph paper on each axis</p> <p>Allow $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ square</p> <p>Do not award line going from point 1 to the origin</p> <p>Ignore plotting of electron 6 and 12</p> <p>Exemplar graph</p> 	(3)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(v)	<p>An answer that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> circle around the first two points/circles around individual points 	<p>Exemplar circle on graph</p> 	(1)

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Q15.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	<p>An answer that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> species in suitable equation (1) state symbols (1) 	<p><u>Example of equation</u></p> $\text{O}^+(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{O}^{2+}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^-$ <p>ALLOW</p> $\text{O}^+(\text{g}) - \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{O}^{2+}(\text{g})$ <p>Ignore state symbols on electron Do not allow multiples for M1 M2 dependent on M1 or near miss</p>	(2)

Q16.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer		Additional Guidance	Mark								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1s orbital – 2 electrons 2p subshell – 6 electrons third quantum shell – 18 electrons 	<p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p><u>Example of table</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>Maximum number of electrons</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>the 1s orbital</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the 2p subshell</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the third quantum shell</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Allow $1s^2$ for 2 Allow $2p^6$ for 6</p> <p>Ignore $3s^23p^63d^{10}$ for the third number</p> <p>Do not award more than one number written in the box e.g. 8 or 18 in the third box</p>	Region	Maximum number of electrons	the 1s orbital	2	the 2p subshell	6	the third quantum shell	18	(3)
Region	Maximum number of electrons											
the 1s orbital	2											
the 2p subshell	6											
the third quantum shell	18											

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Q17.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	<p>An answer that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes mention of energy/enthalpy/(heat) energy/heat (change/required) <p>AND</p> <p>to remove an electron (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one mole/1 mol (1) • makes mention of gaseous atom(s) (but not as the product of ionisation) (1) <p>ALTERNATIVE ANSWER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy change per mole / kJ mol^{-1} for (1) $\text{X}(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{X}^+(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{(-)}$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one mark for species (1) • one mark for correct state symbols (1) 	<p>IGNORE any references to standard conditions</p> <p>Do not award "Energy given out..."</p> <p>Do not award Just 'gaseous element'/'gaseous substance'</p> <p>Max 2 for $\text{X}(\text{g}) + \text{e}^{(-)} \rightarrow \text{X}^+(\text{g}) + 2\text{e}^{(-)}$ </p>	<p>(3)</p>

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Q18.

Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	<p>G above F AND H between G and F (1)</p> <p>I above H and below A AND J above I and below B (1)</p> <p>K below C (1)</p>	<p>Points which are not joined with lines are perfectly acceptable.</p> <p>Do not penalise I below G if MP1 not awarded</p>	(3)
(ii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D has one more proton / has a higher nuclear charge (1) the electron being removed in C and D are from the same subshell / s-subshell / (s) orbital (1) 	<p>Allow same shell / energy level Allow the electron in D is closer to the nucleus than C / atomic radius decreases</p> <p>Ignore references to shielding, and full s-orbital which is more stable.</p>	(2)

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Question Number	Acceptable Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iii)	<p>An explanation that makes reference to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (the electron being removed from E) is from a new subshell / p-subshell / p-orbital (1)• which is more shielded from the nucleus than the s-subshell (from which the electron is removed in D) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• which is further from the nucleus than the s-subshell / orbital (in E) (1)	<p>Do not award 'in a new quantum shell' Allow electron removed from a higher energy level.</p> <p>Do not award clear reference to the outer electron in E being further from the nucleus than outer electron in D/atomic radius increasing from D to E</p> <p>Do not award clear reference to the outer electron in E being further from the nucleus than outer electron in D/atomic radius increasing from D to E</p>	(2)