1 (a) Nuclear fission is used in nuclear power stations to generate electricity. Nuclear fusion happens naturally in stars.

(i) Explain briefly the difference between *nuclear fission* and *nuclear fusion*.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(ii) What is released during both nuclear fission and nuclear fusion?

_____

(1)

(b) Plutonium-239 is used as a fuel in some nuclear reactors.

(i) Name another substance used as a fuel in some nuclear reactors.

_____

(1)

(ii) There are many isotopes of plutonium.

What do the nuclei of different plutonium isotopes have in common?

_____

(1)

(Total 5 marks)

2 The first commercial nuclear power station in the world was built at Calder Hall in Cumbria.

(a) The fuel used at the Calder Hall power station is uranium. Natural uranium consists mainly of two isotopes: uranium-235 $\left({}^{235}_{92}\mathrm{U}\right)$ and uranium-238 $\left({}^{238}_{92}\mathrm{U}\right)$. The nucleus of a uranium-235 atom is different to that of a uranium-238 atom.

(i) Where is the nucleus in an atom?

_____

(1)

(ii) Name the **two** types of particle found in the nucleus.

_____ and _____

(2)

(iii) How is the nucleus of a uranium-238 atom different to the nucleus of a uranium-235 atom?

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(b) In the nuclear reactor fission of uranium atoms takes place in reactions such as the one shown below.

$$^{235}_{92}U + {}^{1}_{0}n \longrightarrow {}^{138}_{53}I + {}^{95}_{39}Y + 3({}^{1}_{0}n)$$

The nuclear reactions are carefully controlled in the power station so that a chain reaction takes place.

Explain, as fully as you can:

(i) how fission of uranium atoms takes place in a nuclear reactor;

_____

_____

_____

_____

(ii) how this leads to a chain reaction;

_____

_____

_____

_____

(iii) why it can be used to generate electricity.

_____

_____

(4)

(Total 9 marks)

3 The process of nuclear fusion results in the release of energy.

(a) (i) Describe the process of nuclear fusion.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(ii) Where does nuclear fusion happen naturally?

_____

(1)

(b) For many years, scientists have tried to produce a controlled nuclear fusion reaction that lasts long enough to be useful. However, the experimental fusion reactors use more energy than they produce.

(i) From the information given, suggest **one** reason why nuclear fusion reactors are not used to produce energy in a nuclear power station.

_____

_____

(1)

(ii) Suggest **one** reason why scientists continue to try to develop a practical nuclear fusion reactor.

_____

_____

(1)

(Total 5 marks)

4 The table gives information about the three types of particle that make up an atom.

Particle	**Relative mass**	**Relative charge**
Proton		+1
Neutron	1	
Electron	very small	–1

(a) Complete the table by adding the **two** missing values.

(2)

(b) Use the information in the table to explain why an atom has no overall electrical charge.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(c) Uranium has two natural isotopes, uranium-235 and uranium-238.
Uranium-235 is used as a fuel inside a nuclear reactor.
Inside the reactor, atoms of uranium-235 are split and energy is released.

(i) How is the structure of an atom of uranium-235 different from the structure of an atom of uranium-238?

_____

_____

(1)

(ii) The nucleus of a uranium-235 atom must absorb a particle before the atom is able to split.

What type of particle is absorbed?

_____

(1)

(iii) The nucleus of an atom splits into smaller parts in a reactor.

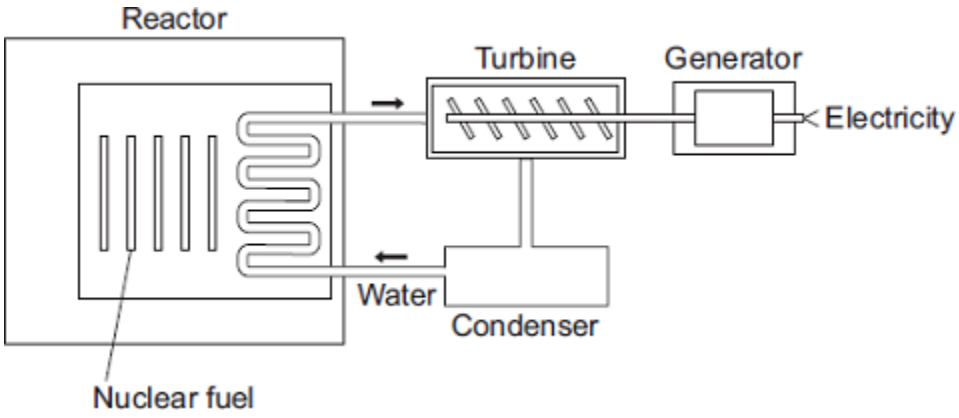
What name is given to this process?

_____

(1)

(Total 7 marks)

5 Nuclear power stations use the energy released from nuclear fuels to generate electricity.



(a) Which substance do the majority of nuclear reactors use as fuel?

Draw a ring around your answer.

plutonium-239 **thorium-232** **uranium-235**

(1)

(b) Energy is released from nuclear fuels by the process of nuclear fission.

Describe what happens to the nucleus of an atom during nuclear fission.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(c) Use words from the box to complete each sentence.

condenser	**gas**	**generator**	**reactor**	**steam**	**turbine**

The energy released from the nuclear fuel is used to heat water. The water turns into _____ and this is used to drive a _____ .

This turns a _____ to produce electricity.

(3)

(Total 6 marks)

6 The equation below shows the process by which two atomic nuclei join to form a different nucleus.

$$^{1}_{1}H + ^{2}_{1}H \rightarrow ^{3}_{2}He$$

(a) Where does the process shown by the equation above happen naturally?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Inside the Earth ☐

Inside a nuclear power station ☐

Inside the Sun ☐

(1)

(b) Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

fission	**force**	**fusion**

The process of joining two atomic nuclei to form a different nucleus is called

nuclear _____ .

(1)

(c) What is released during this process?

Draw a ring around the correct answer.

charge **energy** **force**

(1)

(Total 3 marks)

7 Nuclear fission and nuclear fusion are two processes that release energy.

(a) (i) Use the correct answer from the box to complete each sentence.

Geiger counter	**nuclear reactor**	**star**

Nuclear fission takes place within a _____ .

Nuclear fusion takes place within a _____ .

(2)

(ii) State **one** way in which the process of nuclear fusion differs from the process of nuclear fission.

_____

_____

(1)

(b) The following nuclear equation represents the fission of uranium-235 (U-235).

$$^{1}_{0}n + {}^{235}_{92}U \longrightarrow {}^{236}_{92}U \longrightarrow {}^{141}_{56}Ba + {}^{92}_{36}Kr + 3\,{}^{1}_{0}n + \text{energy}$$

Chemical symbols:

Ba - barium

Kr - krypton

(i) Use the information in the equation to describe the process of nuclear fission.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(4)

(ii) An isotope of barium is Ba-139.
Ba-139 decays by beta decay to lanthanum-139 (La-139).

Complete the nuclear equation that represents the decay of Ba-139 to La-139.

$$\underset{\text{.....}}{{}^{139}Ba} \longrightarrow \underset{\text{.....}}{{}^{139}La} + \underset{\text{.....}}{\quad}$$

(3)

(Total 10 marks)

8 (a) Uranium has two natural isotopes, uranium-235 and uranium-238.

Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

electrons	neutrons	protons

The nucleus of a uranium-238 atom has three more _____ than the nucleus of a uranium-235 atom.

(1)

(b) Uranium-235 is used as a fuel inside a nuclear reactor.
Energy is released from nuclear fuels by the process of nuclear fission.

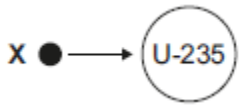
What is the energy released from nuclear fuels inside a nuclear reactor used for?

_____

(1)

(c) **Figure 1** shows the nucleus of an atom of uranium-235 (U-235) about to undergo nuclear fission.

Figure 1



(i) Before nuclear fission can happen the nucleus of a uranium atom has to absorb the particle labelled **X**.

What is particle **X**?

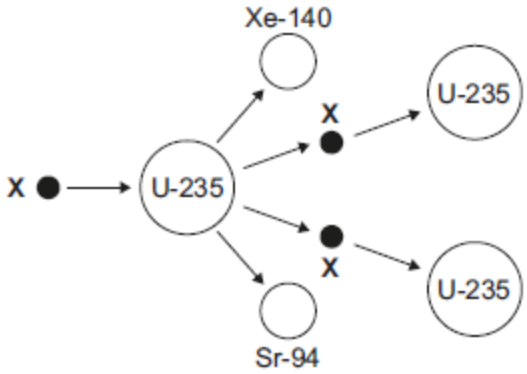
Tick (✓) **one** box.

an electron ☐ a neutron ☐ a proton ☐

(1)

(ii) The process of nuclear fission, shown in **Figure 2**, causes the nucleus of the uranium-235 (U-235) atom to split apart and release two of the particles X.

Figure 2

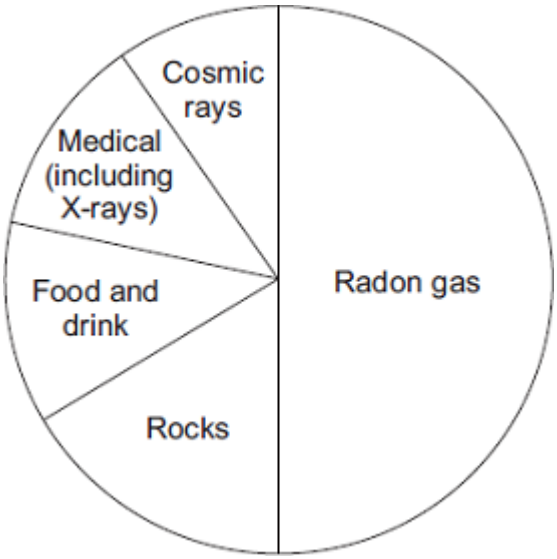


Complete **Figure 2** to show how the particles **X start** a chain reaction.

(2)

(Total 5 marks)

9 The pie chart shows the average proportions of background radiation from various sources in the UK.



(a) Three sources of background radiation are given in **List A**.
Statements about sources of background radiation are given in **List B**.

Draw **one** line to link each source of background radiation in **List A** to the statement about that source given in **List B**.

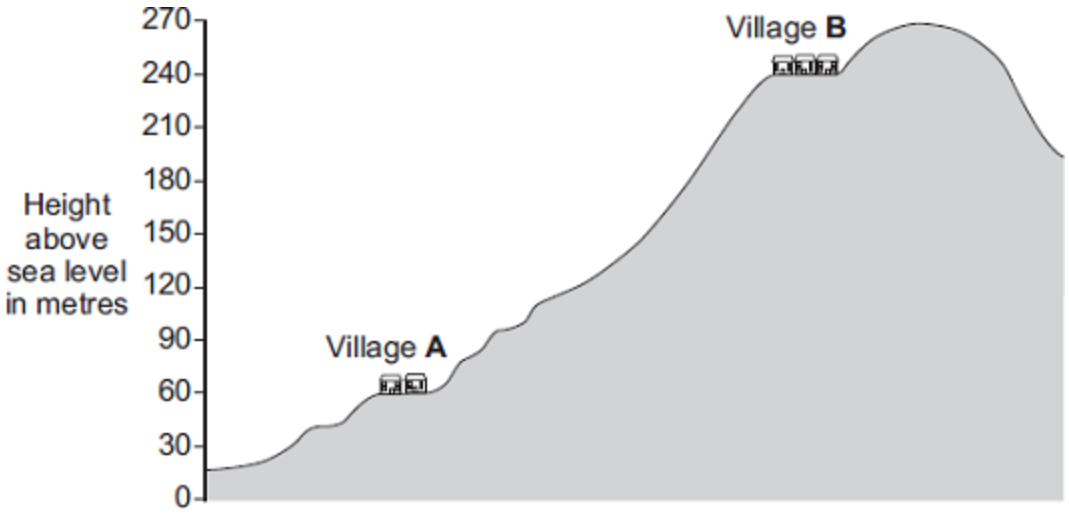
Draw only **three** lines.

List A	**List B**
	Are used to show broken bones.
X-rays	
	The radiation comes from outer space.
Cosmic rays	
	Comes from soil containing a radioactive isotope of potassium.
Radon gas	
	On average gives 50% of all background radiation.

(3)

(b) The level of background radiation from cosmic rays is not the same everywhere. For every 30 metres above sea level, the amount of background radiation increases by one unit.

The diagram shows the position of two villages, **A** and **B**, built on a hill.



How is the amount of background radiation from cosmic rays different in village **A** compared to village **B**?

To obtain full marks, you must include a calculation in your answer.

(3)

(Total 6 marks)

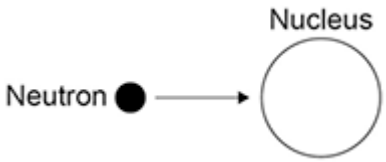
10 Electricity is generated in a nuclear power station.

Fission is the process by which energy is released in the nuclear reactor.

(a) **Figure 1** shows the first part of the nuclear fission reaction.

Complete **Figure 1** to show how the fission process starts a chain reaction.

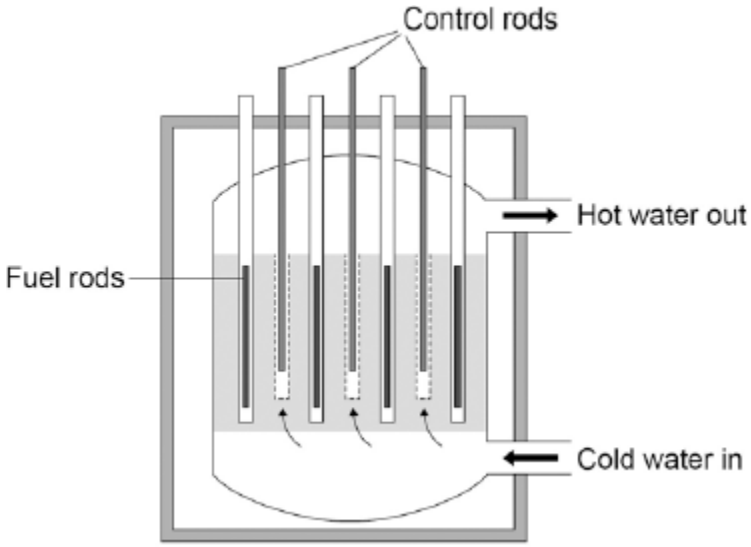
Figure 1



(3)

(b) **Figure 2** shows the inside of a nuclear reactor in a nuclear power station.

Figure 2



In a nuclear reactor a chain reaction occurs, which causes neutrons to be released.

The control rods absorb neutrons.

The control rods can be moved up and down.

Explain how the energy released by the chain reaction is affected by moving the control rods.

_____

_____

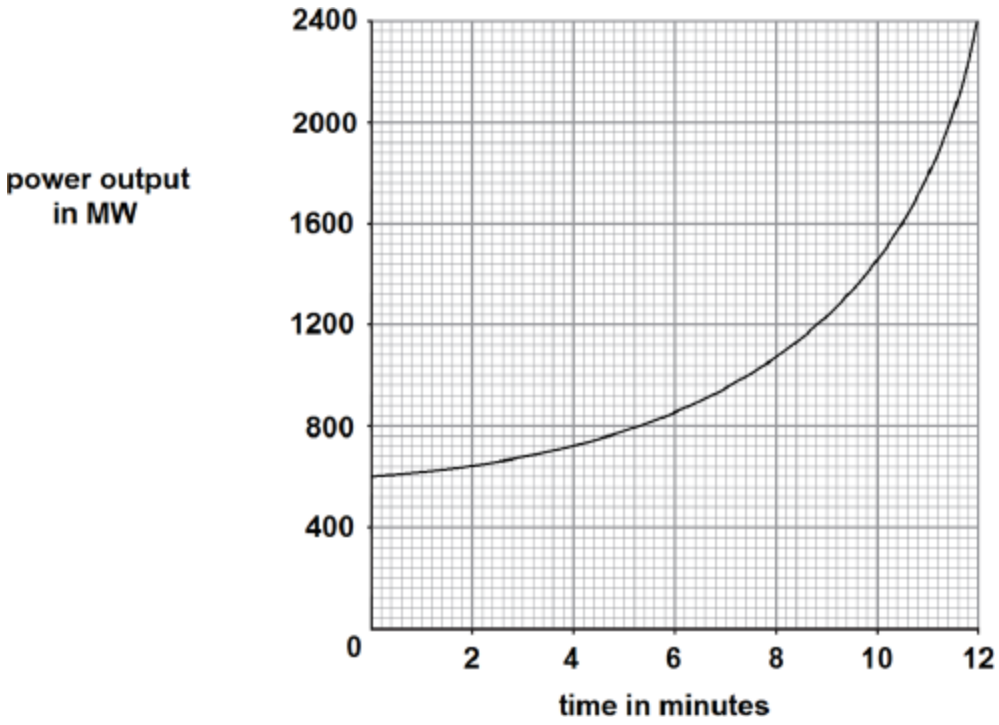
_____

_____

(2)

(c) **Figure 3** shows how the power output of the nuclear reactor would change if the control rods were removed.

Figure 3



Calculate the rate of increase of power output at 10 minutes.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Rate of increase of power output = _____ MW / minute

(2)

(Total 7 marks)

11 (a) Radioactive sources that emit alpha, beta or gamma radiation can be dangerous.

What is a possible risk to health caused by using a radioactive source?

_____

_____

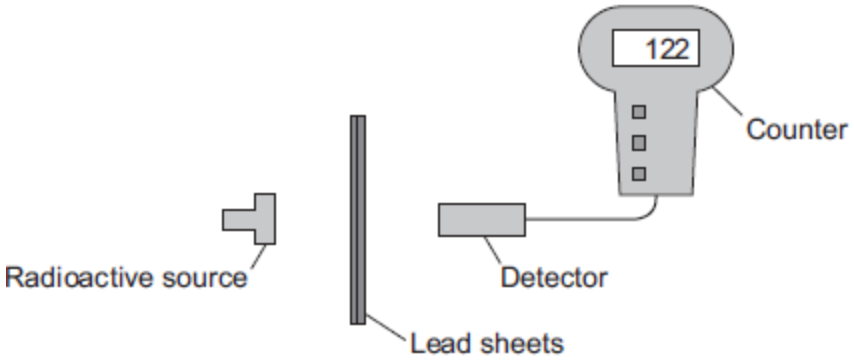
(1)

(b) In an experiment, a teacher put a 2 mm thick lead sheet in front of a radioactive source. She used a detector and counter to measure the radiation passing through the lead sheet in one minute.

She then put different numbers of lead sheets, each 2 mm thick, in front of the radioactive source and measured the radiation passing through in one minute.

The apparatus the teacher used is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1



(i) When using a radioactive source in an experiment, how could the teacher reduce the risk to her health?

Suggest **one** way.

_____

_____

(1)

(ii) The number recorded on the counter is actually higher than the amount of radiation detected from the source.

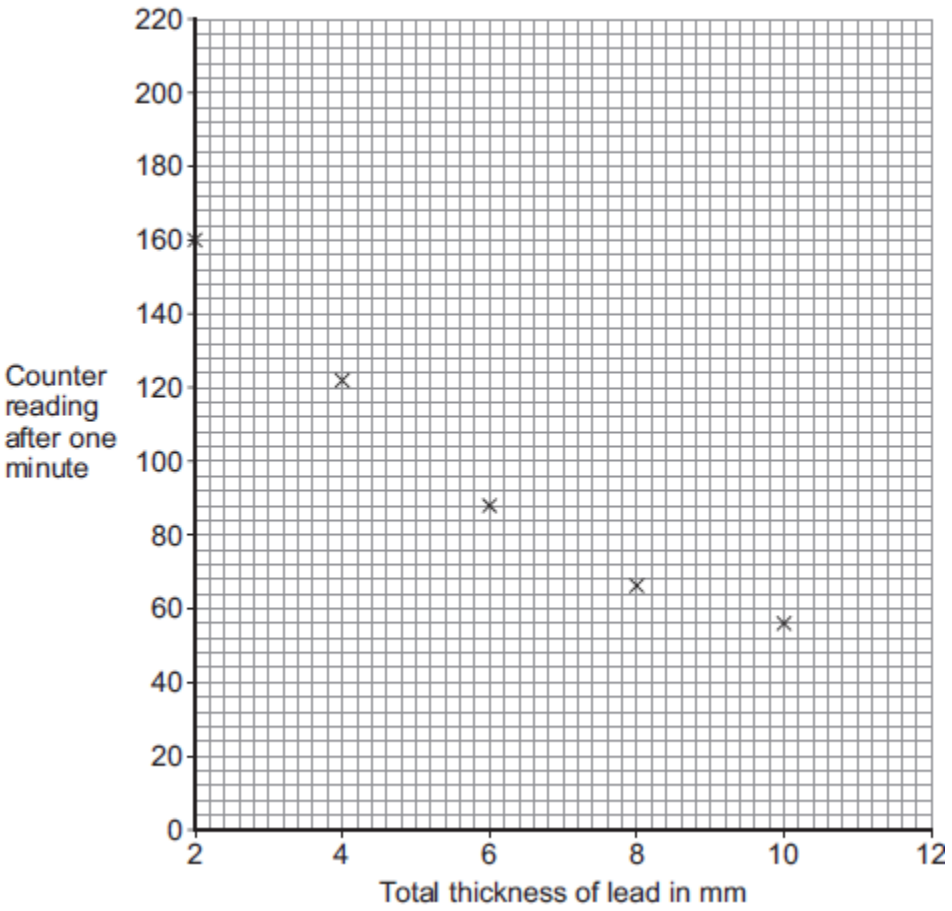
Complete the following word equation.

The number recorded on the counter	=	The amount of radiation detected from the source	+	_____ radiation

(1)

(c) The readings taken by the teacher are plotted in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2



(i) Draw a line of best fit to complete **Figure 2**.

(1)

(ii) How does the amount of radiation **absorbed** by the lead change as the total thickness of the lead is increased?

_____

_____

(1)

(iii) Use **Figure 2** to estimate the reading on the counter when the total thickness of the lead is increased to 12 mm.

Estimated counter reading = _____

(1)

(d) What type of radiation was emitted from the radioactive source?

Draw a ring around the correct answer.

alpha **beta** **gamma**

Give a reason for your answer.

_____

_____

(2)

(Total 8 marks)