

18 In 1935 Irène and Frédéric Joliot-Curie were awarded a Nobel Prize for the discovery of artificial radioactivity.

They bombarded an aluminium sheet with alpha particles to produce a radioactive isotope of phosphorus as in the nuclear equation below.



(a) (i) Identify particle X.

(1)

(ii) Calculate the energy released, in joules, in this nuclear reaction.

Particle	Mass / GeV / c^2
${}_0^1\text{X}$	0.9396
${}_2^4\alpha$	3.7274
${}_{13}^{27}\text{Al}$	25.1333
${}_{15}^{30}\text{P}$	27.9206

(4)

Energy released = J



- (b) Radioactive phosphorus was one of the first artificially produced isotopes to be used in the diagnosis of cancerous tumours.

The isotope ^{32}P is injected into a person and collects in the tumour. Radiation is detected outside the person's body. ^{32}P is a positron emitter with a half-life of almost fifteen days.

Explain why ^{32}P is suitable for this procedure.

(4)

(Total for Question 18 = 9 marks)