

- 19 In 2023, a small capsule of caesium-137 was lost when being transported from a mine in Western Australia.

The activity of the caesium in the capsule was 19GBq.

- (a) (i) Show that the decay constant for caesium-137 is about $7.3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

half-life of caesium-137 = 30.1 years

1 year = $3.15 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$

(2)

- (ii) Calculate the mass of caesium in the capsule.

(3)

Mass of caesium =



(iii) Calculate the activity of the caesium in the capsule after 2 years.

(2)

Activity after 2 years =

(b) The capsule was found after 14 days.

Calculate the total energy, in J, released from the capsule in 14 days.

activity of caesium in capsule = 19 GBq

energy released in each decay of caesium-137 = 1.17 MeV

1 day = 86 400 s

(3)

Total energy released in 14 days = J

(Total for Question 19 = 10 marks)