

- 9 During the de-commissioning of a nuclear reactor, a mass of $2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ kg}$ of steel is found to be contaminated with radioactive nickel-63 ($^{63}_{28}\text{Ni}$).
The total activity of the steel due to the nickel-63 contamination is $1.7 \times 10^{14} \text{ Bq}$.

- (a) Calculate the activity per unit mass of the steel.

$$\text{activity per unit mass} = \dots \text{Bq kg}^{-1} [1]$$

- (b) Special storage precautions need to be taken when the activity per unit mass due to contamination exceeds 400 Bq kg^{-1} .
Nickel-63 is a β -emitter with a half-life of 92 years.
The maximum energy of an emitted β -particle is 0.067 MeV.
- (i) Use your answer in (a) to calculate the energy, in J, released per second in a mass of 1.0 kg of steel due to the radioactive decay of the nickel.

$$\text{energy} = \dots \text{J} [1]$$

- (ii) Use your answer in (i) to suggest, with a reason, whether the steel will be at a high temperature.

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..... [1]

- (iii) Use your answer in (a) to determine the time interval before special storage precautions for the steel are not required.

time = years [3]