12 (a) State what is meant by the *mass defect* of a nucleus.

.....

.....

..... [2]

(b) Some masses are shown in Table 12.1.

Table 12.1

	mass / u
proton $^{1}_{1}p$	1.007 276
neutron $^{1}_{0}n$	1.008 665
helium-4 ($^{4}_{2}He$) nucleus	4.001 506

Show that:

(i) the energy equivalence of 1.00 u is 934 MeV

[2]

(ii) the binding energy per nucleon of a helium-4 nucleus is 7.09 MeV.

[2]

(c) Isotopes of hydrogen have binding energies per nucleon of less than 3 MeV.

Suggest why a nucleus of helium-4 does not spontaneously break down to become nuclei of hydrogen.

.....

.....

..... [2]

[Total: 8]