

Radiochemistry Fundamentals
Post-Course Assessment Answer key

1. The periodic table is organized into _____ and _____.
- a. groups, periods
 - b. groups, types
 - c. blocks, groups
 - d. blocks, types

Answer: A

2. All elements in a period have _____
- a. different number of electron shells
 - b. similar chemical and physical characteristics
 - c. same number of electron shells
 - d. different physical, but similar chemical characteristics.

Answer: C

3. The two axes of the Chart of the Nuclides represent the number of _____ and _____.
- a. neutrons, electrons
 - b. neutrons, positrons
 - c. protons, electrons
 - d. protons, neutrons

Answer: D

4. The periodic table represents _____ whereas the Chart of the Nuclides represents _____.
- a. elements, groups
 - b. elements, isotopes
 - c. groups, periods
 - d. groups, isotopes

Answer: B

5. On the Chart of the Nuclides, a solid gray square represents the isotope is _____.
- a. naturally radioactive
 - b. stable
 - c. artificially radioactive
 - d. fissionable

Answer: B

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6. The elements that fall along the line of stability on the Chart of the Nuclides have an equal number of _____ and _____.
- protons, neutrons
 - protons, electrons
 - neutrons, electrons
 - neutrons, positrons

Answer: A

7. Isotopes that reside on the upper end of the line of stability on the Chart of the Nuclides undergo radioactive decay by _____.
- electron capture
 - spontaneous fission
 - positron release
 - alpha particle release

Answer: D

8. In _____, the nucleus splits into unequal parts with a large amount of energy.
- thermal fission
 - spontaneous fission
 - nuclear fission
 - intermediate fission

Answer: C

9. When a nucleus undergoes _____, the fission fragments have excess neutrons and undergo beta decay.
- thermal fission
 - spontaneous fission
 - intermediate fission
 - nuclear fission

Answer: B

10. The most important factor in a complexation reaction is the _____.
- valence state
 - physical state
 - radioactive half-life
 - chemical form

Answer: A

11. _____ occurs when ions in an aqueous solution form an insoluble ionic solid.
- dissolution
 - segregation
 - polarization
 - precipitation

Answer: D

12. The separation or partitioning of radioisotopes in liquid solutions is performed by _____.
- evaporation
 - precipitation
 - solvent extraction
 - complexation

Answer: C

13. _____ reactions are a function of a metal atom or ion's ability to join with compounds that have pairs of electrons to donate.
- complexation
 - separation
 - complexation
 - precipitation

Answer: A

14. The attraction of a specific ion to a given ion exchange resin is known as _____.
- equilibrium
 - selectivity
 - preference
 - attraction

Answer: B

15. To selectively remove an ion from ion exchange resin, it may be necessary to add _____ and adjust _____ to get the best result.
- carrier, flow
 - acid, pH
 - caustic, temperature
 - carrier, pH

Answer: D

16. Carriers not only carry along small amounts of the radioisotope, but also help determine _____.

- a. isotopic yield
- b. chemical composition
- c. isotopic composition
- d. chemical yield

Answer: D

17. Carriers provide the ability to extract a desired radioisotope by adding a _____ similar stable isotope to the sample.

- a. biologically
- b. radioactively
- c. chemically
- d. isotopically

Answer: C

18. In selecting an isotopic carrier to a sample, care should be taken to ensure that the carrier has the same _____ and _____ as the nuclide to be analyzed.

- a. oxidation state, chemical form
- b. oxidation state, mass number
- c. chemical form, density
- d. chemical form, solubility

Answer: A

19. Tracers are used so that the _____ of the chemical separation can be monitored.

- a. activity
- b. yield
- c. purity
- d. solubility

Answer: B

20. One important issue that should be considered that should be considered when choosing a tracer is _____.

- a. health hazards of the tracer
- b. cost of the tracer
- c. disposal costs
- d. time necessary for preparation

Answer: A

21. Limiting factors such as the chemical form at the tracer level and _____ make the selection of an ideal carrier difficult.
- chemical properties
 - cost
 - chemical impurities
 - availability

Answer: C

22. Gas proportional counters operate on the principle of the _____ of gas molecules by decay particles to generate a pulse.
- destruction
 - combination
 - acceleration
 - ionization

Answer: D

23. The two factors that contribute to ion pair production in gas proportional counters are _____ and _____.
- charge potential, high electron charge
 - charge potential, high electron density
 - low electron density, low charge density
 - low electron density, high charge density

Answer: B

24. Gas proportional counters may be used to count and analyze _____ and _____ radiation.
- alpha, gamma
 - beta, gamma
 - gamma, x-ray
 - alpha, beta

Answer: D

25. The primary disadvantage of gas proportional counting systems is _____.
- sample preparation
 - sample size
 - sample activity
 - sample density

Answer: A

26. The primary advantage of gas proportional counting system is its _____ in counting alpha and beta nuclides of various energies.
- versatility
 - accuracy
 - precision
 - speed

Answer: A

27. _____ and _____ can aid in the elimination of errors in gas proportional counting data.
- Lower count rates, thicker detector windows
 - Larger sample sizes, good techniques
 - Pulse height discriminators, clean separations
 - Higher activity samples, short counting times

Answer: C

28. When performing alpha analysis using gas proportional counting, source and samples must be _____ and _____ for maximum detection capability.
- thick, moist
 - thin, uniform
 - thin, moist
 - thick, uniform

Answer: B

29. The attenuation of alpha particles in a sample that is too dense or has an uneven surface is called _____.
- self-shielding
 - self-annihilation
 - self-assistance
 - self-absorption

Answer: D

30. Alpha counting data errors commonly occur because of _____
- crossfire
 - crossover
 - crosstalk
 - cross-intimidation

Answer: C

31. When reviewing a gas proportional spectrum containing both alpha and beta counts, the alpha counts should appear at the ____ of the spectrum
- lower end
 - middle
 - upper end
 - none of the above

Answer: A

32. Liquid scintillation counters rely on the interaction of the _____ and the _____ producing light photons.
- beta particles, photocathode tube
 - phosphor, photomultiplier tube
 - beta particles, phosphor
 - beta particles, photomultiplier tube

Answer: C

33. What color light is emitted in a scintillation counter?
- White
 - Blue
 - Red
 - Green

Answer: B

34. Liquid scintillation counting is unique in that it _____.
- samples must be dark adapted
 - detector requires a high voltage
 - moves particles using a carrier gas
 - requires extensive sample preparation

Answer: A

35. Coincidence counting in liquid scintillation counters describes the _____.
- ability to sum all counts simultaneously
 - ability to send multiple light signals to the multi-channel analyzer
 - ability to count background samples at the same time
 - ability to detect light in two photomultiplier tubes

Answer: D

36. The liquid scintillation counting system is primarily used to count _____ radiation; however, _____ radiation can be counted on a limited basis.
- beta, gamma
 - alpha, gamma
 - alpha, beta
 - beta, alpha

Answer: D

37. The most common interference associated with liquid scintillation counting is _____.
- absorption
 - masking
 - quench
 - shielding

Answer: C

38. Liquid scintillation counting error can be caused by _____.
- chemicals, color, and opacity
 - chemicals, time, and opacity
 - chemicals, color, and particulates
 - color, particulates, and density

Answer: A

39. In a gamma spectroscopy system, the energy that is produced as a result of the number of _____ that are produced when the gamma ray strikes the detector.
- photons
 - electrons
 - protons
 - neutrons

Answer: B

40. The transfer of energy to an inner shell electron during a gamma ray interaction occurs because of _____.
- photoelectric effect
 - pair production
 - Compton scattering
 - self-absorption

Answer: A

41. The interaction of a gamma ray with an inner shell electron, resulting in an electron along with a photon escaping is known as _____.
- photoelectric effect
 - recoil scattering
 - pair production
 - Compton scattering

Answer: D

42. The two most common types of gamma detectors are _____ and _____.
- Semi-conductor, proportional
 - scintillation, Geiger-Mueller
 - scintillation, semi-conductor
 - semi-conductor, ionization

Answer: C

43. The most common material used for gamma ray scintillation detectors is _____.
- potassium chloride
 - sodium iodide
 - sodium chloride
 - germanium

Answer: B

44. Germanium is used in gamma counting systems because it _____.
- has better peak resolution
 - is very mobile
 - has a long half-life
 - has a higher efficiency factor.

Answer: A

45. Lowering the temperature of a germanium detector increases _____.
- reaction time
 - geometry
 - stopping power
 - cost

Answer: C

46. Liquid nitrogen cooled gamma counting systems that are not cooled adequately are susceptible to:
- vibration
 - condensation
 - static electricity
 - electronic noise

Answer: D

47. One advantage of scintillation gamma detectors over other types is _____.
- Power considerations
 - mobility
 - range of isotope identification
 - cross-talk

Answer: B

48. Errors in gamma spectroscopy systems can be attributed to either _____ or _____.
- system performance, interpretation of data
 - system performance, inadequate count time
 - lack of vendor support, sample preparation
 - environmental factors, operator error

Answer: A

49. A key consideration when preparing samples for gamma counting is _____.
- density
 - color
 - geometry
 - sample source

Answer: C

50. The gamma counting efficiency of a liquid sample can be increased by _____.
- reducing the count time
 - shielding the sample
 - reducing the overall geometry size
 - increasing the cooling of the detector

Answer: C

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51. Gamma spectroscopy peaks should be _____.
- a. Wide to contain more counts
 - b. Narrow to isolate different energies
 - c. Combined with other isotope energies to ensure adequate counting
 - d. Different each time a same is counted due to decay

Answer: B

52. Alpha spectroscopy counting takes place in _____.
- a. a nitrogen filled detector
 - b. a helium gas chamber
 - c. in a clean-room environment
 - d. in a vacuum chamber

Answer: D

53. Due to a _____, alpha spectrometers must possess adequate resolution to readily identify individual isotopes.
- a. small range of energies
 - b. large range of energies
 - c. large number of isotopes
 - d. small number of isotopes

Answer: A

54. Alpha spectroscopy is subject to cross-talk from _____.
- a. low-energy beta emitters
 - b. high-energy beta emitters
 - c. gamma radiation
 - d. radiofrequency interference

Answer: B

55. The most common type of isotope separation is _____.
- a. fluoride precipitation
 - b. electro-plating
 - c. sample evaporation
 - d. alpha energy isolation

Answer: A

56. The primary disadvantage of alpha spectroscopy is _____.
- a. high cost of operation
 - b. low detector efficiency
 - c. extensive sample preparation
 - d. long counting times

Answer: C

57. Alpha particles have _____ travel distances compared to other radioactive particles.
- a. short
 - b. long
 - c. unpredictable
 - d. mid-range

Answer: A

58. One cause of alpha detector contamination is _____.
- a. beta energy in the detector
 - b. Loose sample material
 - c. Loss of nitrogen cooling
 - d. low sample counts

Answer: B

59. In alpha spectroscopy, what is a region of interest (ROI)?
- a. An area of the detector that has a higher efficiency.
 - b. The average of an isotope's energy profile.
 - c. A range of channels where a specific isotope is found.
 - d. The common energy of the most likely isotope.

Answer: C

60. The mean rate at which a nuclide decays is called it's _____.
- a. carrier ratio
 - b. efficiency
 - c. recovery
 - d. activity

Answer: D

61. _____ is the ratio of the amount of analyte present in a spiked sample to the amount of analyte added, expressed as a percentage.
- Activity
 - Recovery
 - Efficiency
 - Attenuation factor

Answer: B

62. The decay constant can be used in radiochemistry activity calculations to _____.
- determine sample activity at a given point in time
 - correct for background errors
 - calculate the amount of radiation received during decay
 - determine whole-body dose rates for sample analysts

Answer: A

63. _____ is a source of counting error.
- Geometry
 - Continuous discharge
 - Self-absorption
 - Random disintegration

Answer: C

64. The term _____ refers to the time interval which must elapse after a pulse is counted before another pulse can be detected.
- resolving time
 - rest time
 - down time
 - recovery time

Answer: A

65. A laboratory technician is subject to error in radiochemistry processes because of _____.
- self-absorption
 - sample geometry
 - reagent purity
 - inattention to detail

Answer: D

66. A radiochemistry analysis error related to human performance is _____.
- a. equipment failure
 - b. cross-contamination
 - c. high counting background
 - d. instrument efficiency

Answer: B

67. The first legislation dealing with nuclear waste was called the _____.
- a. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Recovery Act (CERCLA)
 - b. Atomic Energy Act
 - c. Nuclear Waste Policy Act
 - d. Radioactive Waste Disposal Act

Answer: B

68. The regulation regarding radioactive waste currently guiding cleanup in the United States is enforced by the _____.
- a. Environmental Protection Agency
 - b. Department of Energy
 - c. Department of Homeland Security
 - d. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Answer: A

69. 40 CFR – Part 191 was specifically written for wastes created _____.
- a. during laboratory operations
 - b. from nuclear bomb testing
 - c. during production of nuclear weapons
 - d. from disposal of nuclear reactor fuel

Answer: C

70. Transuranic wastes contain elements with atomic numbers greater than _____.
- a. 100
 - b. 78
 - c. 118
 - d. 92

Answer: D