

AQA C1b Atomic structure and the periodic table

Combined Higher

The Periodic table

Labels: Alkali metals (Group 1), Halogens (Group 7), Noble gases (Group 0), Transition metals (Groups 3-10).

Metals to the left of the dark line, non-metals to the right

Development of the Periodic table

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| Before the discovery of protons | Elements used to be arranged in order of atomic weight | Early periodic tables were incomplete. Some elements were placed in inappropriate groups if the strict order of atomic weights was followed |
| What did Mendeleev do? | Mendeleev left gaps for elements that hadn't been discovered yet | Elements with properties predicted by Mendeleev were discovered and filled in the gaps. Knowledge of isotopes explained why order based on atomic weights was not always correct |
| Now, elements are arranged in order of atomic number | Elements with similar properties are in columns called groups | Elements in the same group have the same number of outer shell electrons and elements in the same period (row) have the same number of electron shells |

Important families of elements in the Periodic Table

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| Metals | Form positive ions. Conductors, high melting and boiling points, ductile, malleable |
| Non-metals | Form negative ions. Insulators, low melting and boiling points |

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| Group 7 – the Halogens | Halogens are made of molecules. Each molecule contains a pair of atoms | Halogen atoms have 7 electrons in their outer shells. They form -1 ions |
| | Melting and boiling points increase down the group (gas at the top, then liquid, then solid) | The atomic mass of the halogens gets heavier as you go down |
| | Reactivity decreases down the group | As the atoms get bigger, the nucleus is further from the outer shell so has less pull on electrons |

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| With metals | Forms a metal halide | metal + halogen → metal halide e.g. sodium + chlorine → sodium chloride | e.g. $2Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow 2NaCl$ |
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| With hydrogen | Forms a hydrogen halide | hydrogen + halogen → hydrogen halide e.g. hydrogen + bromine → hydrogen bromide | e.g. $Cl_2 + H_2 \rightarrow 2HCl$ |
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| With solutions of halides | A more reactive halogen will displace the less reactive halogen from the salt | chlorine + potassium bromide → potassium chloride + bromine | e.g. $Cl_2 + 2KBr \rightarrow 2KCl + Br_2$ |
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| Group 1 - Alkali metals | They are very reactive with oxygen, water and chlorine | They only have 1 electron in their outer shell. They form +1 ions |
| | The reactivity of Group 1 elements increases as you go down the group | As you go down the group the atoms get bigger. This means that the negative outer electron is further from the positive nucleus so it is more easily lost |

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| With oxygen | Forms a metal oxide | metal + oxygen → metal oxide | e.g. $4Na + O_2 \rightarrow 2Na_2O$ |
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| With water | Forms a metal hydroxide and hydrogen | metal + water → metal hydroxide + hydrogen | e.g. $2Na + 2H_2O \rightarrow 2NaOH + H_2$ |
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| With chlorine | Forms a metal chloride | metal + chlorine → metal chloride | e.g. $2Na + Cl_2 \rightarrow 2NaCl$ |
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| Group 0 - Noble gases | They are very unreactive and don't form molecules. | They are unreactive because they already have full outer shells of electrons. |
| | They are all gases but their boiling points increase as you go down the group. | The atomic mass increases as you go down the group. The atoms get heavier and more energy is needed to make the element boil. |