Chemistry of the atmosphere – GCSE Chemistry

1. No.3

0 3 This question is about the Earth's atmosphere.

Table 5 shows:

- the estimated percentages of gases in the Earth's early atmosphere
- the percentages of gases in the Earth's atmosphere today.

Table 5

Gas	Estimated percentage (%) in the Earth's early atmosphere	Percentage (%) in the Earth's atmosphere today
Nitrogen	1.8	**X**
Oxygen	0.2	20.95
Carbon dioxide	96.0	0.04
Other gases	2.0	0.92

0 3 . 1 Calculate value **X** in **Table 5**.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

X = _____ %

0 3 . 2 Which **two** other gases may have been in the Earth's early atmosphere?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

Ammonia ☐

Coal ☐

Limestone ☐

Methane ☐

Poly(ethene) ☐

Algae and plants increased the percentage of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.

The same process in algae and plants decreased the percentage of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere.

0 3 . 3 Which process in algae and plants increased the percentage of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Fermentation ☐
- Photosynthesis ☐
- Rusting ☐
- Sedimentation ☐

0 3 . 4 Which **two** other processes decreased the percentage of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere?

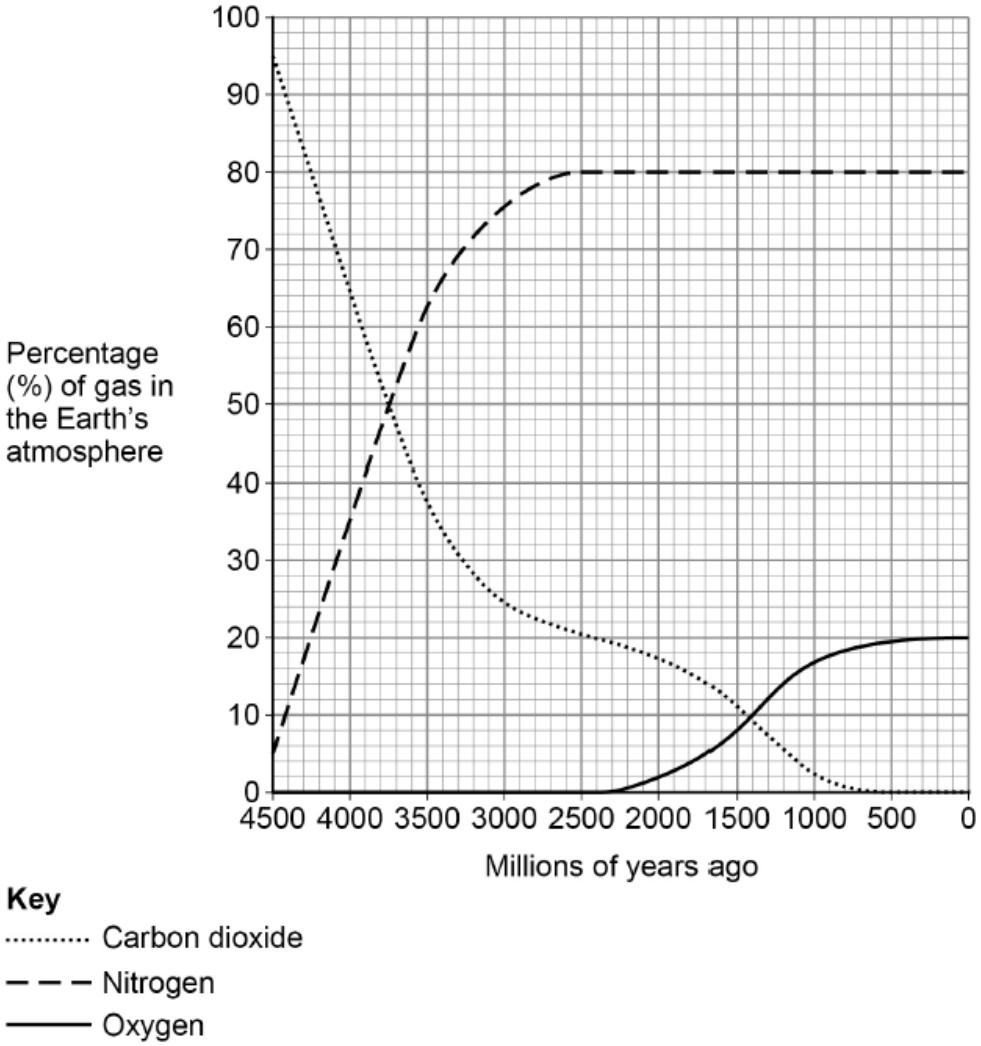
[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

- Burning fossil fuels ☐
- Dissolving carbon dioxide in oceans ☐
- Eruption of volcanoes ☐
- Evolution of animals ☐
- Formation of sedimentary rocks ☐

Figure 3 shows how the percentages of gases in the Earth's atmosphere may have changed since the atmosphere was formed.

Figure 3



0 3 . 5 When was the percentage of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere 8%?

Use **Figure 3**.

[1 mark]

_____ millions of years ago

0 3 . 6 When did the percentage of nitrogen in the Earth's atmosphere become constant?

Use **Figure 3**.

[1 mark]

_____ millions of years ago

0 3 . 7 Crude oil was formed from an ancient biomass as the Earth's atmosphere evolved.

What did this ancient biomass mainly consist of?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Limestone ☐

Plankton ☐

Sand ☐

0 3 . 8 Most of the percentages of the gases in **Figure 3** are estimated values.

Why have scientists used estimated values for the percentages of the gases in **Figure 3**?

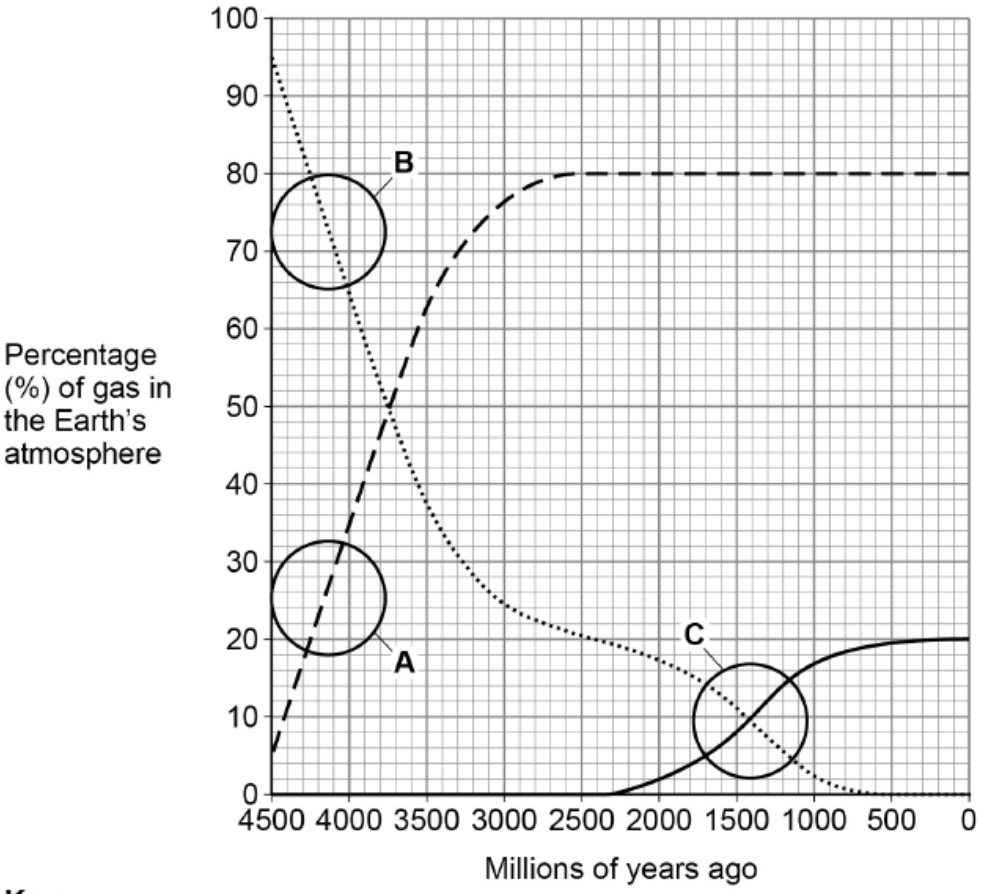
[1 mark]

2. No.6

0 6 This question is about the chemistry of the Earth's atmosphere.

Figure 3 shows how the percentages of gases in the Earth's atmosphere may have changed since the atmosphere was formed.

Figure 3



0 6 . 1 Explain the change in the percentage of gas in the region labelled **A** on **Figure 3**.

[2 marks]

0 6 . 2 Explain the change in the percentage of gas in the region labelled **B** on **Figure 3**.

[2 marks]

0 6 . 3 Compare the changes in the percentages of gases in the region labelled **C** on **Figure 3**.

[2 marks]

0 6 . 4 What process caused the changes in the percentages of gases in the region labelled **C** on **Figure 3**?

[1 mark]

0 6 . 5 Natural gas is a fossil fuel.

Describe how deposits of natural gas were formed.

[3 marks]