

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

APPLIED PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

SPH 4204 - MATERIALS SCIENCE II

BSc HONOURS PART IV: JUNE 2004 DURATION: 3 HOURS

ANSWER **ALL** PARTS OF SECTION A AND ANY **THREE** IN SECTION B. SECTION A CARRIES 40 MARKS AND SECTION B CARRIES 60 MARKS

SECTION A

1. (a) (i) Sketch the ion arrangement on the (110) plane of ZnS (with Zinc - blend structure) and
(ii) Compare this arrangement with that on the (110) plane of CaF₂ (fluorite structure)
(iii) What are their planar packing factors? [10]
- (b) Five kg of continuous boron fibres are introduced in a unidirectional orientation into 8kg of an aluminium matrix. Calculate:
(i) the density of the composite
(ii) the modulus of elasticity parallel and perpendicular to the fibres.
 $\rho_{Al} = 2.699 \text{ g/cm}^3$ [6]
- (c) A ceramic component has a flextural strength of 825 MNm^{-2} . In a three-point bend test, the bar 12mm thick and 25mm wide is supported at two points 230mm apart. The component contains flaws 0.025 mm long with the tip radius of 50nm. Determine the load at which the bar is expected to fail. [6]
- (d) Calculate the density of a cemented carbide or cement based on a Titanium matrix if the composite contains 50Wt% WC, 22Wt% TaC, and 14Wt% TiC. The densities of the carbides are $P_{WC} = 15.77 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $P_{TaC} = 14.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $P_{TiC} = 4.94 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $P_{Ti} = 4.51 \text{ g/cm}^3$. [6]
- (e) A stress of 17 MNm^{-2} is applied to a polymer serving as a fastener in a complex assembly. At a constant strain, the stress drops to 16.5 MNm^{-2} after 100 hours. If the stress on the component must remain above 14.5 MNm^{-2} for the component to function properly, determine the life of the assembly. [6]
- (f) There are 10^{20} molecules per gram of Polyvinyl chloride,
(i) what is the average molecular size and
(ii) the degree of polymerization of PVC. [6]

SECTION B

2. (a) What are liquid crystal polymers? Give at least two examples. [4]
 (b) Using the visco elastic models, explain the mechanical properties of polymers. [10]
 (c) Distinguish thermoplastics from thermosets. [6]
3. (a) Write brief notes on the following Engineering ceramics
 (i) alumina, (Al_2O_3)
 (ii) Barium Titanate, and
 (iii) Silicon Carbide (SiC) or Silicone Nitride (Si_3N_4). [12]
- (b) During service, a ceramic valve operating at $250^\circ C$ is likely to be quenched to room temperature, ($20^\circ C$), by a flowing aqueous solution. The valve could be manufactured from one of the two ceramics designated A and B, whose properties are given below. Discuss which ceramic you would select for this application.

	A	B
Young's Modulus E , (GN/m^2)	120	350
Coefficient of thermal expansion α (K^{-1})	2×10^{-6}	9×10^{-6}
Fracture stress of δ_f	230	270
Poisson's ratio (MN/m^2)	0.25	0.27
Thermal conductivity at $50^\circ C$ $K(w/mk)$	14	8

[8]

4. (a) (i) What are closed and interconnected pores? Explain the use of pores in ceramic refractory materials. [5]
- (b) Silicon carbide particles are compacted and fired at a high temperature to produce a strong ceramic shape. The specific gravity of Silicon Carbide is 3.2 g/cm^3 , the dry weight of the component is 360g, 385g after soaking in water and 224g while suspended in water.
 Calculate
 (i) the apparent porosity
 (ii) the true porosity and
 (iii) the fraction of the pore volume that is closed. [6]
- (c) (i) What are refractory materials? [3]
 (ii) Classify refractory materials giving at least two examples of each. [6]

5. (a) Define the following terms with respect to composite materials.
(i) aspect ratio
(ii) specific modulus and
(iii) matrix. [6]
- (b) Select the constituents of an electrical contact material and describe a method that will produce a contact material with a density not more than 6g/cm^3 with at least 50 volume % of the material being conductive. (Use the given periodic table) [6]
- (c) Consider a stylofoam composite material of a gas and a thin walled polystyrene having an overall density of about 0.016g/cm^3 . The density of polystyrene is 1.06g/cm^3 . Calculate:
(i) The volume fraction of each material in the composite. [2]
(ii) Assuming for simplicity that the stylo foam beads are cubes of 0.1 cm on each side, estimate the wall thickness of the beads. [3]
(iii) If the thermal conductivity of air is about $0.63 \times 10^{-4}\text{W/mK}$ and for polystyrene about $3 \times 10^{-4}\text{W/mK}$ at 25°C . What is the thermal conductivity of stylo foam? [3]
6. (a) (i) Define the Pilling - Bedworth ratio and discuss its significance in relation to the degree of protection offered to a metal surface by an oxide layer. [6]
(ii) Write short notes on the degradation of polymers and oxidation of ceramic materials. [8]
(iii) Describe the three-point bend test for ceramic materials. [6]

- END OF PAPER -

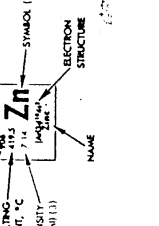
PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

Table of Radioactive Isotopes

Naturally occurring radioactive isotopes are indicated by a blue mass number. Half lives are in parentheses where known. Decay modes are indicated by the Greek letters alpha, beta, gamma, positron, electron capture, and neutron emission. The symbol describing the mode of decay and resulting radiation are defined as follows:

α - alpha particle β⁻ - electron emission γ - gamma ray
 β⁺ - positron EC - electron capture n - neutron emission
 K - K-capture S - internal electron conversion

VIII																	
2		4		6		8		10		12		14		16		18	
He		Ne		Ar		Kr		Xe		Rn		Fr		Ra		Ac	
VIIA		VA		IIIA		IA		VIIA		VA		IIIA		IA		Ac	
1		3		5		7		9		11		13		15		17	
H		Li		B		Al		Ga		In		Tl		Bi		Po	
IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA	
3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
Be		Mg		Ca		Sr		Ba		Ra		Fr		Ra		Ac	
IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA		IIA	
12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20	
Zn		Ga		Ge		As		Se		Br		Kr		Xe		Rn	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
21		22		23		24		25		26		27		28		29	
Sc		Ti		V		Cr		Mn		Fe		Co		Ni		Cu	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
30		31		32		33		34		35		36		37		38	
Zn		Ga		Ge		As		Se		Br		Kr		Xe		Rn	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
39		40		41		42		43		44		45		46		47	
Y		Zr		Nb		Mo		Tc		Ru		Rh		Pd		Ag	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
56		57		58		59		60		61		62		63		64	
Ba		La		Ce		Pr		Nd		Pm		Sm		Eu		Gd	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
82		83		84		85		86		87		88		89		90	
Pb		Bi		Po		At		Rn		Fr		Ra		Ac		Th	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
91		92		93		94		95		96		97		98		99	
Pa		U		Np		Pu		Am		Cm		Bk		Cf		Es	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
101		102		103		104		105		106		107		108		109	
Fr		Ra		Ac		Th		Pa		U		Np		Pu		Am	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	
110		111		112		113		114		115		116		117		118	
Ds		Dt		Dn		Nh		Fl		Lv		Ts		Og		Lr	
IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB		IIIB	



NOTES:
 (1) Bold - stable
 Blue - liquid
 Outline - synthetically prepared
 (2) Based upon carbon - 12. () indicates most stable or best known isotope.
 (3) Values for common elements are for 25°C and 1 atm.

With acknowledgement to
Wiley Scientific Co.