

Solution of mid-term questions

1. mass defect = $\Delta m = Zm_p + (A-Z)m_n - \text{Rest mass of nucleus}$

Rest mass of Al nucleus = Atomic mass - Rest mass of electrons
 $= 26.9815 - 13 \times 5.486 \times 10^{-4} = 26.973 \text{ u}$

$$\Delta m = 13 \times 1.007 + 14 \times 1.008 - 26.973 = 0.23 \text{ u}$$

$$\text{BE} = \Delta m c^2 = 0.23 \times 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \times (3 \times 10^8)^2$$
$$= 3.43 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Joules}$$

We can convert BE to eV

$$\text{BE} = \frac{3.43 \times 10^{-11}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = 2.14 \times 10^8 \text{ eV} = 214 \text{ MeV} \quad \left. \vphantom{\frac{3.43 \times 10^{-11}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}}} \right\} \text{ Bonus}$$

2. Factors affecting binding energy

1. Volume effects

2. Surface effects

3. Coulomb effects

4. Asymmetry effects (Pauli exclusion principle)

5. Pairing effects

3. SI units for radioactivity is Becquerel (Bq)

$$1 \text{ Bq} = 1 \text{ disintegration (decay) / sec}$$

4. Definition of nuclear cross-section should highlight
The following

* It is a measure of probability (likelihood) of a nuclear reaction between a neutron and nucleus to take place

* It has the units of area (Length)²

* Each reaction (e.g. scattering, or absorption) has its own cross-section (e.g. σ_s , σ_a)

Nuclear cross-section depends on

1. energy of neutron

2. the target nucleus