2 Hydrated zinc sulfate has the formula $ZnSO_4 \cdot \mathbf{y}H_2O$ where **y** is an integer.

Hydrated zinc sulfate decomposes when heated, losing only its water of crystallisation and becoming anhydrous.

You will determine the value of **y** in $ZnSO_4 \cdot \mathbf{y}H_2O$ by heating the hydrated salt until it becomes anhydrous.

FA 4 is hydrated zinc sulfate, $ZnSO_4 \cdot \mathbf{y}H_2O$.

(a) Method

- Weigh the crucible with its lid. Record the mass in the space for Results.
- Add between 3.20 g and 3.40 g of **FA 4** to the crucible.
- Weigh the crucible with its lid and **FA 4**. Record the mass.
- Place the crucible on the pipeclay triangle. Gently heat the crucible and contents for approximately 2 minutes with the lid on.
- Remove the lid. Heat the crucible and contents strongly for approximately 4 minutes.
- Replace the lid and leave the crucible and residue to cool for at least 5 minutes.

You may wish to begin work on Question 3 while the crucible is cooling.

- Weigh the crucible with its lid and its contents. Record the mass.
- Remove the lid. Heat the crucible strongly for approximately 3 minutes.
- Replace the lid and leave the crucible and residue to cool for at least 5 minutes.
- Weigh the crucible with its lid and its contents. Record the mass.
- Calculate the mass of **FA 4** used and the mass of residue obtained. Record the masses.

Results

I	
II	
III	
IV	
V	

[5]

(b) Calculations

(i) Calculate the amount, in mol, of anhydrous zinc sulfate residue formed in the decomposition of **FA 4**.

amount of $ZnSO_4$ = ... mol

Calculate the amount, in mol, of water of crystallisation lost.

amount of H_2O = ... mol
[2]

(ii) Calculate the value of **y** in the formula $ZnSO_4 \cdot \mathbf{y}H_2O$.

Show your working.

y = ... [2]

(c) A student suggests using this thermal decomposition method to investigate the number of moles of water of crystallisation in hydrated ethanedioic acid. The teacher says that this method is unsuitable.

Suggest why this method is unsuitable.

.....

..... [1]

[Total: 10]

Qualitative analysis

For each test you should record all your observations in the spaces provided.

Examples of observations include:
- colour changes seen
- the formation of any precipitate and its solubility (where appropriate) in an excess of the reagent added
- the formation of any gas and its identification (where appropriate) by a suitable test.

You should record clearly at what stage in a test an observation is made.

Where no change is observed, you should write ‘no change’.

Where reagents are selected for use in a test, the name or correct formula of the element or compound must be given.

If any solution is warmed, a boiling tube must be used. If a solid is heated, a hard-glass test-tube must be used.

Rinse and reuse test-tubes and boiling tubes where possible.

No additional tests should be attempted.