Reaction energies, activity and decay balances

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
fission /ˈfɪʃn/	**Fission** splits a uranium nucleus into two smaller nuclei.
mass defect /mæs ˈdiːfekt/	The **mass defect** turns into binding energy.
Q value /kjuː ˈvæljuː/	A positive **Q value** means the reaction releases rest-mass energy.
activity /ækˈtɪvɪti/	The sample's **activity** decreases as its radioactive population falls.
secular equilibrium /ˈsekjʊlə ˌiːkwɪˈlɪbrɪəm/	In **secular equilibrium**, parent and daughter have equal activities.

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