

Presenting the non-metals

Education in Chemistry March 2020 rsc.li/2JIBPZS

Use this resource to support lower achievers to explore the properties of non-metals.

Properties of non-metals

Below is a list of non-metal elements. For each element, colour in the squares according to the following code:

Red = property is typical of a non-metal

Blue = property is typical of a metal

Element	Melting Point (°C)	Appearance	Electrical conductivity
Carbon (graphite)	Sublimes at high temp (3600)	Shiny grey solid	Very good
Oxygen	<mark>-219</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Hydrogen	<mark>-259</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Sulfur	<mark>115</mark>	Yellow solid	No
Nitrogen	<mark>-210</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Fluorine	<mark>-220</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Chlorine	<mark>-102</mark>	Pale yellow gas	No
Phosphorus	44	Red or white solid	No
Bromine	-7	Red brown liquid	No
lodine	<mark>114</mark>	Shiny grey solid	No
Selenium	<mark>221</mark>	Shiny grey solid	Fair
Silicon	<mark>1414</mark>	Shiny grey solid	Fair
Helium	n/a no solid form at standard pressure	Colourless gas	No
Argon	<mark>-189</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Neon	<mark>-249</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Xenon	<mark>-112</mark>	Colourless gas	No
Radon	-71	Colourless gas	No
Krypton	<mark>-157</mark>	Colourless gas	No

1. Which elements have some properties of both metals and non-metals? *Carbon, selenium and silicon.*

2. Is there a clear trend with their location in the Periodic Table? Explain your answer. Selenium and silicon are near to the dividing line between metals and non-metals. Carbon is not, but the data given is only for one form of carbon. There are other forms that may display more 'non-metal-like' properties.