

So the ratio of the two energies is

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{E_{\text{trans}}}{E_{\text{pot}}} &= -\frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 m_e n^2 a_0^2} \times \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 e^2 a_0}{e^2} = -\frac{h^2 \epsilon_0}{2\pi m_e a_0 e^2} \\ &= -\frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s})^2 \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}}{2\pi \times 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg} \times 5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m} \times (1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2} \\ &= -0.50.\end{aligned}$$

Marks for working:

Checking

- It is reasonable that E_{trans} should increase with increasing $|-E_{\text{pot}}|$, from the viewpoint of Schrödinger's equation. A very large negative potential energy leads to an electron that is confined to a very small region. By the uncertainty principle, one would expect such an electron to have a high kinetic energy.
- Treating the electron as a quantum-mechanical particle in a one-dimensional infinite square well whose width D is equal to the circumference $2\pi r a_0$ of the n th Bohr orbit gives a kinetic energy of

$$\frac{n^2 h^2}{8m_e D^2} = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8m_e \times 4\pi^2 n^4 a_0^2} = \frac{h^2}{32\pi^2 m_e n^2 a_0^2}$$

which has the same order of magnitude (to within a factor of 4) as our answer.

(Note: Only one appropriate check is required for full marks.)

Marks for checking:

Total for Q20:

2

2

16

$$\begin{aligned}m v^2 &= \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \\ r &= \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m v^2} \\ L &= \frac{nh}{2\pi} = r m v \\ r &= \frac{nh}{2\pi m v} \\ \frac{e^2}{2\pi\epsilon_0 m v} &= \frac{nh}{2\pi m v} \\ v &= \frac{e^2}{nh\epsilon_0} \\ n=4, r &= 8.43 \times 10^{-10} \\ n=5, r &= 1\end{aligned}$$