

National Exams May 2003

98-MET-B7: Physical Metallurgy of Non-Ferrous Metals and Alloys

3 hours duration

Notes:

1. If doubt exists as to the interpretation of any question, the candidate is urged to submit with the answer paper, a clear statement of any assumptions made.
2. Candidates may use one of two calculators, the Casio or Sharp approved models. This is a closed book exam.
3. Any five (5) questions constitute a complete paper (100 marks total). Only the first five questions as they appear in your answer book will be marked.
4. All questions are of equal value.

Question 1:

- (a) You have been asked to develop a more energy efficient processing schedule for the production of aluminum cans. In order to prevent cracking the cans must be annealed during deformation to promote dynamic recovery and recrystallization of the microstructure. Discuss (2) methods to indicate how and why the recrystallization temperature (i.e. the annealing temperature) of the aluminum can be lowered. *(10 Marks)*
- (b) The production of sheet material for structural applications requires careful control of annealing-induced transformations, either during rolling (i.e. hot working) or after cold rolling. Discuss two factors that control grain growth (i.e. ultimate grain size) during the annealing of a polycrystalline aluminum alloy deformed to a specific strain. *(10 Marks)*

Question 2:

- (a) Describe in general how wrought Al-alloys are classified. How are Al casting alloys classified? *(10 Marks)*

- (b) List the four (4) basic temper designations for Al-alloys and describe the alloy condition for each case? *(10 Marks)*

Question 3:

- (a) Outline the three principal steps necessary for precipitation strengthening of Al-Cu alloy (e.g. Al-4%Cu). *(6 Marks)*
- (b) What is the difference between artificial and natural aging heat treatments? *(6 Marks)*
- (c) Stress-corrosion cracking (SCC) is a corrosion mechanism observed in high-strength Al-alloys. Select a representative Al-alloy grade that would be susceptible to SCC and describe the microstructural mechanism of SCC for the alloy you have chosen. *(8 Marks)*

Question 4:

- (a) What are the major alloying elements added to magnesium to make magnesium alloys for engineering applications? (*4 Marks*)
- (b) Why is grain refining not necessary for die-cast magnesium alloys? (*4 Marks*)
- (c) What is the precipitation sequence in Mg-Al alloys which are solution-heat-treated, quenched and aged? Is the precipitation hardening effect large or small? Explain. (*8 Marks*)
- (d) Why can't magnesium alloys be directly connected to metals like steel and copper in most engineering designs? (*4 Marks*)

Question 5:

- (a) What alloying elements are used to make the alloy brasses? *(4 Marks)*
- (b) What is the dezincification of brasses? What is the mechanism for this type of corrosion? *(6 Marks)*
- (c) Why is phosphorus added to the tin bronzes? What is the chief disadvantage of these alloys when compared to the brasses? *(6 Marks)*
- (d) What special property does aluminum provide to the aluminum bronzes to make them useful engineering alloys? *(4 Marks)*

Question 6:

- (a) What are the principal solid-solution strengthening elements added to nickel-based superalloys? *(4 Marks)*
- (b) How do carbides strengthen cobalt-base superalloys? *(5 Marks)*
- (c) How does the precipitation strengthening of the cobalt-base superalloys differ from the nickel-base superalloys? *(6 Marks)*
- (d) What is hot corrosion of superalloys? What is one way in which hot corrosion resistance can be increased? *(5 Marks)*

Question 7:

- (a) What are the three types of alloy phase stabilizing systems formed in binary titanium alloys? **(6 Marks)**
- (b) Why are beta titanium alloys more cold-formable than the alpha-titanium alloys? **(5 Marks)**
- (c) Why must the amount of aluminum alloyed with titanium be limited to about 8%? **(4 Marks)**
- (d) Why do transformed or partly transformed microstructures in titanium alloys have, in general, higher fracture toughness than equiaxed microstructures? **(5 Marks)**

Question 8:

The microstructure of as-cast copper-based alloys can be modified using one of several heat treatments. Briefly describe each of the following treatments. (Note: Your answer should consider the heat treatment procedure and the resulting microstructural changes that develop).

- (a) precipitation hardening (*5 marks*)
- (b) spinodal decomposition (*5 marks*)
- (c) homogenizing (*5 marks*)
- (d) stress-relieving (*5 marks*)