

***ConcepTest on Trends in Atomic Sizes of Elements in the Same Period:***

The elements, O, C, H and N, account for more than 96% of the mass of the human body. Place them in order of increasing atomic size.

1. H, C, N, O
2. C, N, O, H
3. H, O, N, C
4. H, O, C, N

*Correct Answer:* **3. H, O, N, C**

*Comment to Instructor:* If students look lost, tell them to examine the location of the elements in the periodic table. Choice 1 indicates they think that an increase of atomic number or atomic mass is linked to an increase in atomic size. Choice 2 indicates they have listed the elements in order of decreasing size. Choice 4 indicates they are probably guessing blindly.

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