Answer the following questions relating to Fe and its ions, Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+}.

(a) Write the ground-state electron configuration of the Fe^{2+} ion.

$1s^2\ 2s^2\ 2p^6\ 3s^2\ 3p^6\ 3d^6$ OR $[Ar]\ 3d^6$	1 point is earned for a correct electron configuration.

Ion	Ionic Radius (pm)
Fe^{2+}	92
Fe^{3+}	79

(b) The radii of the ions are given in the table above. Using principles of atomic structure, explain why the radius of the Fe^{2+} ion is larger than the radius of the Fe^{3+} ion.

Both ions have the same nuclear charge; however, the greater number of electrons in the outermost shell of Fe^{2+} results in greater electron-electron repulsion within that shell, leading to a larger radius.	1 point is earned for a valid explanation.

(c) Fe^{3+} ions interact more strongly with water molecules in aqueous solution than Fe^{2+} ions do. Give one reason for this stronger interaction, and justify your answer using Coulomb's law.

Coulomb's law: $F \propto \frac{q_1\ q_2}{r^2}$ (need not be explicitly stated) In comparison to the Fe^{2+} ion, the Fe^{3+} ion has a higher charge. OR The smaller size of Fe^{3+} allows it to get closer to a water molecule.	1 point is earned for a valid explanation.

A student obtains a solution that contains an unknown concentration of $Fe^{2+}(aq)$. To determine the concentration of $Fe^{2+}(aq)$ in the solution, the student titrates a sample of the solution with $MnO_4^-(aq)$, which converts $Fe^{2+}(aq)$ to $Fe^{3+}(aq)$, as represented by the following equation.

$$5\ Fe^{2+}(aq) + MnO_4^-(aq) + 8\ H^+(aq) \rightarrow 5\ Fe^{3+}(aq) + Mn^{2+}(aq) + 4\ H_2O(l)$$

(d) Write the balanced equation for the half-reaction for the oxidation of $Fe^{2+}(aq)$ to $Fe^{3+}(aq)$.

$Fe^{2+}(aq) \rightarrow Fe^{3+}(aq) + e^-$	1 point is earned for the correct half-reaction.