

## Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE  
NAME

--

CENTRE  
NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--

CANDIDATE  
NUMBER

--	--	--	--

**PHYSICS**

9702/42

Paper 4 A Level Structured Questions

February/March 2020

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You may use a calculator.
- You should show all your working and use appropriate units.

### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 100.
- The number of marks for **each** question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has 28 pages. Blank pages are indicated.

**Data**

speed of light in free space	$c = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
permeability of free space	$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$
permittivity of free space	$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
	$(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ m F}^{-1})$
elementary charge	$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
the Planck constant	$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
unified atomic mass unit	$1 \text{ u} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
rest mass of electron	$m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
rest mass of proton	$m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
molar gas constant	$R = 8.31 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
the Avogadro constant	$N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
the Boltzmann constant	$k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$
gravitational constant	$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$
acceleration of free fall	$g = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$



## Formulae

uniformly accelerated motion

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$$

work done on/by a gas

$$W = p\Delta V$$

gravitational potential

$$\phi = -\frac{Gm}{r}$$

hydrostatic pressure

$$p = \rho gh$$

pressure of an ideal gas

$$p = \frac{1}{3} \frac{Nm}{V} \langle c^2 \rangle$$

simple harmonic motion

$$a = -\omega^2 x$$

velocity of particle in s.h.m.

$$v = v_0 \cos \omega t$$

$$v = \pm \omega \sqrt{(x_0^2 - x^2)}$$

Doppler effect

$$f_o = \frac{f_s v}{v \pm v_s}$$

electric potential

$$V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

capacitors in series

$$1/C = 1/C_1 + 1/C_2 + \dots$$

capacitors in parallel

$$C = C_1 + C_2 + \dots$$

energy of charged capacitor

$$W = \frac{1}{2} QV$$

electric current

$$I = Anvq$$

resistors in series

$$R = R_1 + R_2 + \dots$$

resistors in parallel

$$1/R = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + \dots$$

Hall voltage

$$V_H = \frac{BI}{ntq}$$

alternating current/voltage

$$x = x_0 \sin \omega t$$

radioactive decay

$$x = x_0 \exp(-\lambda t)$$

decay constant

$$\lambda = \frac{0.693}{t_{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

Answer all the questions in the spaces provided.

- 1 (a) Define *gravitational potential* at a point.

Work done per unit mass to bring a point from infinity to a point.

[2]

- (b) TESS is a satellite of mass 360 kg in a circular orbit about the Earth as shown in Fig. 1.1.

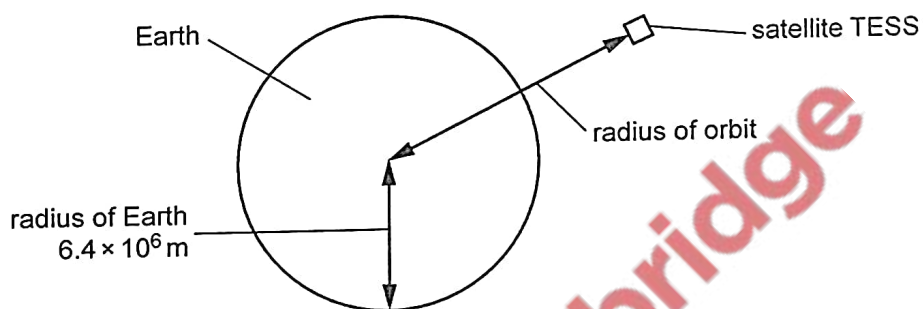


Fig. 1.1 (not to scale)

The radius of the Earth is  $6.4 \times 10^6$  m and the mass of the Earth, considered to be a point mass at its centre, is  $6.0 \times 10^{24}$  kg.

- (i) It takes TESS 13.7 days to orbit the Earth.

Show that the radius of orbit of TESS is  $2.4 \times 10^8$  m.

$$F_g = F_c$$

$$\frac{GMm}{r^2} = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}} = v$$

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

$$\therefore \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}} = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

$$\therefore \frac{GM}{r} = \frac{4\pi^2 r^2}{T^2}$$

$$T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2 r^3}{GM}$$

$$\therefore r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{T^2 GM}{4\pi^2}} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{(13.7 \times 24 \times 3600)^2 \times 6.0 \times 10^{24}}{4\pi^2}}$$

$$= 24217636 \approx 2.4 \times 10^8 \text{ m} \quad [3]$$

- (ii) Calculate the change in gravitational potential energy between TESS in orbit and TESS on a launch pad on the surface of the Earth.

$$GPE_{\text{(orbit)}} = -\frac{GMm}{r} = \frac{-6.67 \times 10^{-11} \times 60 \times 10^{24} \times 360}{2.4 \times 10^8} = -608300000$$

$$GPE_{\text{(surface)}} = -\frac{GMm}{r} = \frac{-6.67 \times 10^{-11} \times 6.0 \times 10^{24} \times 360}{6.4 \times 10^6} = -2.25125 \times 10^{10}$$

$$\Delta GPE = -6 \times 10^8 - (-2.3 \times 10^{10})$$

$$= 2.24 \times 10^{10}$$

change in gravitational potential energy =  $2.2 \times 10^{10}$  ..... J [3]

- (iii) Use the information in (b)(i) to calculate the ratio:

$\frac{\text{gravitational field strength on surface of Earth}}{\text{gravitational field strength at location of TESS in orbit}}$

$$g = \frac{GM}{r^2} \quad \frac{\frac{GM}{r_E^2}}{\frac{GM}{r_0^2}} = \frac{r_0^2}{r_E^2} = \frac{(2.4 \times 10^8)^2}{(6.4 \times 10^6)^2}$$

$$= 1406.25$$

$$\approx 1400$$

ratio =  $1400$  ..... [2]

[Total: 10]

- 2 A large container of volume  $85 \text{ m}^3$  is filled with  $110 \text{ kg}$  of an ideal gas. The pressure of the gas is  $1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$  at temperature  $T$ .

The mass of  $1.0 \text{ mol}$  of the gas is  $32 \text{ g}$ .

- (a) Show that the temperature  $T$  of the gas is approximately  $300 \text{ K}$ .

$$pV = nRT$$

$$n = \frac{110 \times 1000}{32} = 3437.5$$

$$1.0 \times 10^5 \times 85 = 3437.5 \times 8.31 \times T$$

$$T = \frac{1.0 \times 10^5 \times 85}{3437.5 \times 8.31} = 297.56 \text{ K}$$

$$\approx 300 \text{ K}$$

□

[3]

- (b) The temperature of the gas is increased to  $350 \text{ K}$  at constant volume. The specific heat capacity of the gas for this change is  $0.66 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ .

Calculate the energy supplied to the gas by heating.

$$E = mc \Delta T$$

$$= 110 \times 0.66 \times 50$$

$$= 3630 \text{ J}$$

$$\approx 3600 \text{ J (2sf)}$$

energy = 3600 ..... J [2]

- (c) Explain how movement of the gas molecules causes pressure in the container.

As the gas particles collide with the wall of the container, their speed reduces i.e. there is a change in momentum. therefore there is a force on the wall of the container. The force caused by ~~each~~ <sup>sum</sup> molecules per unit area is the pressure caused. (pressure = Force/Area). The higher the temperature, more the collisions. ∴ More the pressure.

[3]

- (d) The temperature of a gas depends on the root-mean-square (r.m.s.) speed of its molecules.

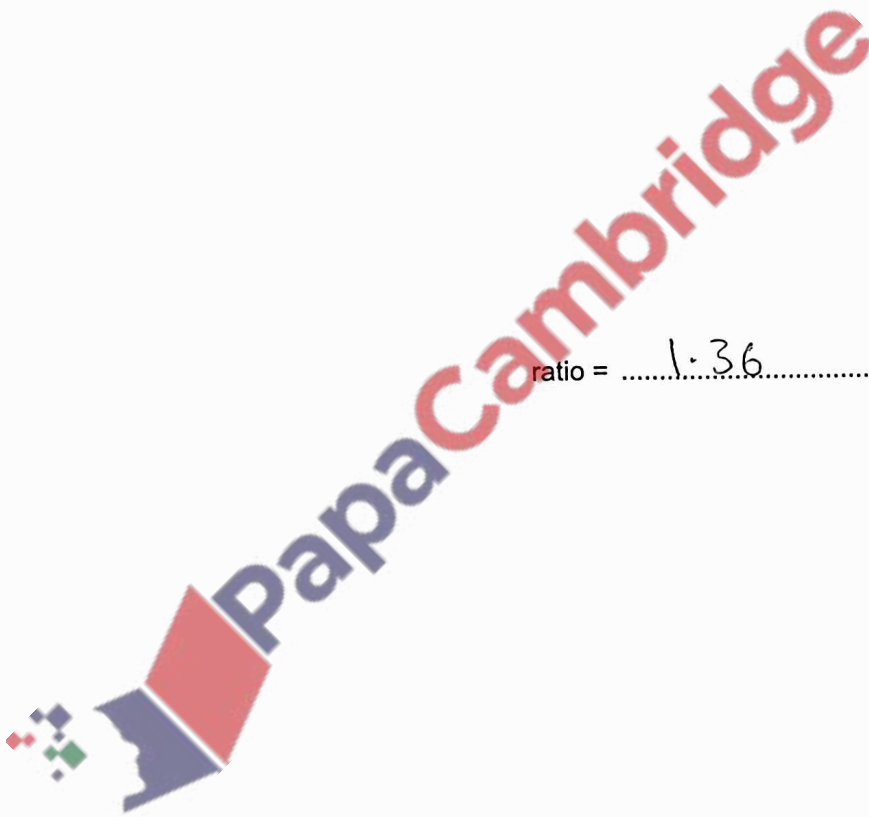
Calculate the ratio:

$$\frac{\text{r.m.s. speed of gas molecules at 350 K}}{\text{r.m.s. speed of gas molecules at 300 K}}$$

$$T \propto \sqrt{v} \quad \therefore \frac{T_{350}^2}{T_{300}^2} = \frac{350^2}{300^2} = 1.36$$

ratio = .....1.36..... [2]

[Total: 10]



- 3 (a) A body undergoes simple harmonic motion.

The variation with displacement  $x$  of its velocity  $v$  is shown in Fig. 3.1.

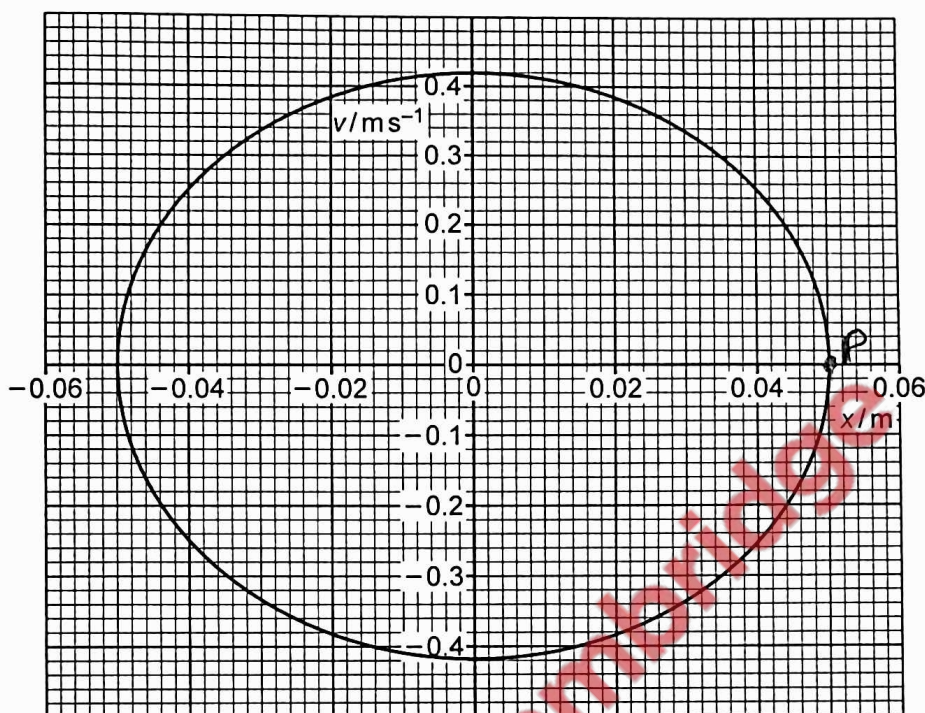


Fig. 3.1

- (i) State the amplitude  $x_0$  of the oscillations.

$$x_0 = \dots\dots\dots 0.050 \dots\dots\dots \text{ m [1]}$$

- (ii) Calculate the period  $T$  of the oscillations.

$$s = \frac{D}{T} = \frac{Q}{T} = \omega$$

$$\omega = \frac{v}{r} = \frac{0.42}{0.05}$$

$$\omega = 2\pi f = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

$$\therefore \omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$

$$\therefore T = \frac{2\pi \times 0.05}{0.42}$$

$$= 0.7479$$

$$\approx 0.75 \text{ (2sf)}$$

$$T = \dots\dots\dots 0.75 \dots\dots\dots \text{ s [3]}$$

- (iii) On Fig. 3.1, label with a P a point where the body has maximum potential energy. [1]

at extreme  
at amplitude



- (b) A bar magnet is suspended from the free end of a spring, as shown in Fig. 3.2.

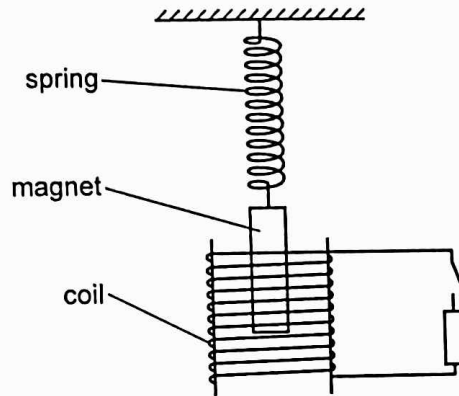


Fig. 3.2

One pole of the magnet is situated in a coil of wire. The coil is connected in series with a switch and a resistor. The switch is open.

The magnet is displaced vertically and then released. The magnet oscillates with simple harmonic motion.

- (i) State Faraday's law of electromagnetic induction.

Faraday's law states EMF is proportional to rate of change of magnetic flux.  

$$EMF \propto \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta t}$$

[2]

- (ii) The switch is now closed. Explain why the oscillations of the magnet are damped.

As the switch is closed a current passes through the coil. This causes a magnetic field to be induced in the coil. Now there are 2 magnetic fields (the coil & the magnet) they cause opposing forces on the magnet. (due to eddy current heat is also lost in the resistor also.)

[3]

[Total: 10]

- 4 (a) (i) Explain why ultrasound used in medical diagnosis is emitted in pulses.

As this allows the emitted & reflected signals to be distinguished from each other and this is also because signal can't be emitted & detected at same time [2]

- (ii) Explain the principles of the **detection** of ultrasound waves used in medical diagnosis.

A piezo electric crystal is used to detect ultrasound waves. When ultrasound waves are reflected back they hit the piezo-electric crystal causing it to vibrate these vibrations cause an EMF to be induced in the crystal.

- (b) The specific acoustic impedances  $Z$  of some media are given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1

media	$Z/\text{kg m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
air	$4.3 \times 10^2$
gel	$1.5 \times 10^6$
soft tissue	$1.6 \times 10^6$

- (i) The specific acoustic impedances of two media are  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$ . The intensity reflection coefficient  $\alpha$  for the boundary of these two media is given by:

$$\alpha = \frac{(Z_1 - Z_2)^2}{(Z_1 + Z_2)^2}$$

Calculate, to three significant figures, the fraction of the ultrasound intensity that is reflected at a boundary between air and soft tissue.

$$\alpha = \frac{(1.6 \times 10^6 - 4.3 \times 10^2)^2}{(1.6 \times 10^6 + 4.3 \times 10^2)^2} = 0.9989 \approx 0.999$$

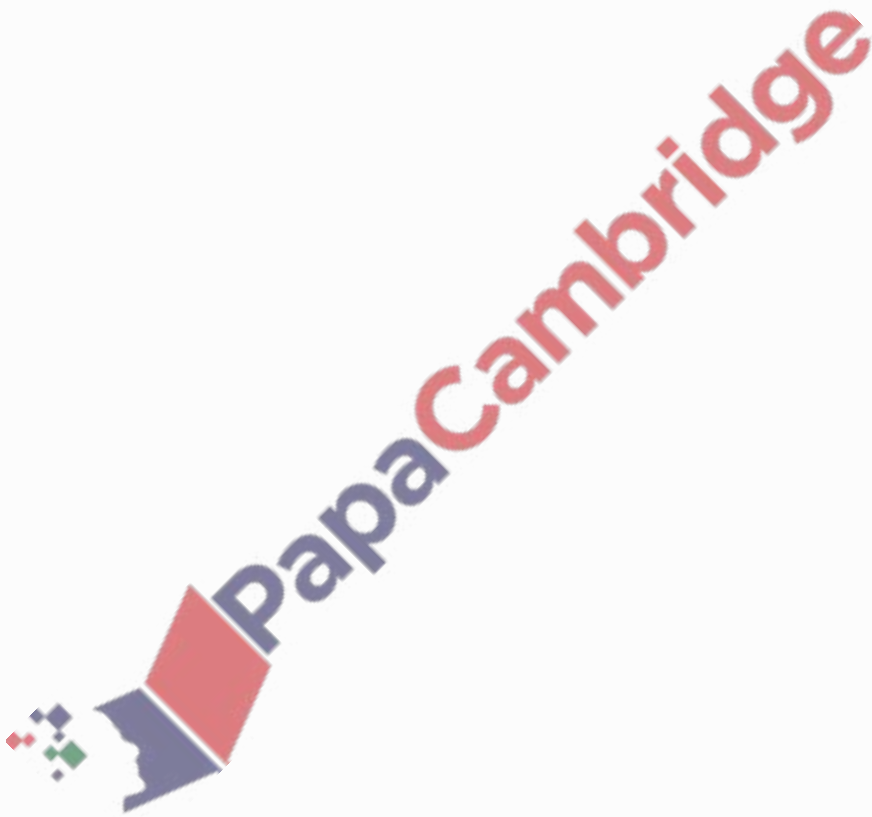
$$\alpha = 0.999 \quad [1]$$

- (ii) Use your value in (b)(i) to explain why gel is applied to the surface of the skin during an ultrasound scan.

..... Gel is needed as the ultrasound doesn't  
..... get reflected as the value of acoustic ~~impedance~~  $Z$   
..... impedances are similar less  
..... waves are reflected

[2]

[Total: 8]



5 (a) State two advantages of the transmission of data in digital form, rather than analogue form.

1. signal can be regenerated over long distances if required.
2. greater transmission rate

[2]

(b) Optic fibres are used for the transmission of data.

(i) A signal in an optic fibre is carried by an electromagnetic wave of frequency  $1.36 \times 10^{14}$  Hz. The speed of the wave in the fibre is  $2.07 \times 10^8$  ms<sup>-1</sup>.

For this electromagnetic wave, determine the ratio:

$$\frac{\text{wavelength in free space}}{\text{wavelength in fibre}}$$

$$v = f\lambda \quad \therefore v \propto \lambda$$

$$\therefore \frac{\text{Velocity (free space)}}{\text{Velocity (fibre)}} = \frac{3 \times 10^8}{2.07 \times 10^8} = 1.449 \approx 1.45$$

$$\text{ratio} = 1.45 \quad [2]$$

(ii) The attenuation per unit length of the signal in the fibre is  $0.40$  dB km<sup>-1</sup>. The input power is  $1.5$  mW and the output power is  $0.060$  mW.

Calculate the length of the fibre.

$$0.40 \times L = 10 \log \left( \frac{P_i}{P_o} \right)$$

$$0.40 L = 10 \log \left( \frac{1.5 \times 10^{-3}}{0.060 \times 10^{-3}} \right) \approx$$

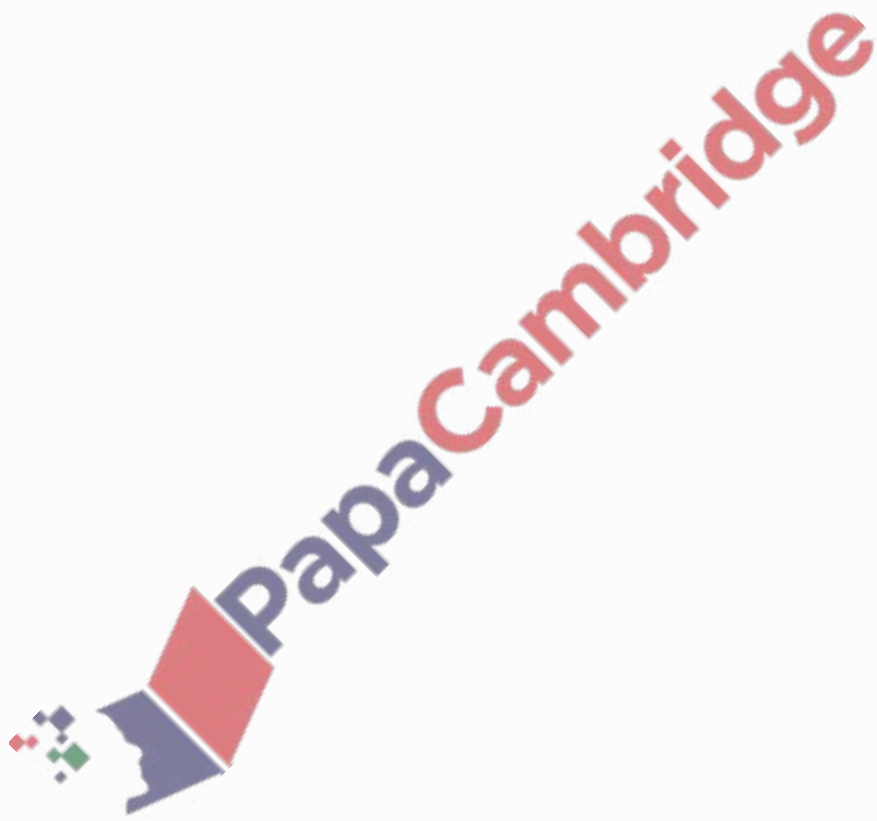
$$0.40 L = 13.9794$$

$$\therefore L = 34.94$$

$$\approx 35.0$$

$$\text{length} = 35.0 \text{ km} \quad [3]$$

[Total: 7]



- 6 Two positively charged identical metal spheres A and B have their centres separated by a distance of 24 cm, as shown in Fig. 6.1.

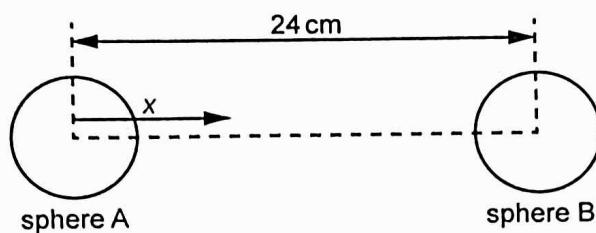


Fig. 6.1 (not to scale)

The variation with distance  $x$  from the centre of A of the electric field strength  $E$  due to the two spheres, along the line joining their centres, is represented in Fig. 6.2.

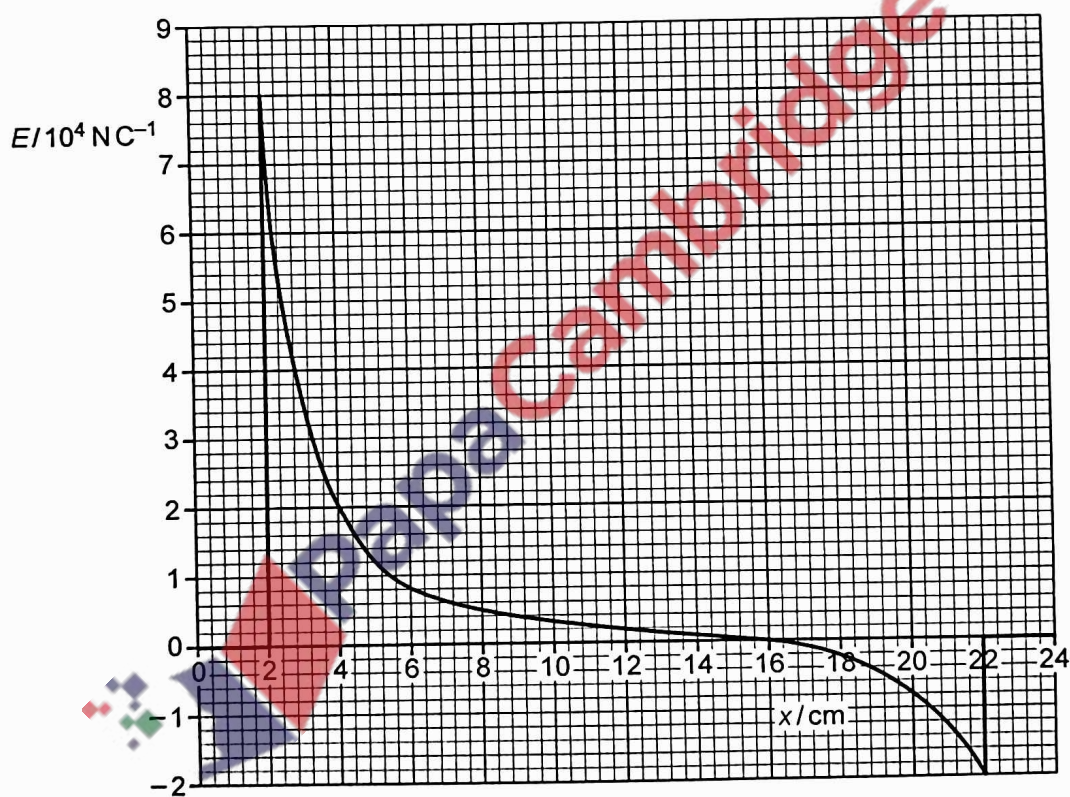


Fig. 6.2

- (a) State the radius of the two spheres.

radius = ..... 2.0 ..... cm [1]

(b) The charge on sphere A is  $3.6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}$ . Determine the charge  $Q_B$  on sphere B.

Assume that spheres A and B can be treated as point charges at their centres.

Explain your working.

Electric field strength of A & B equal at 16cm  
(is equal net 0)

$$\therefore E_A - E_B = 0$$

$$\frac{Q_A}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} - \frac{Q_B}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{22-16}{24-16} = 8\text{cm}$$

$$\frac{Q_A}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_A^2} = \frac{Q_B}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_B^2}$$

$$Q_B = \frac{3.6 \times 10^{-9}}{0.16^2} \times 0.08^2 = 9 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$\frac{3.6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}}{(0.16)^2} = \frac{Q_B}{(0.08)^2}$$

$$Q_B = 9 \times 10^{-10} \text{ C [3]}$$

(c) (i) Sphere B is removed.

Use information from (b) to determine the electric potential on the surface of sphere A.

$$V = \frac{Qk}{r} = \frac{3.6 \times 10^{-9}}{0.12} \times \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

$$= 1617.759$$

$$\approx 1600$$

electric potential = 1600 V [2]

(ii) Calculate the capacitance of sphere A.

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{3.6 \times 10^{-9}}{1617.759} = 2.225 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$\approx 2.2 \times 10^{-12}$$

capacitance =  $2.2 \times 10^{-12}$  F [2]

[Total: 8]

- 7 (a) On Fig. 7.1, sketch the temperature characteristic of a negative temperature coefficient (n.t.c.) thermistor. Label the axes with quantity and unit.

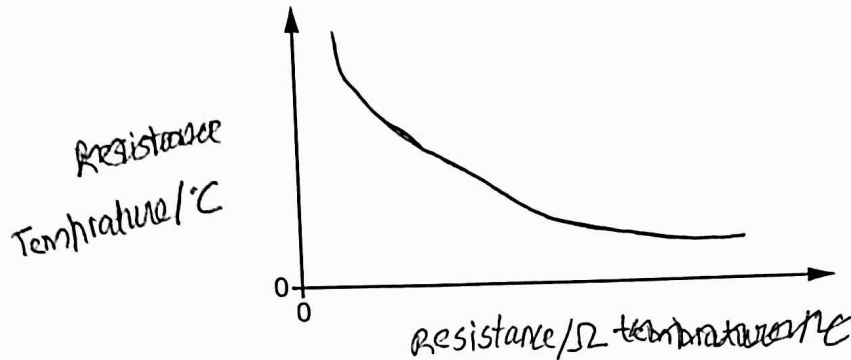


Fig. 7.1

[2]

- (b) An n.t.c. thermistor and a resistor are connected as shown in Fig. 7.2.

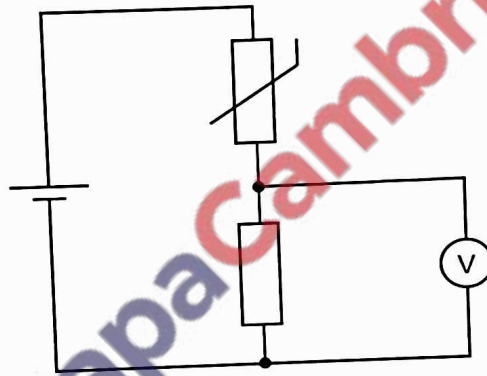


Fig. 7.2

The temperature of the thermistor is increased.

State and explain the change, if any, to the reading on the voltmeter.

As temperature increases, the resistance of the n.t.c. decreases hence as it is a potential divider circuit, the reading on the voltmeter increases. [2]  
 (As there is an increase in resistance in the fixed resistor)



- (c) The variation with the fractional change in length  $\Delta x/x$  of the fractional change in resistance  $\Delta R/R$  for a strain gauge is shown in Fig. 7.3.

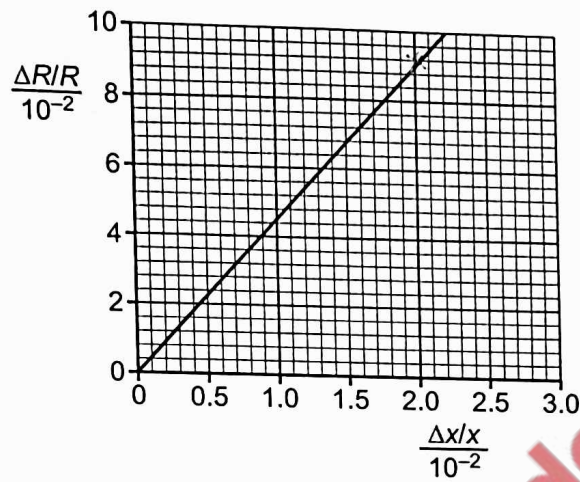


Fig. 7.3

The unstrained resistance of the gauge is  $120\ \Omega$ . Calculate the new resistance of the gauge when it is extended to a strain of 0.020.

$$\text{at } \frac{\Delta x}{x} = 0.020$$

$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = 0.090$$

$$\therefore \Delta R = 0.090 \times 120 = 10.8\ \Omega$$

$$\therefore R = 120 + 10.8 = 130.8\ \Omega \approx 130\ \Omega \text{ (2sf)}$$

resistance = 130.....  $\Omega$  [3]

[Total: 7]

- 8 (a) Explain what is meant by a magnetic field.

A region in which a moving <sup>charge</sup> ~~charged~~ particle experiences a force.  
 A region in which a current carrying conductor experiences a force. [1]

- (b) The apparatus shown in Fig. 8.1 is used in an experiment to find the magnetic flux density  $B$  between the poles of a horseshoe magnet. Assume the magnetic field is uniform between the poles of the magnet and zero elsewhere.

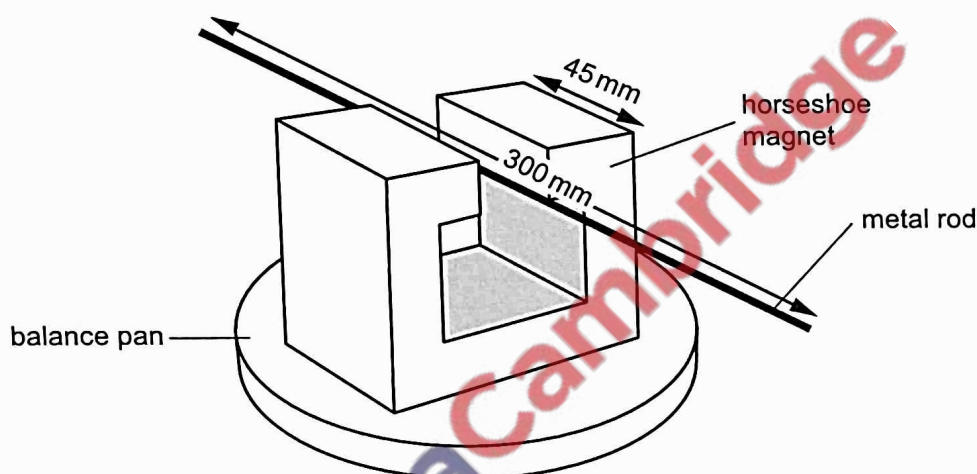


Fig. 8.1

The rigid metal rod of length 300 mm is fixed in position perpendicular to the direction of the magnetic field. The poles of the magnet are both 45 mm long. There is a current in the rod that causes a force on the rod. The balance is used to determine the magnitude of the force.

The variation with current  $I$  of the force  $F$  on the rod is shown in Fig. 8.2.

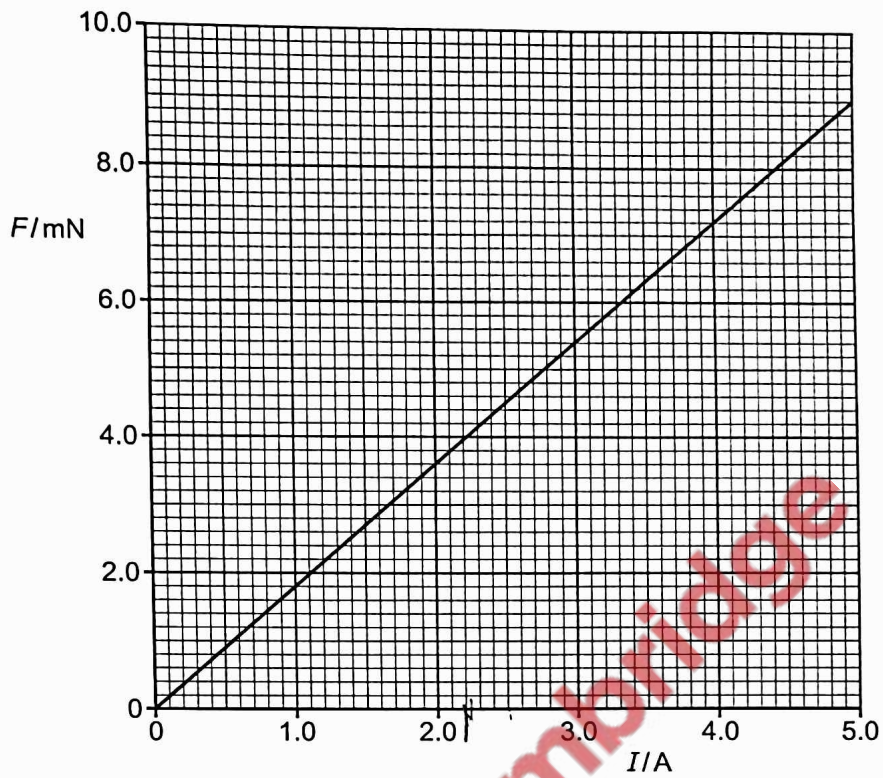


Fig. 8.2

Calculate the magnetic flux density  $B$ .

$$F = BIL$$

$$\frac{F}{IL} = B$$



$$\frac{4 \times 10^{-3}}{2.2 \times 4.5 \times 10^{-3}} = 4.04 \times 10^{-2}$$

$$= 0.0404 = 0.04 \text{ (2sf)}$$

$$B = \dots 0.04 \text{ T [2]}$$

- (c) In a different experiment, electrons are accelerated through a potential difference and then enter a region of magnetic field. The magnetic field is into the plane of the paper and is perpendicular to the direction of travel of the electrons, as illustrated in Fig. 8.3.

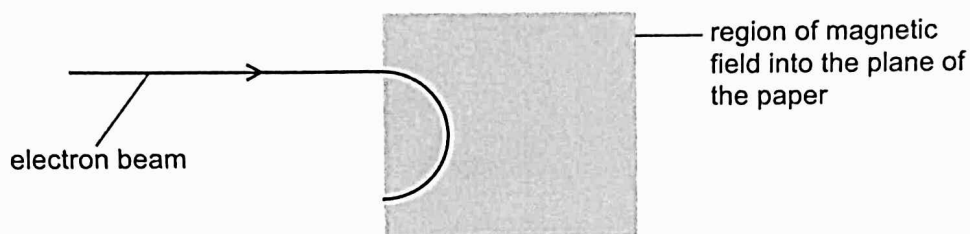


Fig. 8.3

- (i) Explain why the electrons follow a circular path when inside the region of the magnetic field.

As the force & velocity (direction) are always perpendicular the force causes the electron to travel in a circular motion without affecting its speed (however  $v$  changes) [3]

- (ii) State the measurements needed in order to determine the charge to mass ratio,  $e/m_e$ , of an electron.

Magnetic flux density of the magnetic field ( $B$ ) & the radius of the path is required. [2]

[Total: 8]

- 9 (a) The output of a power supply is represented by:

$$V = \frac{9.0}{\sqrt{2}} \sin 20t$$

$$V_{\text{max}} = V_{\text{rms}} \sin \omega t$$

where  $V$  is the potential difference in volts and  $t$  is the time in seconds.

Determine, for the output of the supply:

- (i) the root-mean-square (r.m.s.) voltage,  $V_{\text{r.m.s.}}$ .

$$\frac{9}{\sqrt{2}} = 6.36 \text{ V}$$

$$V_{\text{r.m.s.}} = \dots 6.4 \dots \text{V [1]}$$

- (ii) the period  $T$ .

$$\omega = 20$$

$$\omega = 2\pi f$$

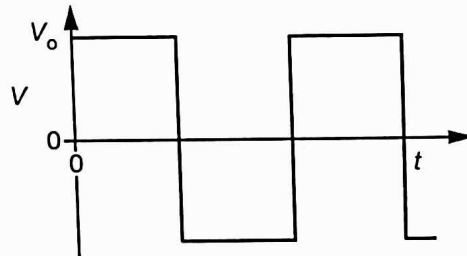
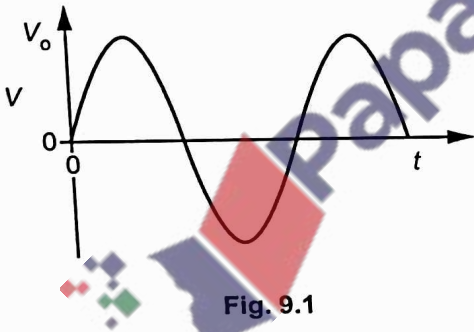
$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{20}$$

$$= 0.314$$

$$T = \dots 0.31 \dots \text{s [2]}$$

- (b) The variations with time  $t$  of the output potential difference  $V$  from two different power supplies are shown in Fig. 9.1 and Fig. 9.2.



The graphs are drawn to the same scale.

State and explain whether the same power would be dissipated in a  $1.0 \Omega$  resistor connected to each power supply.

No as the root mean square voltages would differ for each supply.

[1]

- (c) (i) The power supply in (a) is connected to a transformer. The input power to the transformer is 80W.

The secondary coil is connected to a resistor. The r.m.s. voltage across the resistor is 120V. The r.m.s. current in the secondary coil is 0.64A.

Calculate the efficiency of the transformer.

Power constant in 100% eff.

$\therefore P_{in} = 80W$

$P_{in\ secondary} = 0.64 \times 120 = 76.8W$

$\frac{76.8}{80} \times 100 = 96\%$

efficiency = ..... 96% ..... [3]

- (ii) State one reason why the transformer is not 100% efficient.

heat loss due to eddy currents ..... [1]

[Total: 8]

- 10 (a) By reference to the photoelectric effect, explain what is meant by *work function energy*.

..... the minimum amount of energy required by  
 ..... a photon to emit an electron from the  
 ..... surface of the metal. .... [2]

- (b) In an experiment, electromagnetic radiation of frequency  $f$  is incident on a metal surface.

The results in Fig. 10.1 show the variation with frequency  $f$  of the maximum kinetic energy  $E_{\text{MAX}}$  of electrons emitted from the surface.

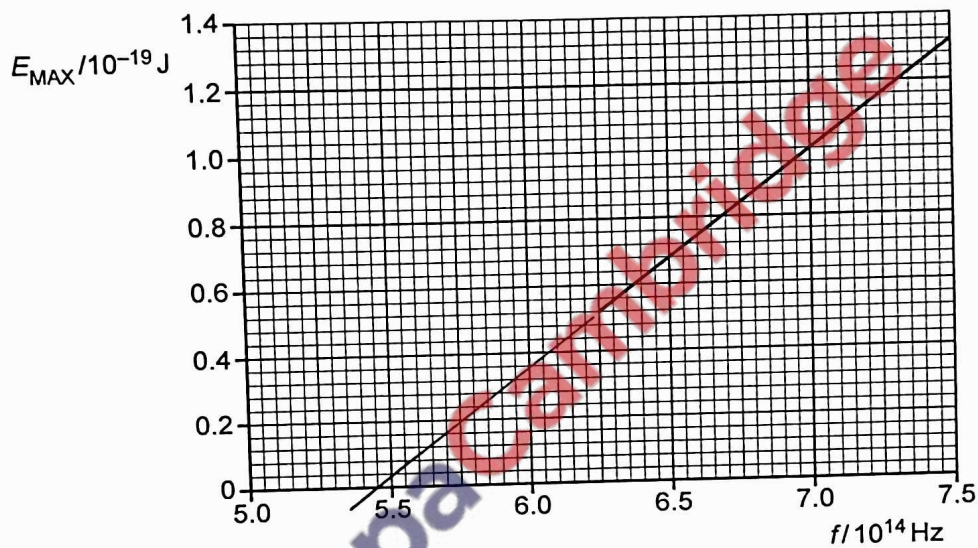


Fig. 10.1

- (i) Determine the work function energy in J of the metal used in the experiment.

work function =  $E_p - KE_e$   
 $E = hf$   
 $E = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \times 5.45 \times 10^{14} = 3.61 \times 10^{-19}$   
 work function energy =  $3.6 \times 10^{-19}$  J [2]

- (ii) The work function energy in eV for some metals is given in Table 10.1.

Table 10.1

metal	work function / eV
tungsten	4.49
magnesium	3.68
potassium	2.26

Determine the metal used in the experiment. Show your working.

$$1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J} \rightarrow 1 \text{ eV} \quad \therefore 3.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J} = \frac{3.6 \times 10^{-19}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = 2.25 \text{ eV}$$

$\therefore$  as metal is potassium.

[1]

- (c) The intensity of the electromagnetic radiation for one particular frequency in (b) is increased.

State and explain the change, if any, in:

- (i) the maximum kinetic energy of the emitted electrons

Increases as no of photons with higher KE increase

[1]

- (ii) the rate of emission of photoelectrons.

Increases as there are more photons per unit time per unit area incident.

[1]

[Total: 7]



- 11 Electrons are accelerated through a potential difference of 100 kV. They are then incident on a metal target, they decelerate, and X-ray photons are emitted.

- (a) Calculate the maximum possible frequency of the emitted X-ray photons.

Energy photon =  $eV$   
 $hf = eV$   
 $f = \frac{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 100 \times 10^3}{6.63 \times 10^{-34}} = 2.413 \times 10^{19}$   
 frequency =  $2.4 \times 10^{19}$  Hz [2]

- (b) Explain why an aluminium filter may be placed in the X-ray beam when producing an X-ray image of a patient.

An Aluminium filter is placed to absorb low energy X-ray waves that can be absorbed by the body and cause damage to it without helping form the X-ray image.

- (c) The linear attenuation (absorption) coefficients  $\mu$  for X-rays in bone, blood and muscle are given in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1

	$\mu/\text{cm}^{-1}$
bone	3.0
blood	0.23
muscle	0.22

- (i) A beam of these X-rays is incident on a person.

Calculate the percentage of the intensity of the X-ray beam that has been absorbed after passing through 0.80 cm of blood.

$$\frac{I}{I_0} = e^{-\mu x}$$

$$= e^{-0.23 \times 0.8} = 0.832$$

$\therefore 100 - 83 = 17\%$  absorbed

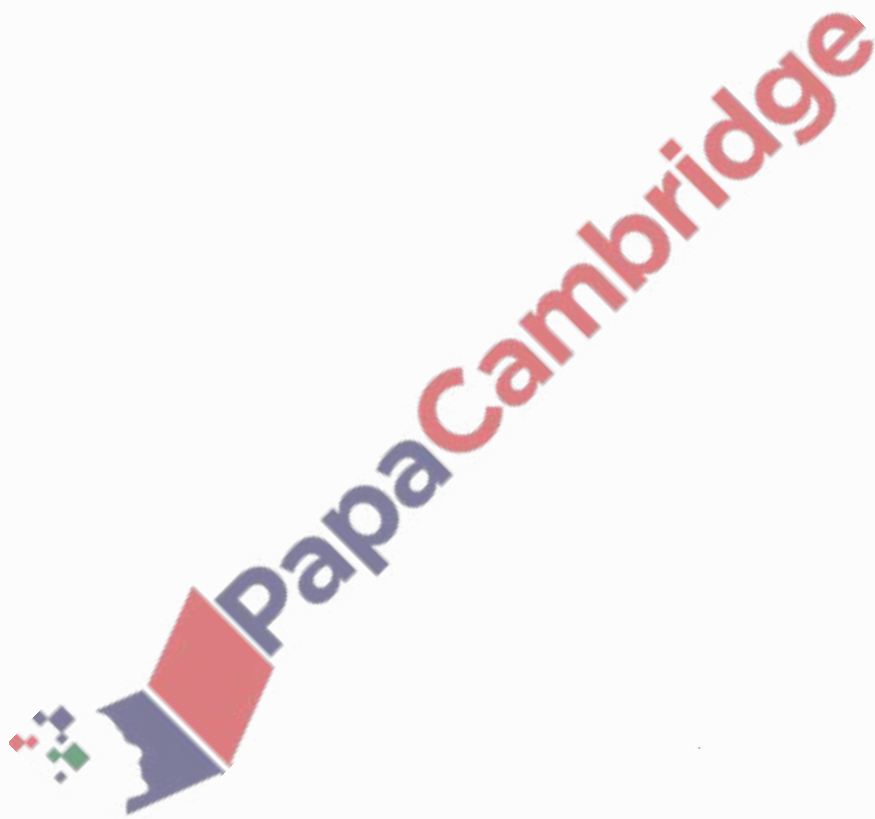
percentage of intensity absorbed = 17 % [2]

- (ii) In an X-ray image, white regions show greater absorption of X-rays than dark regions.

State and explain the difference between the X-ray image of bone compared to that of muscle.

bone is seen to be lighter than muscle as it has a higher absorption value (so it transmits less) (it is more) [2]

[Total: 9]



- 12 (a) Explain what is meant by the *binding energy* of a nucleus.

It is the minimum amount of energy to separate the nucleus to infinity

[2]

- (b) The following nuclear reaction takes place:



- (i) Determine the values of  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$92 - 55 = 37 \quad x = 37$$

$$(1 + 235) - (144 + 90) = 2 \quad y = 2$$

[1]

- (ii) State the name of this type of nuclear reaction.

fusion

[1]

- (iii) Compare the binding energy per nucleon of uranium-235 with the binding energy per nucleon of caesium-144.

As uranium has more no. of nucleons the energy per nucleon will be divided more hence it will have a smaller value of binding energy.

- (c) Yttrium-90 decays into zirconium-90, a stable isotope.

A sample initially consists of pure yttrium-90.

Calculate the time, in days, when the ratio of the number of yttrium-90 nuclei to the number of zirconium-90 nuclei would be 2.0.

The half-life of yttrium-90 is 2.7 days.

$$t=0 \quad Y : Zr$$

$$2 : 1$$

$$2 = 3e^{-2.7\lambda}$$

$$\lambda = 0.15017226$$

$$4 = 2e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$n = 0.58496$$

$$0.58496 \times 2.7 = 1.579$$

$$\approx 1.6$$

time = 1.6 days [3]

[Total: 8]