

2015 specification  
first exams in 2017 (2016 for AS)

# Practice Exams

## for A Level OCR A Physics

### Paper 3: Unified Physics

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# Teacher's Introduction

These practice examinations support the OCR A Level specification for Physics A (H556). This specification is new, and the first examinations began in 2017. This means that students have very limited access to past papers.

Although students can work through many relevant questions from textbooks and old syllabuses, they are unable to get a proper feel for the format, scope and length of the three papers that they will have to sit in the real examination period.

These practice examinations have, therefore, been written so that teachers can give their students the opportunity to do whole 'past papers'. Each paper follows the exact same format and mark scheme as the real examination. The whole specification is addressed, and the papers meet the minimum mathematical skills and 15% practical skills required by the exam board. The mark schemes are also included, so that students can see how mark schemes work and what the examiners are expecting.

These papers are best used in their entirety, either as a mock paper sat under examination conditions or as a homework exercise set in the last weeks before the examination period. This gives students the opportunity to learn how to pace themselves correctly. They will also be less anxious as the examination period since they know better what to expect.

Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) are level of response questions which test communication skills.

## Note regarding non-write-on section

Set 3: Paper 3 contains some content that requires drawing on a graph or table. A separate sheet of paper for this test which should be handed out to students before beginning the paper.

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\* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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# Specification Cross-Reference Table

		Paper 1				Paper 2	
		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 1	Set 2
<b>Module 2: Foundations of physics</b>							
2.1 Physical quantities and units	2, 4	2	1, 4, 21	1, 2, 3	1, 10		
2.2 Making measurements and analysing data	3, 20	1, 17, 18, 19, 21	2, 8, 18, 19	1, 7, 18, 19, 21	4, 17, 18, 19	18	1
2.3 Nature of quantities	1, 8, 16, 18	2, 3, 5, 16		4, 6, 17	5		
<b>Module 3: Forces and motion</b>							
3.1 Motion	5, 21	5, 16, 17, 18	5, 16	2, 4, 20			
3.2 Forces in action	8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21	4, 6, 9	4, 6, 17	2, 6, 16, 17, 18			
3.3 Work, energy and power	7, 18	18	3, 7	3, 9, 12, 13, 20			
3.4 Materials	6, 9	8, 19	4	2, 8, 19			
3.5 Newton's laws and momentum	10, 11, 18, 19	4, 7	4, 18	9, 16			
<b>Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons</b>							
4.1 Charge and current					1	16	
4.2 Energy, power and resistance					2, 3, 6, 16	1, 16, 17	1
4.3 Electrical circuits					2, 3, 6, 16		2
4.4 Waves					4, 5, 7, 17	3, 4, 5, 18, 19	4
4.5 Quantum physics					8, 18	20	

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		Paper 1				Paper 2	
		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 1	Set 2
<b>Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics</b>							
5.1 Thermal physics	20	11, 20, 21	9, 19, 22	10, 21, 22			
5.2 Circular motion	12, 14	22		11			
5.3 Oscillations	13	12	10, 11, 20	5			
5.4 Gravitation	21	23	12, 21				
5.5 Astrophysics and cosmology	15, 22	10, 13, 14, 15, 24	13, 14, 15	14, 15, 23, 24			
<b>Module 6: Particles and medical physics</b>							
6.1 Capacitors					19	2, 6	
6.2 Electric fields					9, 10	21	1
6.3 Electromagnetism					12, 20	7, 8, 9, 21	
6.4 Nuclear and particle physics					10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22	10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23	1.
							1.
6.5 Medical physics					13, 23	15, 24	1.

# ZigZag Practice Exam Papers

## Supporting A Level OCR Physics A



# Practice Exam Paper 3

## Set 1

Name	
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### Time allowed

1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

Answer **all** of the questions and use the space provided.

### Information

The total number of marks available for this paper is **70**. The number of marks available for each question is shown on the right.

### For this paper, you will need:

- Data, Formulae and Relationships booklet

### Additional materials required

- Pencil
- Electronic calculator
- Ruler (cm/mm)

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- 1 Wind blows through a wind turbine. The length of each of the wind turbine blades is 30 m. The speed of the wind is  $12 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and the density of air is  $1.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ . The purpose of a wind turbine is to convert the kinetic energy of the wind into electrical energy.

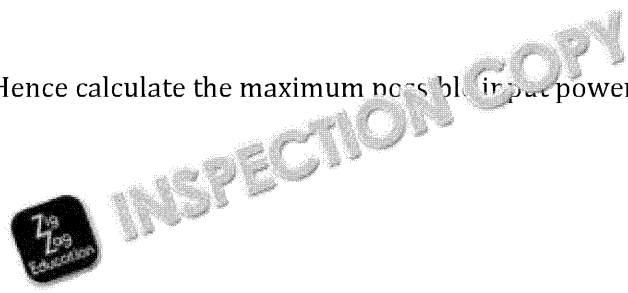


- (a) Calculate the area,  $A$ , of the vertical circle swept out by the blades as they rotate.

$A = \dots\dots\dots$

- (b) Assuming that the wind blows perpendicularly to  $A$ , show that the mass of air that passes through  $A$  is  $1 \times 10^5 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$  to one significant figure.

- (c) Hence calculate the maximum possible input power,  $P_{\text{IN}}$ , of the turbine.



$P_{\text{IN}} = \dots\dots\dots$

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- (d) Betz's law states that the theoretical maximum power efficiency of a wind turbine is  $\frac{16}{27}$ . Assuming this to be true, calculate the maximum power output,  $P_{OUT}$ .

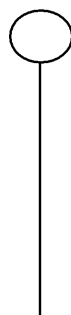
$P_{OUT} = \dots\dots\dots$

- 2 A conker is tied to the end of a length of string. A student whirls the conker in a circle at constant speed.

One of the forces acting on the conker is the tension,  $T$ , in the string.

Assume that air resistance can be ignored.

- (a) (i) Draw arrows on **Fig. 2.1** to show all the forces acting on the conker.



**Fig. 2.1**

- (ii) Draw arrows on **Fig. 2.2** to show all the forces acting on the conker when it is at the bottom of the circle.



**Fig. 2.2**

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(iii) Explain why the magnitude of  $T$  will be different in the two situations shown in Fig. 2.2.

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Fig. 2.3 shows how the tension,  $T$ , varies with time,  $t$ .

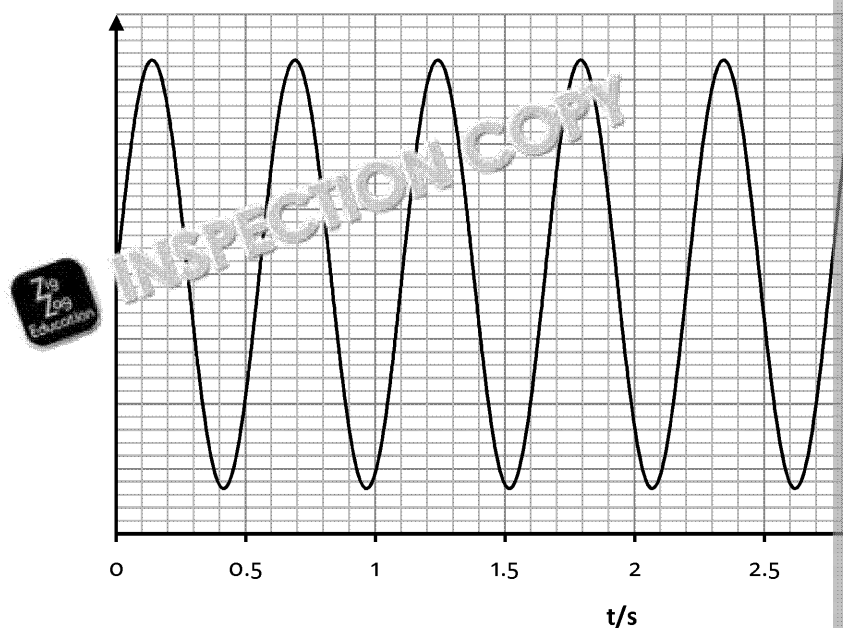


Fig. 2.3

- (b) (i) Mark with an X one point on the graph when the conker is at the lowest point of its motion.
- (ii) What is the angular frequency,  $\omega$ , of the conker's motion?

$\omega = \dots\dots\dots$

The string has length 45 cm, and the conker has mass 30 g.

(iii) Show that the centripetal force,  $F$ , acting on the conker is approximately 1.5 N.



$F = \dots\dots\dots$

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(c)\* The student wishes to find the maximum linear speed at which the conker can be whirled without breaking the string. The student decides not to whirl the conker faster than this because the string breaks because this is potentially dangerous.

Describe another experiment that the student could **safely** perform to determine the maximum linear speed of the string. You may wish to include a diagram in your answer.

Explain how this value could be used to find an expression for the maximum linear speed at which the conker can be whirled.

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3 (a) State **two** properties of the strong nuclear force.

1: .....

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2: .....

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(b) Below is a table showing the radius, R, and nucleon number, A, of the

Nucleus	R / 10 <sup>-15</sup> m	A
Hydrogen	1.25	1
Iron	4.78	56
Uranium	7.74	238

(i) Calculate the mean density,  $\rho$ , of the iron nucleus shown in the table.



$\rho = \dots\dots\dots$

Experiments suggest that R is proportional to  $A^{1/3}$ .

(ii) Use data from the table to assess whether or not this relationship holds over the range of A.

(iii) Explain how you would expect the density of a uranium nucleus to compare with the density of an iron nucleus as calculated in (i). No further calculation is required.



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4 This question is about the coloured interference pattern seen on a thin layer of oil.

A thin layer of oil of thickness  $t$  floats on top of water. The refractive indices are given below.

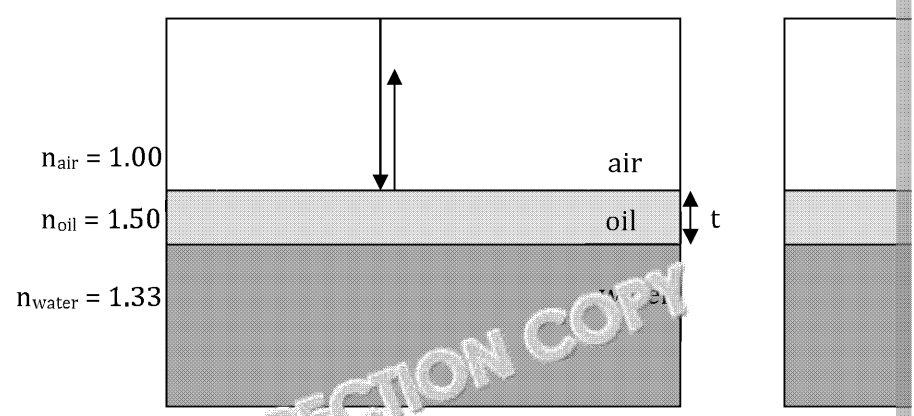


Fig. 4.1

A ray of white light enters normally from the air. The ray is partially reflected back into the air, as shown by the arrows in Fig. 4.1. The ray is also partially transmitted into the oil. The ray is also partially reflected at the oil-water boundary, as shown by the arrows in Fig. 4.1. The two reflected rays interfere.

A phase shift of  $180^\circ$  occurs whenever light reflects from the surface of a medium with a higher refractive index than the one in which it was travelling (but not otherwise).

(a) State the boundary, or boundaries, at which a  $180^\circ$  phase shift occurs.

.....

(b) State the path difference between the two reflected waves in terms of the thickness of the oil layer, when the **first order constructive** maximum is formed.

Use this to write the wavelength of light in oil in terms of the thickness of the oil layer.

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 .....  
 .....  
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(c) Using the definition of the refractive index,  $n$ , of oil,  $n_{\text{oil}}$ , and the wave equation,  $v = f\lambda$ , write an expression for the wavelength of light in oil,  $\lambda_{\text{oil}}$ , in terms of the thickness of the oil layer,  $t$ , and the wavelength of light in air,  $\lambda_{\text{air}}$ .

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The reflected light appears orange to an observer in air. The wavelength of the light is  $6.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$ .

(d) Calculate the thickness,  $t$ , of the oil film.

$t = \dots\dots\dots$

5 (a) Fig. 5.1 shows a simple representation of an electron gun.

In the electron gun in Fig. 5.1 a beam of electrons enters a region of uniform electric field. The potential difference between the plates is  $V$ .

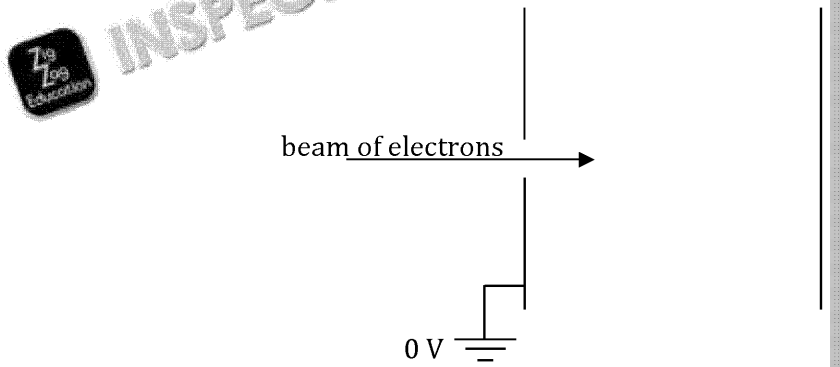


Fig. 5.1

(i) Assuming that the electrons enter the region with negligible velocity and are accelerated through the potential difference between the plates,  $V$ , that will result in the electrons hitting the top plate at a velocity  $v = 0.01c$ .

(ii) The muon is a fundamental particle with the same charge as the electron but a mass 207 times greater.

If the beam contained muons instead of electrons, calculate the potential difference between the plates,  $V$ , that would result in the muons hitting the top plate at a velocity  $v = 0.01c$ .

potential difference

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(b) A mixed beam of electrons and muons travels at  $v = 0.01c$ .

(i) Calculate the ratio

$$\frac{\text{de Broglie wavelength of muon}}{\text{de Broglie wavelength of electron}}$$

ratio = .....

The mixed beam of electrons and muons enters a region of magnetic field acts into the page and separates the beam into two inc

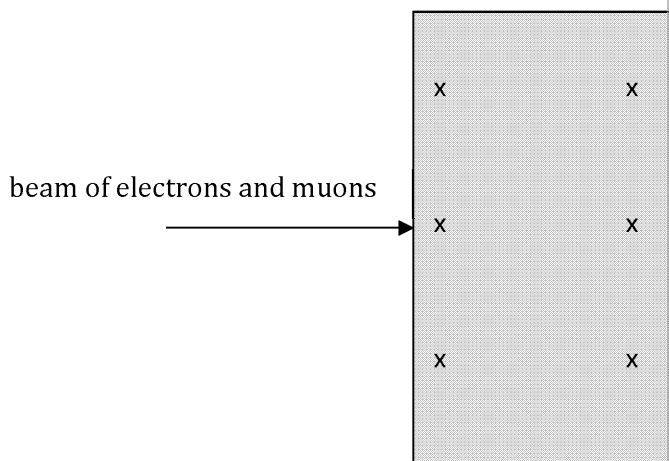


Fig. 5.2

(ii) Sketch and label the paths of both the electrons and muons onto

(iii) The magnetic field strength is 30 mT.

Calculate the radius of the muon's path.

radius = .....

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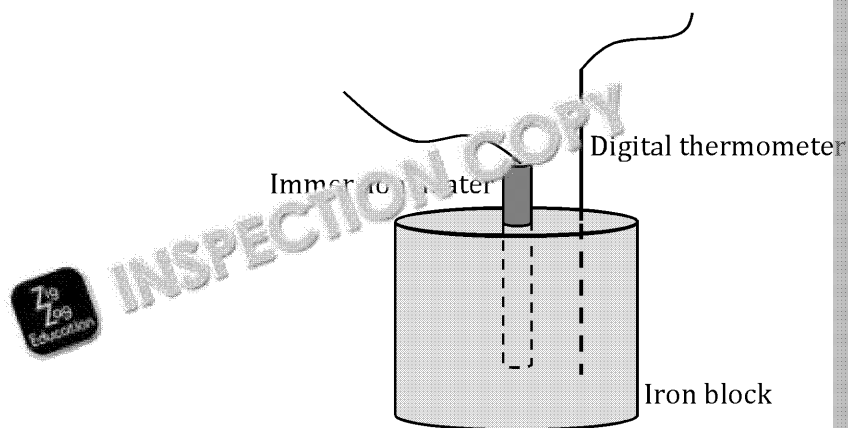
6 A student uses an electrical method to determine the specific heat capacity

**Fig. 6.1** shows the set-up of the experiment.

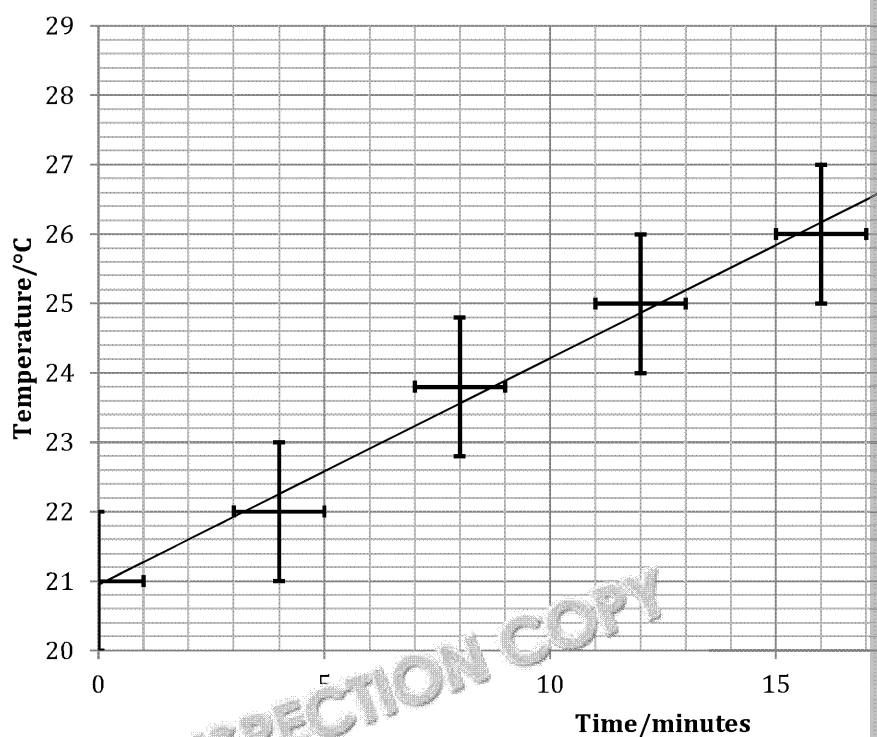
The student uses an immersion heater to heat the block and measures the temperature every four minutes.

**Fig. 6.2** shows the results in the form of a graph of temperature against time.

The software has fitted a trend line to the points.



**Fig. 6.1**



**Fig. 6.2**

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(a)\* Use Fig. 6.2 to calculate the specific heat capacity of iron together with

You will need the following data:

Mass of iron block =  $1.000 \text{ kg} \pm 0.001 \text{ kg}$

Power of immersion heater =  $2.4 \text{ W} \pm 0.1 \text{ W}$

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(b) Given that the accepted value for the specific heat capacity of iron is  $450 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  or not the student has taken accurate results.

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7 The nucleus of radon-219 has a radius of  $7.5 \times 10^{-15}$  m. Its chemical symbol is  ${}_{86}^{219}\text{Rn}$ .

(a) Assuming the nucleus can be thought of as a point charge, calculate:

(i) the electric field strength,  $E$ , at the surface of the nucleus.

$E = \dots\dots\dots$

(ii) the electric potential,  $V$ , at the surface of the nucleus.

$V = \dots\dots\dots$

(iii) the electrical potential energy of a proton at the surface of the nucleus.

energy =  $\dots\dots\dots$

${}_{86}^{219}\text{Rn}$  decays to an isotope of polonium,  ${}_{84}^{215}\text{Po}$ , by alpha decay, with a half-life of 3.8 s.

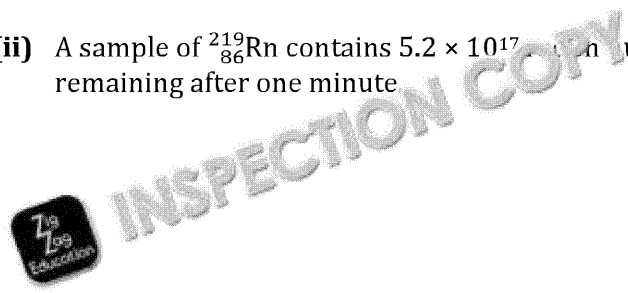
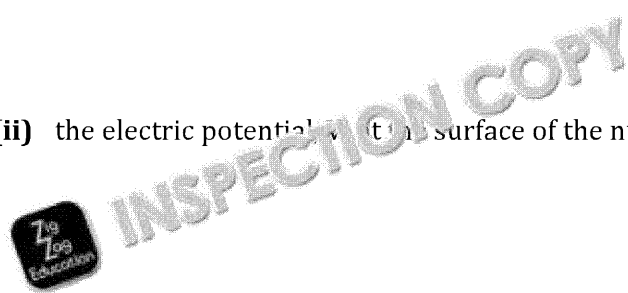
(b) (i) Write the nuclear equation for this decay.

$\dots\dots\dots$

(ii) A sample of  ${}_{86}^{219}\text{Rn}$  contains  $5.2 \times 10^{17}$  nuclei initially. Calculate the number of nuclei remaining after one minute.

$m = \dots\dots\dots$

END OF QUESTION PAPER



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## **Preview of Questions Ends Here**

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## Set 2: Paper 3

Question			Answer	Marks	
1	(a)	(i)	Lines parallel and equally spaced Arrows point from 11.2 kV plate to 0 V plate	B1 B1	
		(ii)	$E = V / d = 11.2 \times 10^3 / 5.00 \times 10^{-2}$ $E = 2.24 \times 10^5 \text{ (V m}^{-1}\text{)}$	C1 A1	
	(b)	(i)	$W = mg = \rho Vg = 810 \times 4 / 3 \pi (1.86 \times 10^{-6})^3 \times 9.81$ $W = 2.14 \times 10^{-13} \text{ (N)}$	C1 A1	
		(ii)	Electric/electrostatic force (unwired)  Weight (downwards)	B1	
	(c)	(i)	$EQ = W$ gives $Q = 2.14 \times 10^{-13} / 2.24 \times 10^5$ $Q = 9.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ (C) to 2 s.f.}$	C1 A1	
		(ii)	e is a factor of $1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ (C)}$	B1	
	<b>Total</b>				<b>10</b>
2	(a)	(i)	As wire cuts field lines / as flux linkage varies, emf induced Direction of induced emf varies with direction of swing Velocity of 'pendulum' varies sinusoidally and so magnitude of emf varies sinusoidally	B1 B1 B1	
		(ii)	P at highest or lowest point on curve	B1	
		(iii)	1 square = 0.4 cm 14 squares = 5.6 cm $\epsilon = 5.6 \text{ cm} \times 5.0 \times 10^{-9} \text{ V cm}^{-1}$ $\epsilon = 2.8 \times 10^{-8} \text{ (V)}$	B1 B1	
	(b)	(iv)	1 square = 0.4 cm 7 squares = 2.8 cm $T = 2.8 \text{ cm} \times 5.0 \text{ s cm}^{-1} = 14 \text{ s}$ $\omega = 2\pi / T = 12\pi / 14 = 0.45 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$	B1 B1	
		(i)	magnitude of emf (wired) frequency of oscillation (graph stretched)	B1 B1	
	<b>Total</b>				<b>10</b>
	3	(a)	(i)	Wein's law: $\lambda_{max} \propto \frac{1}{T}$ $\lambda_1 T_1 = \lambda_2 T_2$ $483 \times 5780 = 821 \times T$ $T = 3400 \text{ (K)}$	C1 C1 A0
(ii)			(Total radiant) power (output)	B1	
(iii)			$L = I \times 4\pi R^2 = 6.27 \times 10^{-8} \times 4\pi (551 \times 9.5 \times 10^{15})^2$ $= 2.16 \times 10^{31} \text{ (W)}$	C1 A1	
(iv)					

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Question		Answer	Marks	
	(iii)	$L = 2.16 \times 10^{31} / 3.75 \times 10^{26}$ = 57 600 solar units  (Read off graph for temperature = 3000 K)  Antares is a red supergiant star	C1  C1  A1	EC
<b>Total</b>			<b>8</b>	
4	*	<p><b>Level 3 (5–6 marks)</b>                      A detailed diagram, a list of all equipment required and a logical description of the method and graphical analysis used to calculate <math>\lambda</math> are all included, plus clear safety precautions.</p> <p><i>The answer shows a good understanding and is in clear, logical order and structure. The answer includes appropriate details with evidence where applicable.</i></p> <p><b>Level 2 (3–4 marks)</b>                      A diagram, a list of most of the equipment required and a description of the method and analysis used to calculate <math>\lambda</math> are included, plus some safety precautions</p> <p><i>The answer shows some understanding and is ordered in a somewhat logical structure. The answer includes details that are largely appropriate, with some evidence where applicable.</i></p> <p><b>Level 1 (1–2 marks)</b>                      A list of some of the equipment required with an attempt to describe the method and analysis used to calculate <math>\lambda</math>, plus one safety precaution</p> <p><i>The answer shows limited understanding and is unordered. The answer includes details and evidence that are inappropriate to the question.</i></p>	B1 × 6	So Di Sh an  Eq 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.  Me 1.  2. 3. 4.  5.  6. 7. 8. 9.  An 1. 2. 3. 4.  Sa 1. 2. 3.
<b>Total</b>			<b>6</b>	

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Question		Answer	Marks		
5	(a)	(i)	Vectors join nose to tail All labels correct Right angle and one other correct angle marked	B1 B1 B1	Th ful
		(ii)	$T = mg \cos 15^\circ$ $= 0.7 \times 10^3 \times 9.81 \times \cos 15^\circ$ $= 6.6 \times 10^3 \text{ (N)}$	C1 C1 A0	
		(iii)	Extension $\times \frac{1}{\pi}$ $= 10^5 \times 1.2 / (\pi \times (1.7 \times 10^{-2})^2 \times 120 \times 10^9)$ $= 7.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}$	C1 C1 A0	EC Us
		(iv)	$E = \frac{1}{2}Fx = \frac{1}{2} \times 6.6 \times 10^3 \times 7.5 \times 10^{-5}$ $= 0.25 \text{ (J)}$	C1 A1	EC Us
(b)	(i)	Gain in KE = loss in PE so $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = mgh$ $v^2 = 2 \times 9.81 \times 30 = 589$ $v = 24 \text{ (m s}^{-1}\text{)}$	C1 C1 A1		
	(ii)	One from: length of wagon not measured correctly change in height less than 30 m (as centre of mass is above ground level) dissipation of energy into other forms	B1		
<b>Total</b>			<b>13</b>		
6	(a)		$6.25 \pm 0.50$ % uncertainty in $I^2 = 2 \times$ % uncertainty in $I$ $= (2 \times 0.1 \times 100) / 2.5 = 8 \%$ $0.08 \times 6.25 = 0.5$	B1 C1 C1 A0	NC
		(i)	gradient = $60 / 6.6$ $= 9.1 \text{ (}^\circ\text{C A}^{-2}\text{)}$	M1 A1	Pe Ac
		(ii)	$I^2Rt = mc \Delta\theta$ $R = mc \Delta\theta / I^2t = \dots$ $R = \dots \times 9.1 / (9.0 \times 60)$ $= 3.5 \text{ (}\Omega\text{)}$	C1 C1 C1 A1	EC
		(iii)	Any <u>two</u> from: stir water to ensure even temperature record final <b>maximum</b> temperature after current is switched off lid on beaker use water X degrees below room temperature and heat to X degrees above to balance heat transfer	B1 $\times$ 2	No me
<b>Total</b>			<b>11</b>		

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Question	Answer	Marks
7 (a)*	<p><b>Level 3 (5–6 marks)</b> Detailed description of experimental set-up and procedure, plus a clear description of the observations and an accurate explanation of the conclusions that can be drawn.</p> <p><i>The answer shows strong understanding and is in a reasonable order and structure. The answer includes appropriate details with evidence where applicable.</i></p> <p><b>Level 2 (3–4 marks)</b> Description of experimental set-up and procedure, plus a description of observations and an explanation of some conclusions that can be drawn.</p> <p><i>The answer shows some understanding and is ordered in a somewhat logical structure. The answer includes details that are largely appropriate, with some evidence where applicable.</i></p> <p><b>Level 1 (1–2 marks)</b> Attempt to describe experimental set-up and/or procedure, plus a description of at least one observation and an explanation of at least one conclusion that can be drawn.</p> <p><i>The answer shows limited understanding and is unordered. The answer includes details and evidence that are inappropriate to the question.</i></p>	B1 × 6
(b) (i)	<p>From A to B the electric potential energy of the alpha particle increases and the kinetic energy decreases</p> <p>From B to A the electric potential energy of the alpha particle decreases and the kinetic energy increases</p>	B1 B1
	Arrow on gold nucleus pointing away from B	B1
(iii)	$F = qQ / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$ $= \frac{(2 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}) \times (79 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19})}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \times (9.5 \times 10^{-15})^2}$ $= 400 \text{ N}$	C1 C1 A1
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>

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## **Preview of Answers Ends Here**

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