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# A-level PHYSICS

Paper 3 Section A

## **Materials**

For this paper you must have:

- a pencil and a ruler
- · a scientific calculator
- a Data and Formulae Booklet
- a protractor.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer all questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Show all your working.

# Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 45.
- You are expected to use a scientific calculator where appropriate.
- A Data and Formulae Booklet is provided as a loose insert.

Time allowed: The total time for both sections of this paper is 2 hours. You are advised to spend approximately 70 minutes on this section.

| For Examiner's Use |      |  |
|--------------------|------|--|
| Question           | Mark |  |
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# Section A

Answer all questions in this section.

**0** 1 Figure 1 shows apparatus used to measure the speed of sound in a steel rod.

signal generator

rubber band

rubber band

steel rod

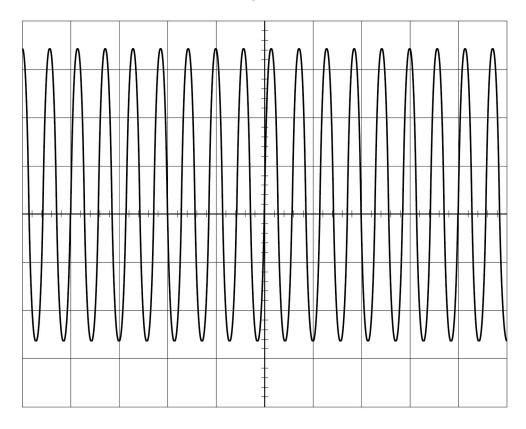
clamp stand

The steel rod is suspended from a beam using rubber bands. When the hammer is in contact with the end  $\bf L$  of the steel rod, a circuit is completed and the signal generator is connected to the oscilloscope.

Figure 2 shows the waveform then displayed on the oscilloscope.







| 0 1 . 1 | Which control on the oscilloscope should be used to centre the trace vertically on the |
|---------|--|
|         | screen?  |
|         | Tick (✓) <b>one</b> box.   |

[1 mark]

| X-shift |  |
|---------|--|
| Y-gain  |  |
| Y-shift |  |

Question 1 continues on the next page



When the hammer hits end  $\mathbf{L}$ , a sound wave travels along the steel rod and is reflected at end  $\mathbf{R}$ .

When the wave returns to  ${\bf L}$  the rod bounces away from the hammer and the circuit is broken.

**Figure 3** shows the waveform produced by the brief contact between the hammer and **L**.

Note that the waveform has now been centred vertically.

Figure 3

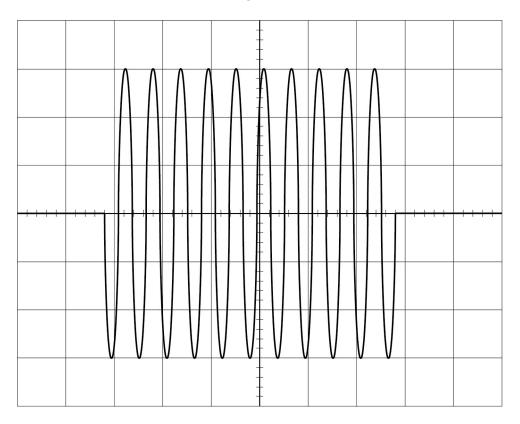
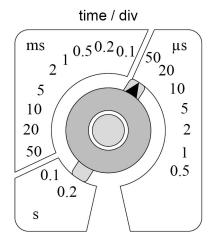


Figure 4 shows the time-base setting of the oscilloscope.

Figure 4





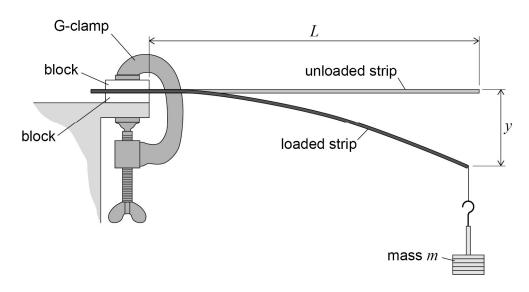
| 0 1 . 2 | The distance between $\textbf{L}$ and $\textbf{R}$ in Figure 1 is $0.870~m.$   |                   |
|---------|--|-------------------|
|         | Deduce the speed of sound in the steel rod.  | [3 marks]         |
|         |  |                   |
|         |  |                   |
|         |  |                   |
|         |  |                   |
|         | speed of sound =   | m s <sup>-1</sup> |
| 1.3     | A student repeats the experiment using a steel rod of twice the length.  |                   |
|         | Explain:   |                   |
|         | <ul> <li>how using the longer rod affects the waveform displayed</li> <li>any changes needed to get an accurate result for the speed.</li> </ul> |                   |
|         | You should include numerical detail.   | [4 marks]         |
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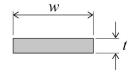
0 2

**Figure 5** shows a strip of steel of rectangular cross-section clamped at one end. The strip extends horizontally over the edge of a bench.

Figure 5



end view of unloaded steel strip





| <ul> <li>A mass m is suspended from the free end of the strip.         This produces a vertical displacement y.         A student intends to measure y with the aid of a horizontal pin fixed to the free end of the steel strip.         She positions a clamped vertical ruler behind the pin, as shown in Figure 6.     </li> </ul> |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|  | Figure 6  |   |  |  |
|  | plan view   |   |  |  |
|  |   | ruler pin  direction that student views apparatus               |  |  |
| strip  |   |   |  |  |
| view seen by stu   | pin 30  |   |  |  |
| position of the  | edure to avoid parallax error wl<br>pin on the ruler.<br>detail to <b>Figure 6</b> to illustrate yo | hen judging the reading indicated by the our answer.  [2 marks] |  |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |
|  | Question 2 continues on the   | e next page   |  |  |



0 2 . 2 It can be shown that

$$y = \frac{4mgL^3}{Ewt^3}$$

where:

L is the distance between the free end of the **unloaded** strip and the blocks w is the width of the strip and is approximately  $1~\mathrm{cm}$  t is the thickness of the strip and is approximately  $1~\mathrm{mm}$  E is the Young modulus of the steel.

A student is asked to determine E using the arrangement shown in **Figure 5** with the following restrictions:

- only one steel strip of approximate length 30 cm is available
- $\bullet$   $\it m$  must be made using a  $50~\rm g$  mass hanger and up to four additional  $50~\rm g$  slotted masses
- the experimental procedure must involve only one independent variable
- a graphical method must be used to get the result for *E*.

| Explain what the student must do to determine $E$ . | [5 marks] |
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| 0 3   | Conductive putty can easily be formed into different shapes to investigate the effect of shape on electrical resistance. |
|-------|--|
| 0 3.1 | A student uses vernier callipers to measure the diameter $\boldsymbol{d}$ of a uniform cylinder made of the putty.       |
|       | Suggest <b>one</b> problem with using callipers to make this measurement.  [1 mark]                                      |
|       |  |

0 3.2 Table 1 shows the calliper measurements made by a student.

Table 1

| $d_1$ / mm | $d_2$ / mm | <i>d</i> <sub>3</sub> / mm | <i>d</i> <sub>4</sub> / mm | <i>d</i> <sub>5</sub> / mm |
|------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 34.5       | 34.2       | 32.9                       | 33.4                       | 34.0                       |

Show that the percentage uncertainty in d is about 2.4%. Assume that all the data are valid.

[2 marks]



| 0 3.3 | The length of the cylinder is $71\pm 2\ mm.$ Determine the uncertainty, in $mm^3$ , in the volume of the cylinder. | [4 marks]       |
|-------|--|-----------------|
|       | uncertainty =  | mm <sup>3</sup> |
|       | Question 3 continues on the next page  |                 |



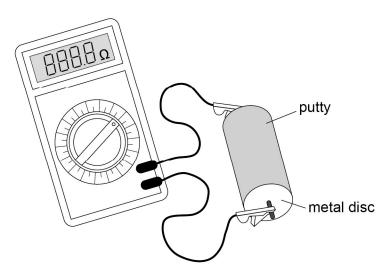
0 3 . 4

A student is given some putty to form into cylinders.

To find the resistance of a cylinder, metal discs are placed in contact with the ends of the cylinder and connected to a resistance meter.

Figure 7 shows the apparatus.

Figure 7



The student forms the putty into cylinders of different lengths, each of volume  $5.83 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3$ .

The length  $\boldsymbol{L}$  and resistance  $\boldsymbol{R}$  are measured for each cylinder.

It can be shown that  $R = \frac{\rho L^2}{5.83 \times 10^{-5}}$  where  $\rho$  is the resistivity of the conductive putty.

The student plots the graph shown in Figure 8.

Determine  $\rho$ .

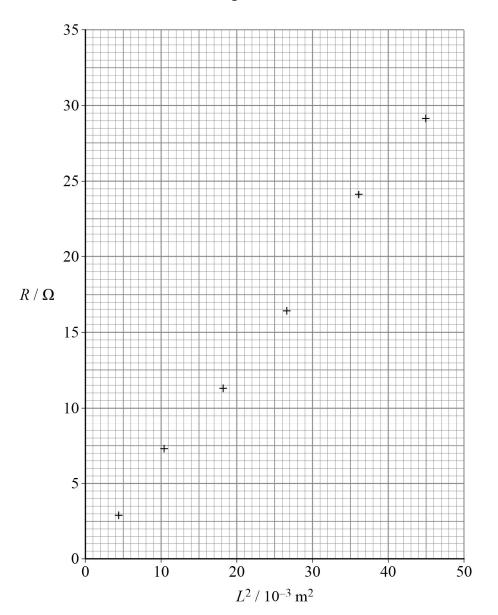
State an appropriate SI unit for your answer.

[4 marks]

| ho = | unit = |  |
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11

Turn over for the next question





0 4

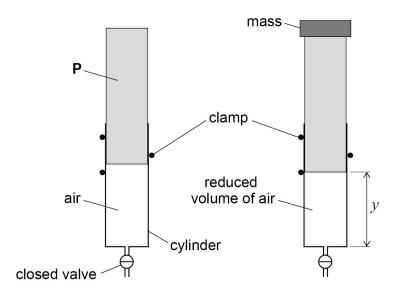
**Figure 9** shows air trapped in a vertical cylinder by a valve and a piston **P**. The valve remains closed throughout the experiment.

A mass is placed on top of P.

**P** moves downwards and the volume of the trapped air decreases.

There are no air leaks and there is no friction between the cylinder and P.

Figure 9



The vertical distance y between the end of  ${\bf P}$  and the closed end of the cylinder is measured.

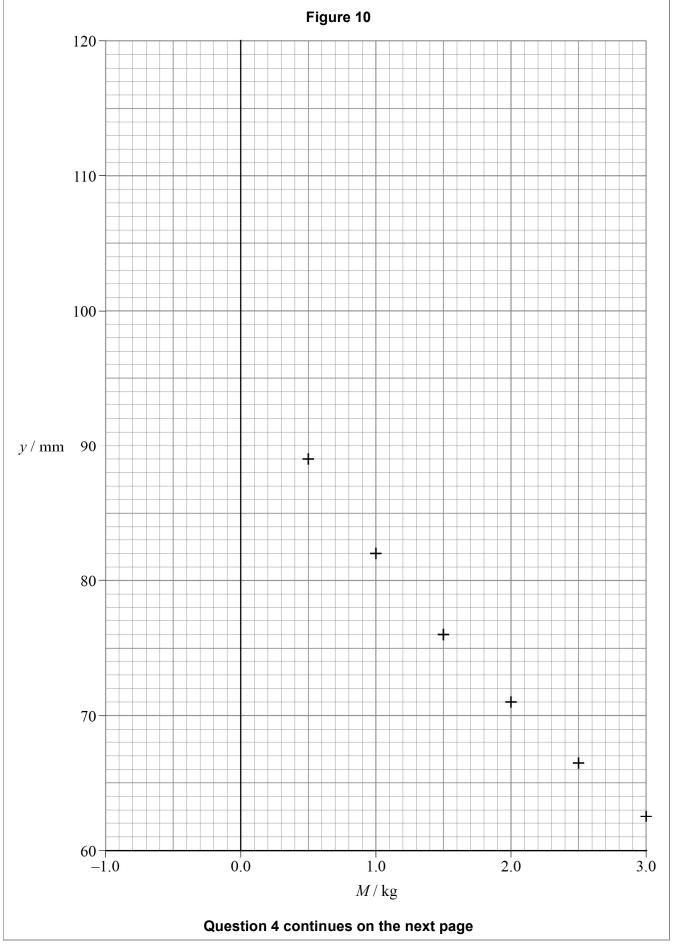
Additional masses are used to find out how y depends on the total mass M placed on top of  ${\bf P}$ .

Figure 10 shows a graph of these data.

 $oxed{0}$   $oxed{4}$ . Show that y is **not** inversely proportional to M. Use data points from **Figure 10**.

[2 marks]







|         | 16  |
|---------|---|
| 0 4 . 2 | The masses are removed and the cylinder is inverted.  P moves downwards without friction before coming to rest, as shown in Figure 11.  Figure 11 |
|         | r iguio 11  |
|         | closed valve  |
|         | Explain why <b>P</b> does not fall out of the cylinder unless the valve is opened.  [3 marks]   |
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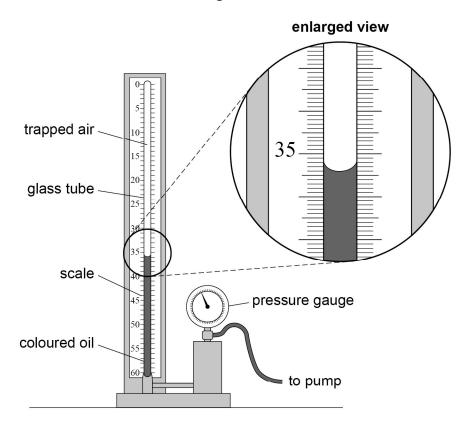


|       | •  |           |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 0 4.3 | The mass of ${\bf P}$ is $0.350~{\rm kg}$ . Deduce $y$ when the cylinder is in the inverted position shown in <b>Figure 11</b> . |           |
|       | Beddeey when the symmetric in the inverted pectagn enews in Figure 11.   |           |
|       | Draw a line of best fit on <b>Figure 10</b> to arrive at your answer.  | [4 marks] |
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|       | $y = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$   | mm        |
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Figure 12 shows apparatus used in schools to investigate Boyle's law.





A fixed mass of air is trapped above some coloured oil inside a glass tube, closed at the top.

A pump applies pressure to the oil and the air.

The trapped air is compressed and its pressure p is read from the pressure gauge.

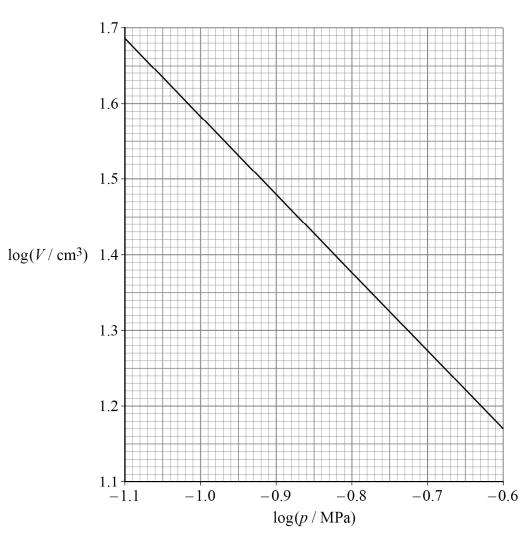


| 0 4 . 4 | A scale, marked in $0.2 \text{ cm}^3$ intervals, is used to measure the volume $V$ of the air. A student says that the reading for $V$ shown in <b>Figure 12</b> is $35.4 \text{ cm}^3$ . |    |
|---------|---|----|
|         | State:  |    |
|         | the error the student has made  |    |
|         | • the correct reading, in cm³, of the volume.   | _  |
|         | [2 mark   | s] |
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|         | volume = cm   | 3  |
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|         | Question 4 continues on the next page   |    |
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0 4.5 Figure 13 shows data obtained using the apparatus in Figure 12.





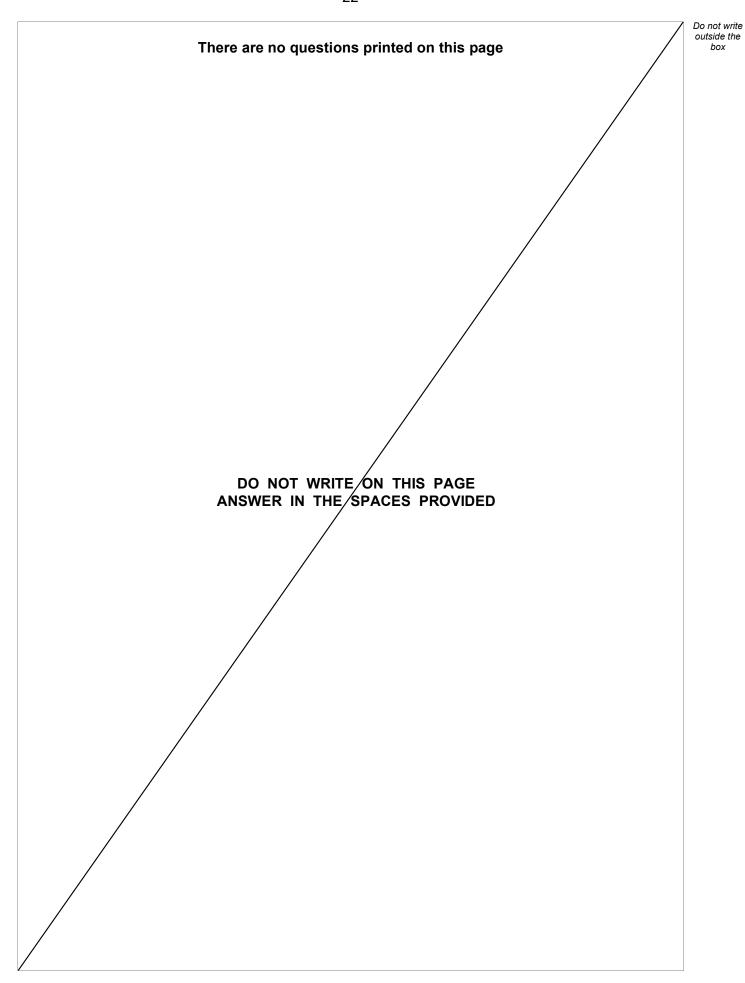
Explain why the gradient of the graph in **Figure 13** confirms that the air obeys Boyle's law.

[3 marks]



| 4 . 6 | The largest pressure that can be read from the pressure gauge is $3.4 \times 10^5$ | Pa.                          | Do i<br>out |
|-------|--|------------------------------|-------------|
|       | Determine, using <b>Figure 13</b> , the volume $V$ corresponding to this pressure. | [3 marks]                    |             |
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|       |  |                              |             |
|       | V =  | cm <sup>3</sup>              |             |
|       | State <b>one</b> property of the air that must not change during the experiment.   | cm <sup>3</sup>              |             |
|       |  | cm <sup>3</sup><br>[2 marks] |             |
|       | State <b>one</b> property of the air that must not change during the experiment.   |                              |             |
|       | State <b>one</b> property of the air that must not change during the experiment.   |                              |             |
|       | State <b>one</b> property of the air that must not change during the experiment.   |                              |             |
| 4.7 9 | State <b>one</b> property of the air that must not change during the experiment.   |                              |             |







| Question number | Additional page, if required.<br>Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin. |
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