| Surname |  |  |  |  | Other Names |  |  |  |  |
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| Centre Number |  |  |  |  |  | Candidate Number |  |  |  |

General Certificate of Education
January 2003
Advanced Level Examination

## PHAP

PHYSICS (SPECIFICATION A)

## Units 5-9 Practical

Monday 3 February 2003 9.00am-10.45am

In addition to this paper you will require:

- a calculator;
- a pencil and a ruler.

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

## Instructions

- Use a blue or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer both questions in the spaces provided. All working must be shown.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.


## Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 30 .
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- The paper carries $15 \%$ of the total marks for Physics Advanced.
- A Data Sheet is provided on pages 3 and 4. You may wish to detach this perforated sheet at the start of the examination.
- You are expected to use a calculator where appropriate.
- You are advised to spend no more than 30 minutes on Question 1.

| For Examiner's Use |  |  |  |
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| (Column 1) |  |  |  |
| Total <br> (Column 2) |  |  |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |
| Examiner's Initials |  |  |  |

## Data Sheet

- A perforated Data Sheet is provided as pages 3 and 4 of this question paper.
- This sheet may be useful for answering some of the questions in the examination.
- You may wish to detach this sheet before you begin work.




## Answer both questions

You are advised to spend no more than 30 minutes on Question 1.

1 When a certain number of atoms of radioactive element X decay to form atoms of element Y which then decay to form atoms of a stable element $Z$, the numbers of atoms of element $Y$ at first increase and later decrease. It is known that the half-life of Y is longer than that of X. A student proposes that the number of atoms of element $Y$ changes with time according to the graph in Figure 1.


Figure 1

It is known that when water drains out of a container of uniform cross section, the depth of water, $d$, above the outlet of the container decreases exponentially with time, as shown in Figure 2, where $d_{0}$ is the initial depth of the water.


Figure 2
Design an experiment, using two suitable containers, which enables the student to model the growth and subsequent decay of element $Y$.
The model should take account of the different half-lives of elements X and Y .
You are advised to draw a suitable diagram as part of your answer.
You should also include the following in your answer:

- The quantities you intend to measure and how you will measure them.
- How you propose to use your measurements to model the growth and decay of the atoms of element Y.
- Any factors you will need to control.
- How you could overcome any difficulties in obtaining reliable results.

Write your answers to Question 1 on pages 6 and 7 of this booklet.

2 In this experiment you will find the mass of a metre ruler. You will then investigate how the period of the ruler, supported in a vertical plane by a pivot near one end, is affected when masses are attached at a point close to the other end.

## No description of the experiment is required.

(a) Arrange the metre ruler, prism and wooden block as shown in Figure 3. Use the open jaws of the clamp to restrict the movement of one end of the ruler.


Figure 3
(i) Adjust the position of the ruler until it is balanced on the prism. Locate and record the reading, $c$, of the centre of mass of the ruler.

$$
c=
$$

$\qquad$
(ii) Position a 100 g mass at a point close to the left-hand end of the ruler. Adjust the position of the prism until the ruler once again balanced as shown in Figure 4.


Figure 4
Measure and record
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$\qquad$
(iii) Use your readings to determine the mass, $M$, of the metre ruler.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
(b) Suspend the metre ruler from the horizontal pivot that is clamped near the top of the retort stand, the pivot passing through the hole at the 10 cm graduation of the ruler. Arrange the apparatus so that the ruler hangs in a vertical plane that is parallel to the edge of the bench. The lower end of the ruler should be about 10 cm above the floor.

Attach a mass, $m$, of value 20 g to the ruler with an elastic band, the centre of the mass being at the 90 cm graduation mark, as shown in Figure 5.


Figure 5

Determine the time period, $T$, of the loaded ruler for small amplitude oscillations in a vertical plane. The piece of card marked fiducial mark should be placed on the floor to assist you in making this measurement.

Repeat the procedure to find new values of $T$ for four further values of $m$ up to a maximum of 100 g .
When $m$ consists of two masses, they should be fixed either side of the ruler.
Record all your measurements and observations below.
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(c) Using the grid on page 11 plot a graph of your results with $T$ on the vertical axis and $m$ on the horizontal axis.
(d) (i) Measure and record the gradient, $G$, of your graph at the point where $m=\frac{M}{2}$ i.e. $m$ is equal to half the mass of the ruler.
(ii) Read and record from your graph the period $T^{\dagger}$ at the point where $m=\frac{M}{2}$

$$
T^{1}=.
$$

$\qquad$
(iii) Evaluate $\underline{2 M G}$.
$T^{1}$

$$
\frac{2 M G}{T^{\wedge}}=
$$


(e) (i) The diagram below shows a view of the apparatus from directly above. Complete the diagram, to show where you positioned the fiducial mark when measuring the period of the loaded ruler.
pivot
edge of bench


Explain why you positioned the fiducial mark as shown.
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$\qquad$
$\qquad$
(ii) Describe, with the aid of a sketch, the procedure you employed to determine the gradient, $G$, of the graph.
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$\qquad$
(iii) The overall percentage error in determining the period, $T$, of the loaded ruler can be reduced by measuring the time, $n T$, for $n$ oscillations, $n$ being an integer. It can be shown that the error in $T$ is inversely proportional to $n$. Students A and B perform the experiment using slightly different methods. For each determination of $T$, student A makes one timing for 50 oscillations of the ruler while student B makes two timings, each being for 25 oscillations of the ruler.
Discuss briefly the advantages of the methods proposed by each student.
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