

Answer ALL SIX questions from Section A and THREE questions from Section B.

The numbers in square brackets at the right-hand margin indicate the provisional allocation of marks per sub-section of a question.

You may assume the following formulae throughout:

$$\text{Probability flux } \Gamma = -\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left[\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \Psi \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \right] = \frac{\hbar}{m} \text{Im} \left[\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \right].$$

SECTION A

[Part
marks]

1. When X-rays are scattered from the free electrons in a material, there is a small shift in the wavelength of the X-ray beam. Is this shift to shorter or to longer wavelengths? [2]

Name the *two* conservation laws needed to understand the wavelength shift. (You are *not* required to derive a formula for it.) Why are the results of the experiment important for our understanding of wave-particle duality? [4]

2. According to the Born interpretation, what is the significance of the quantity $|\Psi(x, t)|^2$ in quantum mechanics, where $\Psi(x, t)$ is the wavefunction of a one-dimensional system at position x and time t ? Explain why Ψ should be normalized in order to make this interpretation consistent, and give (again in one dimension) the mathematical condition that has to be satisfied by a normalized Ψ . [4]

Write down the time-dependent Schrödinger equation obeyed by Ψ when the particle moves under the influence of a potential $V(x, t)$. [3]

3. A particle of mass m in a one dimensional simple harmonic oscillator moves in a time-independent potential given by

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{2} kx^2.$$

What is the angular frequency ω of the oscillation? State the energies of the lowest-energy stationary state (the ground state) and the first excited state. [3]

How does your answer illustrate the concept of zero-point energy? [3]