



**PHYSICS
STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 3**

Wednesday 13 May 2009 (morning)

1 hour

Candidate session number

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your session number in the boxes above.
- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all of the questions from two of the Options in the spaces provided.
- At the end of the examination, indicate the letters of the Options answered in the candidate box on your cover sheet.



Option A — Sight and wave phenomena

A1. This question is about the eye and sight.

- (a) A white object is illuminated with red light and green light at the same time. State the colour that the object will appear to an observer. [1]

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- (b) The average wavelength of red light is 650nm and that of blue light is 488nm. The refractive index of water is 1.3. Jim argues that since wavelengths in water compared with those in air are reduced by a factor of 1.3, a red cricket ball placed under water should appear to be blue to a person with normal sight. Suggest why Jim’s reasoning is incorrect. [2]

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A2. This question is about standing waves.

A string is attached between two rigid supports and is made to vibrate at its fundamental frequency (first harmonic) f .

The diagram shows the displacement of the string at $t=0$.



(a) Draw the displacement of the string at time

(i) $t = \frac{1}{4f}$ [1]



(ii) $t = \frac{1}{2f}$ [1]



(b) The distance between the supports is 1.0m. A wave in the string travels at a speed of 240ms^{-1} . Calculate the frequency of the vibration of the string. [2]

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(c) An organ pipe that is open at one end has the same fundamental frequency as the string in part (b). The speed of sound in air is 330ms^{-1} . Determine the length of the pipe. [2]

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A3. This question is about the Doppler effect.

A stationary loudspeaker emits sound of frequency of 1000 Hz. Nadine attaches the loudspeaker to a string. She moves the loudspeaker in a horizontal circle above her head at a speed of 30 m s^{-1} . The speed of sound in air is 330 m s^{-1} .

An observer is standing well away from Nadine.

(a) Explain why the sound heard by the observer changes regularly. [3]

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(b) Determine the maximum frequency of the sound heard by the observer. [3]

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A4. This question is about polarization.

(a) State what is meant by unpolarized light. [1]

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(b) A beam of unpolarized light of intensity 1.0 Wm^{-2} is incident on an ideal polarizing filter. State the value of the intensity of the transmitted light. Explain your answer. [2]

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(c) Outline how polarized light may be used to measure the concentration of a sugar solution. [2]

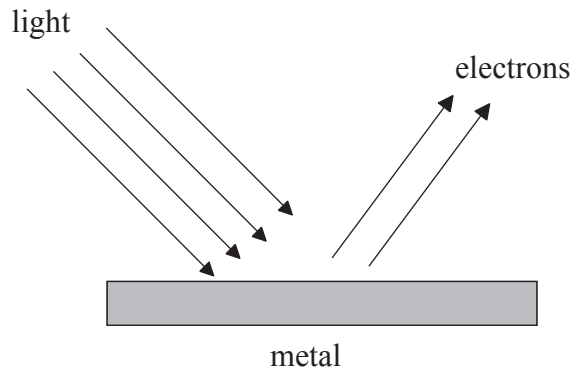
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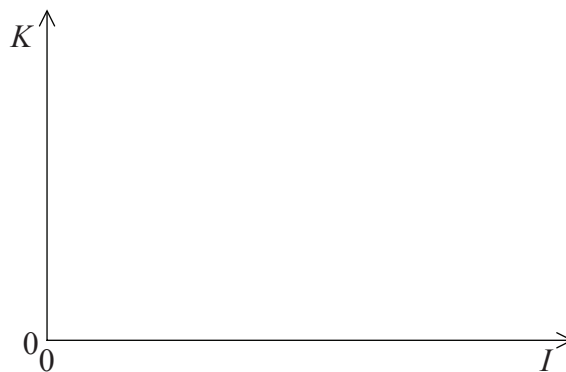
Option B — Quantum physics and nuclear physics

B1. This question is about the photoelectric effect.

- (a) A clean metal surface in a vacuum is illuminated with monochromatic light, resulting in the emission of electrons from the surface.



- (i) On the axes, sketch a graph to show how the maximum kinetic energy K of the electron varies with the intensity I of the light. [1]



- (ii) Explain the shape of the graph you have drawn. [3]

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(Question B1 continued)

- (b) The wavelength of the incident light in (a) is 400 nm. The maximum kinetic energy of the emitted electrons is 2.1 eV. Determine the work function of the metal. [3]

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B2. This question is about the wave nature of matter and quantum energy states.

(a) Describe what is meant by the de Broglie hypothesis. [2]

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(b) An electron is confined to one dimension in a “box” of length L . The de Broglie waves associated with the particle form standing waves in the box with wavelengths given by $\frac{2L}{n}$ where n is = 1, 2, 3, etc.

Show that the energy levels E_n for the particle are given by $E_n = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8mL^2}$ where h is Planck’s constant. [3]

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(c) The electron makes a transition from the energy state given by $n=4$ to $n=2$. The length $L=1.3 \times 10^{-9}$ m. Calculate the

(i) energy of the photon emitted. [2]

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(ii) wavelength of the photon emitted. [2]

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B3. This question is about nuclear physics and radioactive decay.

(a) Define the *decay constant* of a radioactive nuclide. [1]

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(b) (i) Plutonium-239 (Pu-239) has a half-life of 2.4×10^4 years. Show that the decay constant of Pu-239 is approximately $3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ year}^{-1}$. [1]

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(ii) Calculate the time taken for the activity of a freshly-prepared sample of Pu-239 to fall to 0.1 % of its initial value. [2]

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Option C — Digital technology

C1. This question is about data storage.

- (a) With reference to binary numbers, define the term *bit* and explain what is meant by least significant bit. [3]

Bit:

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Least significant bit:

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- (b) An acoustic signal is converted into an analogue voltage signal. The analogue signal is then converted to a digital signal. The maximum value of the voltage signal is 20 V.
 - (i) State the value of the least significant bit of the binary number that represents the number 20. [1]

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- (ii) Outline how the analogue signal after conversion to a digital signal may be stored on a compact disc (CD). [2]

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- (c) Suggest **one** implication that the storage of information in digital form on a CD may have in connection with environmental issues. [2]

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C2. This question is about capacitance and charge-coupled devices (CCD).

(a) Define *capacitance*. [1]

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(b) Outline how light that is incident on a pixel on the surface of a CCD can produce a potential difference across the pixel. [2]

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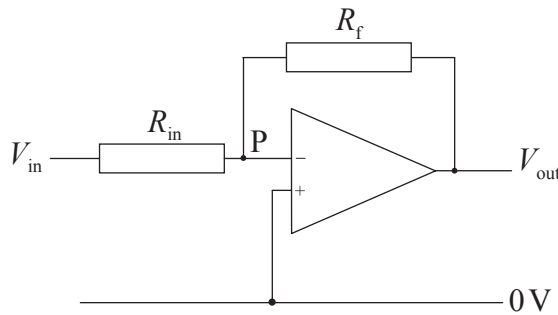
(c) The number of photons incident on one pixel of a CCD for a certain period of time is 1.2×10^4 . The capacitance of the pixel is 22 pF and the quantum efficiency is 75%. Determine the change in potential difference across the pixel. [3]

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C3. This question is about operational amplifiers.

(a) The diagram shows a circuit that uses an operational amplifier as an inverting amplifier.



The point P is a virtual earth, that is at the same potential (0 V) as the earth line.

(i) State the **two** properties of the operational amplifier which make P a virtual earth. [2]

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(ii) In the circuit $R_f = 100\text{ k}\Omega$ and $R_{in} = 10\text{ k}\Omega$. Calculate the gain of the amplifier. [1]

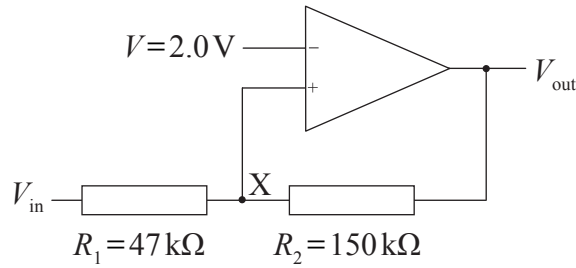
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(Question C3 continued)

- (b) The diagram shows a circuit that uses an operational amplifier as a non-inverting Schmitt trigger.



In the situation shown, the potential at point X is 2.0V and the output potential V_{out} is at its minimum value of -10V. Show that for the output potential to switch to its maximum value of +10V

- (i) the current in the resistors R_1 and R_2 is 0.08 mA. [1]

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- (ii) V_{in} must rise to 5.8V. [2]

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Option D — Relativity and particle physics

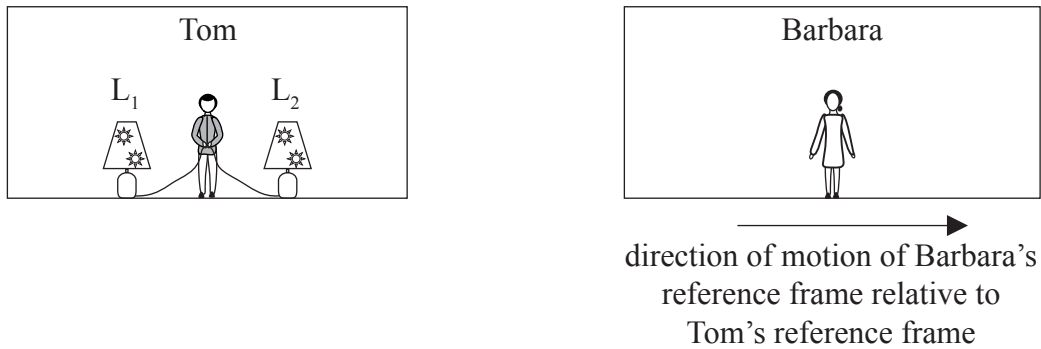
D1. This question is about simultaneity and length measurement.

- (a) One of the two postulates of special relativity states that “the laws of physics are the same for all inertial observers”. State the other postulate. [1]

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- (b) Tom and Barbara are two observers each in a separate reference frame. The reference frames are moving relative to each other in the same straight line with constant velocity. Two lamps L_1 and L_2 are operated by the same switch. Tom is at the mid-point between the lamps as measured in his frame of reference.



The lamps and the switch are at rest relative to Tom.

- Tom switches on the lamps and to him they light simultaneously. Explain, based on your answer to (a), why the lamps will not light simultaneously, according to Barbara. [3]

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(Question D1 continued)

(c) Tom measures the separation of L_1 and L_2 to be 1.5 m whereas Barbara measures the separation to be 0.5 m.

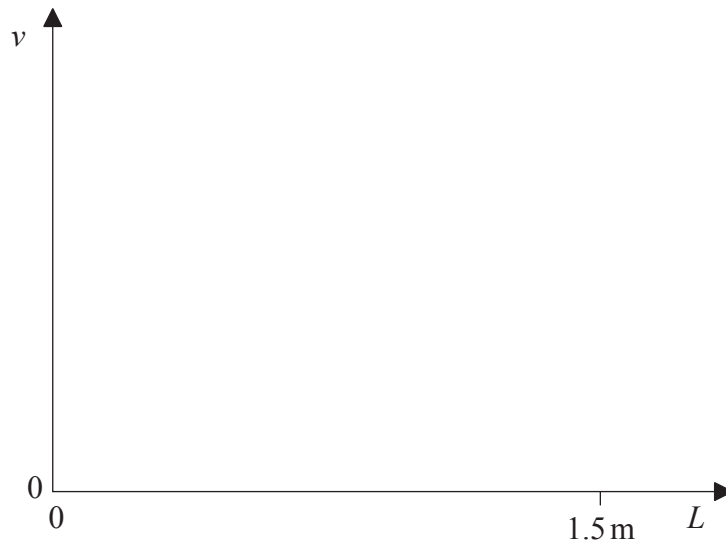
(i) State and explain which observer measures the proper length between L_1 and L_2 . [1]

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(ii) Calculate, in terms of the free space speed of light c , the relative speed between Tom and Barbara. [3]

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(iii) Sketch a graph to show how the relative speed v between Tom and Barbara varies with the length L between L_1 and L_2 as measured by Barbara. The data point (1.5,0) is shown. On the v axis, label the point $v=c$. [3]



D2. This question is about fundamental interactions and elementary particles.

- (a) In the table identify the exchange particle(s) associated with the two fundamental interactions given. [2]

Interaction	Exchange particle(s)
Electro-weak	
Strong	

- (b) State why the exchange particles are known as elementary particles. [1]

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- (c) An exchange particle associated with the weak interaction has a mass of about $90 \text{ GeV}c^{-2}$. Estimate the life-time of the particle. [3]

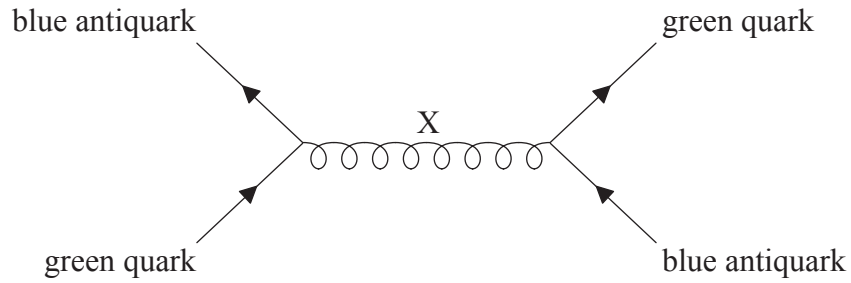
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(Question D2 continued)

- (d) The diagram is a Feynman diagram that represents the strong interaction between quarks.



- (i) Identify the exchange particle X. [1]

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- (ii) Explain why the quarks have a colour associated with them. [2]

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Option E — Astrophysics

E1. This question is about the star Antares.

The star Antares is a red supergiant star in the constellation Scorpius.

- (a) Describe **three** characteristics of a red supergiant star and state what is meant by a constellation. [4]

Red supergiant star:

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Constellation:

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- (b) The apparent magnitude of Antares is +1.1 and its absolute magnitude is -5.3.
 - (i) Distinguish between apparent magnitude and absolute magnitude. [2]

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- (ii) Show that the distance of Antares from Earth is 3.9×10^7 AU. [3]

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- (iii) State the name of the method that is used to measure the distance of Antares from Earth. [1]

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(This question continues on the following page)



(Question E1 continued)

(c) The apparent brightness of Antares is 4.3×10^{-11} times the apparent brightness of the Sun.

(i) Define *apparent brightness*. [1]

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(ii) Using the answer to (b)(ii), show that Antares is 6.5×10^4 times more luminous than the Sun. [3]

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E2. This question is about models of the universe.

Observations of the night sky indicate that there are many regions of the universe that do not contain any stars.

(a) Explain why this observation contradicts Newton’s model of the universe. [3]

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(b) Outline how the Big Bang model of the universe is consistent with this observation. [3]

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Option F — Communications

F1. This question is about radio communication.

(a) State the difference between

(i) a signal wave and a carrier wave.

[2]

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(ii) amplitude modulation and frequency modulation.

[2]

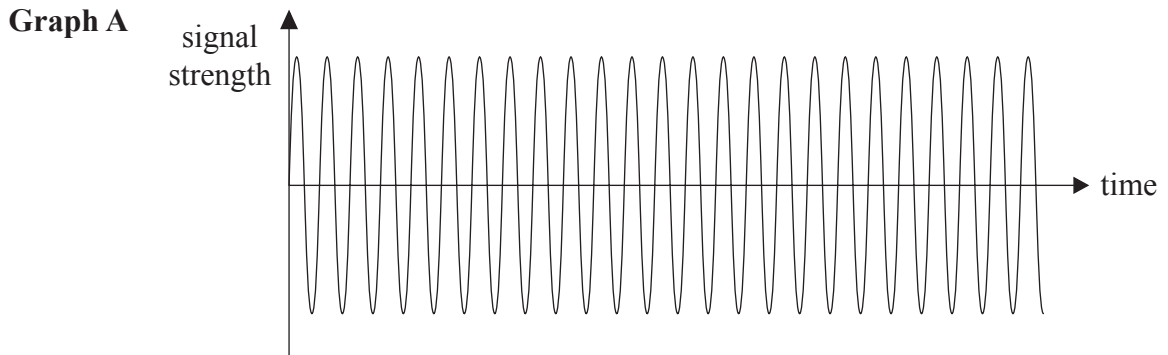
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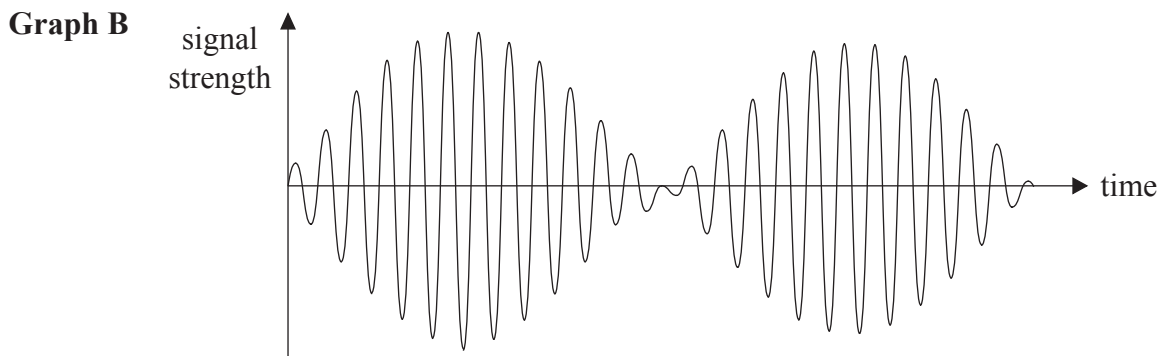


(Question F1 continued)

- (b) Graph A shows a sketch of how the signal strength of a certain radio carrier wave varies with time at a particular point in space.



Graph B shows how the signal strength of the wave is amplitude modulated by a signal wave.



The time scale for both graphs is the same.

The frequency of the carrier wave is f_c and that of the signal wave f_s . Use both graphs to estimate the ratio $\frac{f_c}{f_s}$ and explain how you arrived at your answer. [2]

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- (c) On graph B sketch the wave form of the signal wave. [1]

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(Question F1 continued)

- (d) Describe **one** advantage and state **one** disadvantage of using amplitude modulation in radio transmission as compared to the use of frequency modulation. [3]

Advantage:

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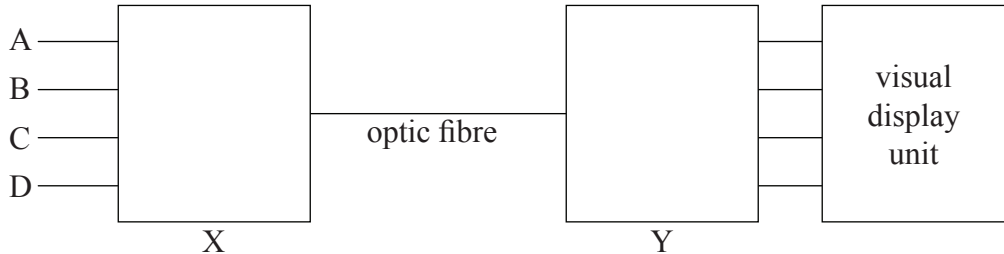
Disadvantage:

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F2. This question is about transmission of signals.

In a particular transmission system a single piece of analogue information is converted into a 4-bit binary “word” represented by the letters ABCD. The word is transmitted along an optic fibre to the receiver. The block diagram shows the principle components for the transmission and reception of this word.



(a) On the diagram label the components X and Y and outline the function of each component. [3]

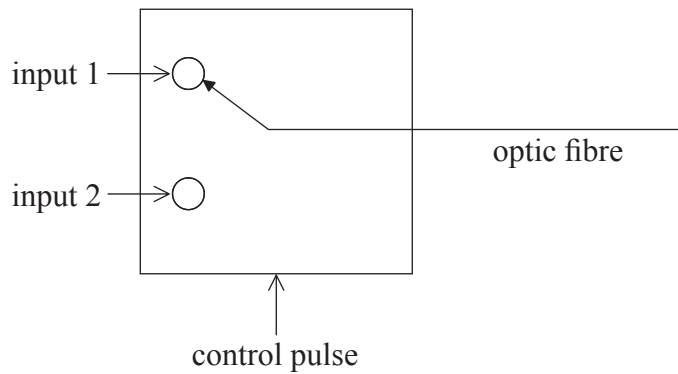
X:

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Y:

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(b) The diagram is a representation of a two-input time division multiplexer.



Outline, with reference to the diagram, how this device enables two sets of digital data to be transmitted apparently simultaneously along the same optic fibre. [2]

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(Question F2 continued)

(c) As a signal is transmitted along an optic fibre its signal strength is attenuated. For this reason amplifiers have to be placed at points along the fibre.

(i) Explain what is meant by attenuation. [2]

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(ii) In a particular fibre, the signal needs to be amplified when the signal power is $8.2 \times 10^{-19} \text{ W}$. The fibre has an attenuation loss of 2.0 dB km^{-1} . Determine, for an input signal of power 5.0 mW , the separation of the amplifiers along the fibre. [3]

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Option G — Electromagnetic waves

G1. This question is about the nature of electromagnetic waves.

Explain why the daytime sky of the Earth is blue but the daytime sky of the Moon is black. [3]

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G2. This question is about interference and lasers.

(a) Two overlapping beams of light from two flashlights (torches) fall on a screen. Explain why no interference pattern is observed. [3]

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(b) Light from a laser that passes through a double slit is incident on a screen and produces observable interference.

(i) Outline how the laser produces light. [2]

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(ii) State the name of the property that enables the laser light to produce observable interference. [1]

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(Question G2 continued)

- (c) Outline how a laser can be used to read the bar-code at the bottom of this page. [2]

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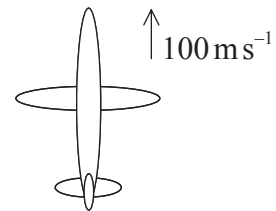
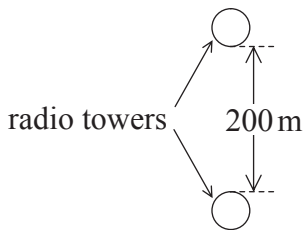
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- (d) A plane is flying at 100ms^{-1} in a direction parallel to the line joining two identical radio towers as shown in the diagram.



(not to scale)

The two towers each emit a coherent radio signal of wavelength of 5.0 m. The separation of the towers is 200 m. To an observer on the plane the intensity of the received signal goes through a maximum every 5.0 s. Determine the distance from the plane to the line joining the radio towers. [3]

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G3. This question is about optical instruments.

(a) Define *linear magnification*. [1]

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(b) An object is placed a distance x from a converging (convex) lens of focal length 10 cm. An image of the object is formed on a screen at a distance 45 cm from the lens. Calculate the

(i) distance x . [2]

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(ii) magnitude of the linear magnification. [1]

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(c) State what is meant by spherical aberration for a lens and suggest how this may be reduced. [2]

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