Mechanics Year 1 (AS) exam questions

Ch. 10: Forces and Motion

June 2023 Question 2

2. A small stone is projected vertically upwards with speed $39.2 \mathrm{~m~s^{-1}}$ from a point O.

The stone is modelled as a particle moving freely under gravity from when it is projected until it hits the ground 10 s later.

Using the model, find

(a) the height of O above the ground,

(3)

(b) the total length of time for which the speed of the stone is less than or equal to $24.5 \mathrm{~m~s^{-1}}$

(3)

(c) State one refinement that could be made to the model that would make your answer to part (a) more accurate.

(1)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
2(a)	Attempt to find the displacement after 10 s	M1	3.1b
	$39.2\times10-\frac{1}{2}g\times10^2$ **OR** $-39.2\times10+\frac{1}{2}g\times10^2$	A1	1.1b
	98 (m) (must be positive)	A1	1.1b
		(3)	
2(b)	Complete method to find either half the time or the full time	M1	3.1b
	Correct equation e.g. $0=24.5-gt$ **OR** $-24.5=24.5-gt$	A1	1.1b
	5 (s)	A1	1.1b
		(3)	
2(c)	e.g. (include) air resistance	B1	3.5c
		(1)	
			(7 marks)

June 2023 Question 1

1.

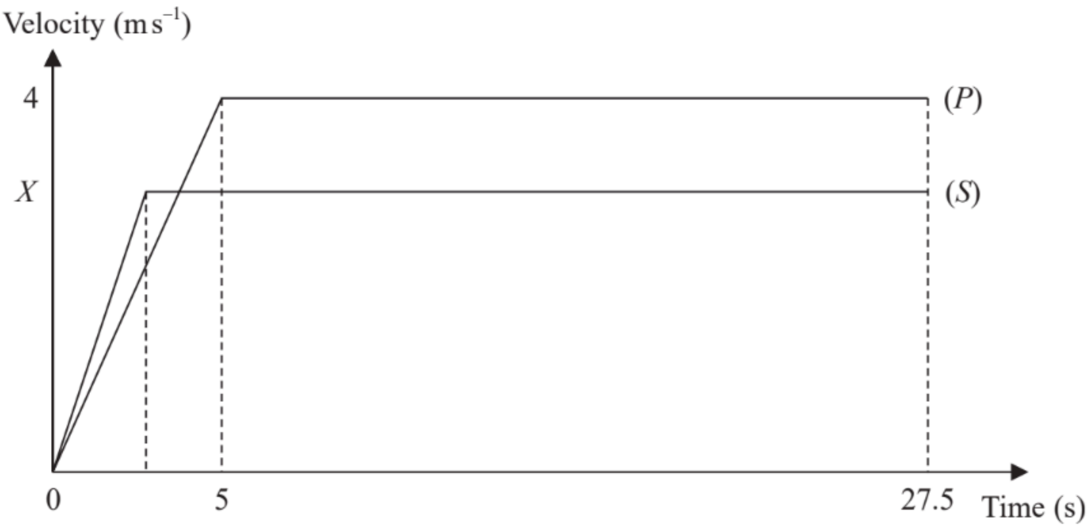

Figure 1

Two children, Pat (P) and Sam (S), run a race along a straight horizontal track.

Both children start from rest at the same time and cross the finish line at the same time.

In a model of the motion:

Pat accelerates at a constant rate from rest for 5 s until reaching a speed of $4\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ and then maintains a constant speed of $4\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ until crossing the finish line.

Both children take 27.5 s to complete the race.

The velocity-time graphs shown in Figure 1 describe the model of the motion of each child from the instant they start to the instant they cross the finish line together.

Using the model,

(a) explain why the areas under the two graphs are equal,

(1)

(b) find the acceleration of Pat during the first 5 seconds,

(1)

(c) find, in metres, the length of the race,

(2)

(d) find the value of X, giving your answer to 3 significant figures.

(4)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
1(a)	Because the distances travelled or displacements are equal oe. If they mention the times are the same as well, ignore it.	B1	2.4
		(1)	
1(b)	0.8 or 4/5 ($\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$)	B1	1.1b
		(1)	
1(c)	$\frac{1}{2}\times5\times4+(4\times22.5)$ **OR** $\frac{1}{2}(27.5+22.5)\times4$ **OR** $27.5\times4-\frac{1}{2}\times5\times4$	M1	3.1b
	100 (m)	A1	1.1b
		(2)	
1(d)	Total area under graph = their answer for part (c)	M1	3.1b
	$\frac{1}{2}X\times X+X(27.5-X)=100$	A1ft	1.1b
	OR $\frac{1}{2}(27.5+27.5-X)\times X=100$ **OR** $27.5X-\frac{1}{2}X^2=100$	A1ft	1.1b
	X = 3.92 to 3sf	A1	1.1b
		(4)	
			(8 marks)

June 2023 Question 1 (A-Level)

1. A car is initially at rest on a straight horizontal road.

The car then accelerates along the road with a constant acceleration of $3.2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$

Find

(a) the speed of the car after 5 s,

(1)

(b) the distance travelled by the car in the first 5 s.

(2)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
1(a)	16 ($\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$) seen as the answer	B1	1.1b
		(1)	
1(b)	$s=\frac{1}{2}\times3.2\times5^2$ **OR** $s=\frac{(0+16)}{2}\times5$ **OR** $s=(16\times5)-\frac{1}{2}\times3.2\times5^2$ **OR** $16^2=2\times3.2\times s$ **OR** from a *v*-*t* graph, $s=\frac{1}{2}\times5\times16$	M1	3.1b
	s = 40 (m)	A1	1.1b
		(2)	
			(3 marks)

June 2022 Question 4

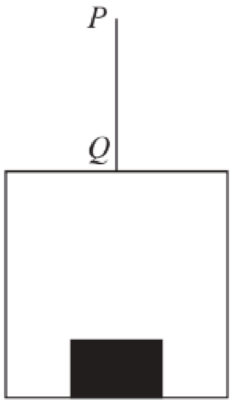

Figure 1

A vertical rope PQ has its end Q attached to the top of a small lift cage.

The lift cage has mass 40 kg and carries a block of mass 10 kg, as shown in Figure 1.

The lift cage is raised vertically by moving the end P of the rope vertically upwards with constant acceleration $0.2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$

The rope is modelled as being light and inextensible and air resistance is ignored.

Using the model,

(a) find the tension in the rope PQ

(3)

(b) find the magnitude of the force exerted on the block by the lift cage.

(3)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
	N.B. Use the mass in the 'ma' term of an equation to determine which part of the system (cage and block, cage or block) it applies to.		
4(a)	Translate situation into the model and set up the **equation** of motion for the cage and the block to obtain an equation in T only.	M1	3.3
	$T-40g-10g=50\times0.2$	A1	1.1b
	500 (N) Must be positive	A1	1.1b
	Some examples: $T-50=50\times0.2$ and $T-40g-10g=50g\times0.2$ both score M1A0A0		
		(3)	
(b)	Use the model to set up the equation of motion for the block to obtain an equation in R only.	M1	3.4
	$R-10g=10\times0.2$ Allow $-R$ instead of R	A1	1.1b
	100 (N) Must be positive.	A1	1.1b
	OR: Use the model to set up the equation of motion for the cage to obtain an equation in R only.	M1	3.4
	$T-40g-R=40\times0.2$ with their T substituted	A1	1.1b
	100 (N) Must be positive	A1	1.1b
		(3)	

Video solution:

https://youtu.be/RXP38AEYsw8

November 2021 question 3

3.

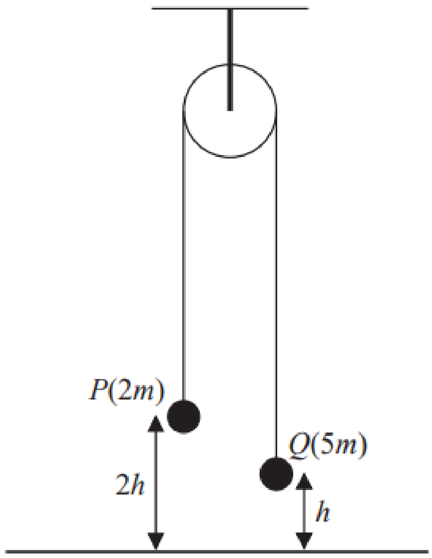

Figure 1

A ball P of mass $2m$ is attached to one end of a string.

The other end of the string is attached to a ball Q of mass $5m$.

The string passes over a fixed pulley.

The system is held at rest with the balls hanging freely and the string taut.

The hanging parts of the string are vertical with P at a height $2h$ above horizontal ground and with Q at a height h above the ground, as shown in Figure 1.

The system is released from rest.

In the subsequent motion, Q does not rebound when it hits the ground and P does not hit the pulley.

The balls are modelled as particles.

The string is modelled as being light and inextensible.

The pulley is modelled as being small and smooth.

Continues in next page

Air resistance is modelled as being negligible.

Using this model,

(a) (i) write down an equation of motion for P,

(ii) write down an equation of motion for Q,

(4)

(b) find, in terms of h only, the height above the ground at which P first comes to instantaneous rest.

(7)

(c) State one limitation of modelling the balls as particles that could affect your answer to part (b).

(1)

In reality, the string will not be inextensible.

(d) State how this would affect the accelerations of the particles.

(1)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
3(a)	(i) Equation of motion for P	M1	3.3
	$T - 2mg = 2ma$	A1	1.1b
	(ii) Equation of motion for Q	M1	3.3
	$5mg - T = 5ma$	A1	1.1b
	N.B. (allow (-a) in both equations)	**(4)**	
3(b)	Solve equations for a or use whole system equation and solve for a	M1	3.4
	$a = \frac{3g}{7} = 4.2$	A1	1.1b
	$v = \sqrt{2 \times \frac{3g}{7} \times h} = \sqrt{8.4h}$ or $v^2 = 2 \times \frac{3g}{7} \times h$ $(= 8.4h)$	M1	1.1b
	$0 = \frac{6gh}{7} - 2gH$	M1	1.1b
	$H = \frac{3h}{7}$	A1	1.1b
	Total height $= 2h + h + H$	M1	2.1
	Total height $= \frac{24h}{7}$	A1	1.1b
		(7)	
3(c)	e.g. The distance that Q falls to the ground would not be exactly h oe	B1	3.5b
		(1)	
3(d)	e.g. The accelerations of the balls would not have equal magnitude (allow 'wouldn't be the same' oe) B0 if they say 'inextensible => acceleration same'	B1	3.5a
		(1)	
		(13 marks)	

Video solution:

A-Level maths November 2021 Question 3 mechanics Paper 22 Edexcel

November 2020 question 2

2.

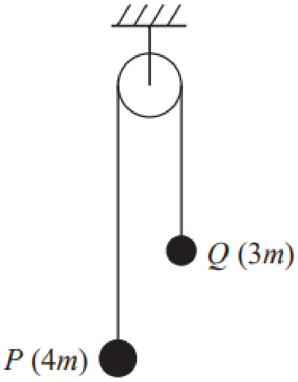

Figure 1

One end of a string is attached to a small ball P of mass $4m$.

The other end of the string is attached to another small ball Q of mass $3m$.

The string passes over a fixed pulley.

Ball P is held at rest with the string taut and the hanging parts of the string vertical, as shown in Figure 1.

Ball P is released.

The string is modelled as being light and inextensible, the balls are modelled as particles, the pulley is modelled as being smooth and air resistance is ignored.

(a) Using the model, find, in terms of m and g, the magnitude of the force exerted on the pulley by the string while P is falling and before Q hits the pulley.

(8)

(b) State one limitation of the model, apart from ignoring air resistance, that will affect the accuracy of your answer to part (a).

(1)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
2(a)	Equation of motion for P with usual rules	M1	3.3
	$4mg - T = 4ma$	A1	1.1b
	Equation of motion for Q with usual rules	M1	3.3
	$T - 3mg = 3ma$	A1	1.1b
	Solve these equations for T (does not need to be in terms of mg)	M1	1.1b
	$T = \frac{24mg}{7}$ in any form (does not need to be a single term)	A1	1.1b
	Force on pulley $= 2T$	M1	3.4
	$\frac{48mg}{7}$ Accept $6.9mg$ or better	A1	1.1b
		(8)	
2(b)	Weight of the rope or extensibility of rope Or: pulley may not be smooth	B1	3.5b
		(1)	
			(9 marks)

Video solution:

Mechanics Year 1 May 2020 Question 2

June 2019 question 2

2.

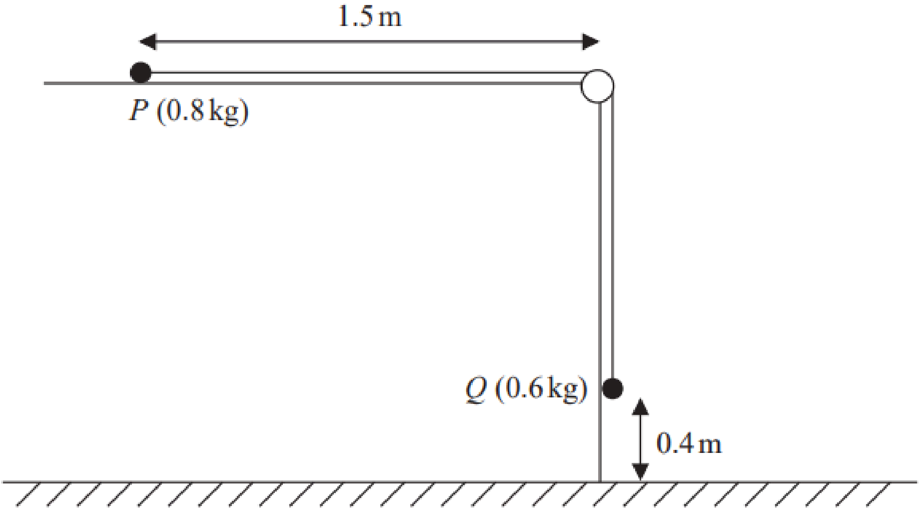

Figure 1

A small ball, P, of mass 0.8 kg, is held at rest on a smooth horizontal table and is attached to one end of a thin rope.

The rope passes over a pulley that is fixed at the edge of the table.

The other end of the rope is attached to another small ball, Q, of mass 0.6 kg, that hangs freely below the pulley.

Ball P is released from rest, with the rope taut, with P at a distance of 1.5 m from the pulley and with Q at a height of 0.4 m above the horizontal floor, as shown in Figure 1.

Ball Q descends, hits the floor and does not rebound.

The balls are modelled as particles, the rope as a light and inextensible string and the pulley as small and smooth.

Using this model,

(a) show that the acceleration of Q, as it falls, is $4.2\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$

(5)

(b) find the time taken by P to hit the pulley from the instant when P is released.

(6)

(c) State one limitation of the model that will affect the accuracy of your answer to part (a).

(1)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs	Notes
2(a)	Equation of motion for Q	M1	3.3	Equation of motion for Q with correct no. of terms, condone sign errors.
	$0.6g - T = 0.6a$	A1	1.1b	A correct equation
	Equation of motion for P	M1	3.3	Equation of motion for Q with correct no. of terms, condone sign errors.
	$T = 0.8a$	A1	1.1b	A correct equation
	$a = 4.2$ (m s^{-2}) *	A1*	2.2a	Given acceleration obtained correctly. **You must see an equation in *a* only before reaching *a* = 4.2**
		(5)		**N.B.** if they just use the whole system equation: $0.6g = 1.4a$, can only score max M1A1M0A0A0 **N.B**. Use of $g = 9.81$ or 10 loses final A mark only. **N.B.** Complete verification, using both equations, can score full marks.

(b)	$0.4 = \frac{1}{2} \times 4.2 \times t_1^2$ or e.g. they may find v first and then use $v = 4.2t_1$	M1	2.1	Complete method (they may use more than one *suvat* equation) to find time for Q to hit the floor (M0 if 0.4 **not** used as distance moved and/or if 4.2 is **not** used as acceleration and this applies to finding v as well if they use v to find t_1)
	$t_1 = 0.436(4357.....)$ Allow 0.43, 0.44, 0.436, or better, or any surd form e.g. $\frac{2}{\sqrt{21}}$	A1	1.1b	See alternatives
	$v = 4.2 \times t_1$ or $v = \sqrt{2 \times 4.2 \times 0.4}$ or $0.4 = \frac{(0+v)}{2} \times t_1$ $(v = 1.8330...)$	M1	3.4	Complete method to find speed of Q as it hits the floor (M0 if 0.4 **not** used as distance moved and/or if 4.2 is **not** used as acceleration and this applies to finding t_1 as well if they use t_1 to find v)
	$t_2 = \frac{1.5 - 0.4}{v}$	M1	1.1b	Uses distance/speed to find time for P to hit the pulley after Q has hit the floor. N.B. This is independent of previous M mark.
	Complete strategy to solve the problem by finding the sum of the two times $t_1 + t_2$	**DM1**	3.1b	Complete method to solve the problem by finding and adding the two required times, dependent on previous three M marks
	1.0 (s) or 1.04 (s)	A1	1.1b	
		(6)		
(c)	e.g. rope being light; rope being inextensible; pulley being smooth; pulley being small; balls being particles	B1	3.5b	Clear statement. Allow negatives of these i.e. the rope may not be light, the rope may not be inextensible etc Must be a limitation of the model stated in the question Penalise incorrect or irrelevant extras
		(1)		B0 for: Air resistance, table being smooth
		(12 marks)		

Video solution:

A Level maths June 2019 Question 2 Mechanics paper 22 Edexcel

June 2018 Question 9

9.

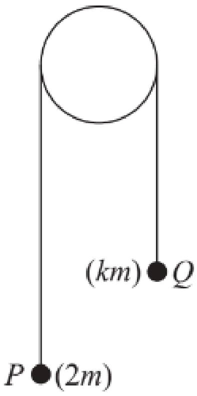

Figure 1

Two small balls, P and Q, have masses $2m$ and km respectively, where $k < 2$.
The balls are attached to the ends of a string that passes over a fixed pulley.
The system is held at rest with the string taut and the hanging parts of the string vertical, as shown in Figure 1.

The system is released from rest and, in the subsequent motion, P moves downwards with an acceleration of magnitude $\frac{5g}{7}$

The balls are modelled as particles moving freely.
The string is modelled as being light and inextensible.
The pulley is modelled as being small and smooth.

Using the model,

(a) find, in terms of m and g, the tension in the string,

(3)

(b) explain why the acceleration of Q also has magnitude $\frac{5g}{7}$

(1)

(c) find the value of k.

(4)

(d) Identify one limitation of the model that will affect the accuracy of your answer to part (c).

(1)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
9(a)	Equation of motion for P	M1	3.3
	$2mg - T = 2m \leftrightarrow \frac{5g}{7}$	A1	1.1b
	$T = \frac{4mg}{7}$	A1	1.1b
		(3)	
(b)	Since the string is modelled as being inextensible	B1	3.4
		(1)	
(c)	Equation of motion for Q **OR** for whole system	M1	3.3
	$T - kmg = km \leftrightarrow \frac{5g}{7}$ **OR** $2mg - kmg = (km + 2m)\frac{5g}{7}$	A1	1.1b
	$\frac{4mg}{7} - kmg = km \leftrightarrow \frac{5g}{7}$ oe and solve for k	DM1	1.1b
	$k = \frac{1}{3}$ or 0.333 or better	A1	1.1b
		(4)	
(d)	e.g The model does not take account of the mass of the string (see notes below for alternatives)	B1	3.5b
		(1)	
			(9 marks)

June 2018 Question 8 Paper 3 (A-Level)

8. [*In this question* **i** *and* **j** *are horizontal unit vectors due east and due north respectively and position vectors are given relative to the fixed point O.*]

A particle P moves with constant acceleration.
At time $t = 0$, the particle is at O and is moving with velocity $(2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j})\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$
At time $t = 2$ seconds, P is at the point A with position vector $(7\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j})\,\mathrm{m}$.

(a) Show that the magnitude of the acceleration of P is $2.5\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$

(4)

At the instant when P leaves the point A, the acceleration of P changes so that P now moves with constant acceleration $(4\mathbf{i} + 8.8\mathbf{j})\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$

At the instant when P reaches the point B, the direction of motion of P is north east.

(b) Find the time it takes for P to travel from A to B.

(4)

ANSWER

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
8(a)	Use of $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{u}t + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a}t^2$: $(7\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j}) = 2(2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j}) + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a}2^2$	M1	3.1b
	$\mathbf{a} = (1.5\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j})$	A1	1.1b
	$\lvert\mathbf{a}\rvert = \sqrt{1.5^2 + (-2)^2}$	M1	1.1b
	$= 2.5\ \mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$ * GIVEN ANSWER	A1*	2.1
		(4)	
(b)	Use of $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{a}t = (2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j}) + 2(1.5\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j})$	M1	3.1b
	$= (5\mathbf{i} - 7\mathbf{j})$	A1	1.1b
	$\mathbf{v} = (5\mathbf{i} - 7\mathbf{j}) + t(4\mathbf{i} + 8.8\mathbf{j}) = (5 + 4t)\mathbf{i} + (8.8t - 7)\mathbf{j}$ and $(5 + 4t) = (8.8t - 7)$	M1	3.1b
	$t = 2.5$ (s)	A1	1.1b
		(4)	
			(8 marks)