



A-Level Physics

Electromagnetic Waves

Mark Scheme

Time available: 43 minutes

Marks available: 28 marks

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Mark schemes

1.

- (a) Frequency (of rotation) of W when no reflected light seen ✓

and idea that this is the lowest frequency ✓

MP2 is contingent on MP1

Do not accept 'first frequency' for MP2

2

- (b) Either

Calculate using equation (max measurable speed)

$$= 2.5 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

Condone alternative methods e.g. comparison of times etc.

OR

Calculate value of f_0 (needed) = $12(.25) \text{ Hz}/735 \text{ rev min}^{-1}$ ✓

Unit needed for MP1

Conclusion: No as

the largest possible speed is less than the speed of light

OR

the frequency required to find the speed of light is greater than the maximum frequency. ✓

Condone ecf in MP2 only for an arithmetic error in MP1 e.g. incorrect conversion to Hz.

2

- (c) ϵ_0 related to electric field strength (due to charged object) in free space ✓

Accept vacuum for free space

μ_0 related to magnetic flux density/magnetic field strength (due to current carrying wire) in free space ✓

If no other mark given, award MAX 1 for

ϵ_0 related to electric field (in free space)

AND

μ_0 related to magnetic field (in free space)

2

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2.

(a) Pattern shows:

Maximum at start and shows minimum of zero (never negative) ✓

Correct periodicity zeros/maxima 180° apart ✓

(ie angles in right places)

Curvature rather than spikes ie 

(The graph should fall to zero – (NB First and last parts should ideally be curved not as illustrated here)

If negative then can get second mark only

Assume that bottom of graph grid is zero unless otherwise stated

Must be numbers on x-axis

Ignore if graph shows what happens beyond 360

If only one minimum shown then loses this mark

Allow if shown starting at zero

Freehand sketch so allow if clear attempt to show curvature in most of sketch or arches

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(b) Correct substitution leading to a calculation of the speed of electromagnetic wave

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{(4 \pi \times 10^{-7})(8.85 \times 10^{-12})}} = 3.0 (2.9986) \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

1

Comment that this speed agrees with the measured speed of light

Or speed determined from experiments

Or similar to Fizeau's result

1

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3.

(a)

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}} \text{ seen}$$

AND μ_0 ϵ_0 substituted separately from data booklet ✓

To give value of c AND compared with c in booklet ✓

For MP1 condone formula seen AND answer given to at least 5 sf (2.9986 x 10⁸ (ms⁻¹))

For MP2 need to see a valid comment that compares calculated value with data booklet value with units to at least 3sf

2

- (b) Maxwell's model as varying perpendicular E and B fields (transmitting through space) ✓

(Oscillating) current in T indicates presence of (oscillating) E field ✓

For MP2 allow idea of distribution of charge in T giving rise to electric field

Oscillating current in T produces (horizontal) B field ✓

For MP3 allow moving electrons produces a (varying) magnetic field

Varying (horizontal) B field induces varying emf in loop

OR

Varying (vertical) E field creates a varying emf in loop ✓

For MP4 allow

idea of magnetic field applying force on (moving) charges in the receiver (which is an emf)

OR

Idea of electric field causing change in charge distribution within the loop (which is an emf)

4

- (c) In order to determine speed, need to measure wavelength/ distance between nodes OR antinodes in stationary wave ✓

From frequency of 75 MHz and $c = f\lambda$, wavelength = 4 m

For MP3 and MP4 allow for correct calculation leading to idea that three waves will fit between transmitter and detector so YES

OR nodes/antinodes are 2 m apart ✓

Which is less than separation of transmitter and reflector so YES ✓

Answer refers to nodes ✓

In MP3 allow ecf for incorrect wavelength

4

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4.

- (a) two waves in phase in planes perpendicular to each other (1)
waves labelled E and B (or similar) (1)
direction of propagation shown or stated (1)

3

- (b) (i) magnetic wave causes alternating magnetic field (or flux) through loop (1)
induced emf in loop due to changing magnetic flux (in loop) (1)

- (ii) radio wave is polarised (1)
no magnetic flux passes through the loop in new position (1)

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[7]