



# **A-Level Physics**

## **Progressive Waves**

### **Mark Scheme**

**Time available: 70 minutes**  
**Marks available: 51 marks**

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## Mark schemes

1.

- (a) Use of  $f = \frac{1}{T}$  or number of waves =  $\frac{6 \times 10^{-9}}{\text{their } T}$  ✓

$$2.3 \times 10^6 \checkmark$$

*Condone POT error in MP1*

2

- (b) Use of speed =  $\frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$

**OR**

Divides their distance by 2

**OR**

Difference in travel time divided by 2 ✓

$$1.6 \times 10^3 \text{ (m)} \checkmark$$

2

- (c) Use of  $n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$  ✓

$$(n_2 =) 1.3(1) \checkmark$$

2

- (d) Use of  $n = \frac{c}{c_s}$  or use of  $c = f\lambda$  ✓

*Ecf from (c) in use of  $n = n = \frac{c}{c_s}$  and condone their  $c$  in use of  $c = f\lambda$*

$$6.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ (m)} \checkmark$$

*Ecf from (c)*

$$\text{Answer} = 6.1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ (m) for } n = 1.3$$

2

**[8]**

2. (a)  $f$  (from  $\frac{1}{T}$ ) in range  $61 \pm 1 \text{ Hz}$   $_{1\checkmark} \text{ } _{2\checkmark}$

OR

$$61 \pm 3 \text{ Hz } _{12\checkmark}$$

maximum 1 mark for POT error OR incorrect rounding

no credit for 1 sf; treat 60 as 2 sf unless clearly rounded to  $6 \times 10^1$

*for  $_{1\checkmark} \text{ } _{2\checkmark}$  require  $\geq 2 \text{ sf}$  that rounds to not less than 60 and not more than 62*

*for  $_{12\checkmark}$  require  $\geq 2 \text{ sf}$  that rounds to not less than 58 but less than 60*

OR

*for  $_{12\checkmark}$  require  $\geq 2 \text{ sf}$  that rounds to more than 62 but not more than 64*

*if incorrect rounding leads to 60 treat this as 1 sf and give no credit*

*use of  $\frac{1}{T}$  does not have to be seen; marks are for final answer seen*

2

(b) (figures) 804 and 226 seen in working  $_{1\checkmark}$

$\lambda$  = difference between their readings  $\times 2$ ;

given to nearest mm; expect 1.156 (m)

OR

to nearest cm; expect 1.16 (m)  $_{2\checkmark}$

*for  $_{1\checkmark}$  578 is not enough*

*for  $_{2\checkmark}$  range is based on  $x = (804 - 226 =) 578 \pm 2 \text{ mm}$ ;*

*give no credit for POT errors eg 115.6 / 116 etc*

*accept 1156 mm etc if unit on answer line is amended*

2

(c) c correctly evaluated to  $\geq 2 \text{ sf}$  from their  $f \times$  their  $\lambda$   $\checkmark$

*substituted data may be from 03.1/2 final answers or unrounded (intermediate) data from working*

*expected answer =  $61 \times 0.578 \times 2 = 70.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$*

1

(d)  $\mu$  correct to 2 sf based on their  $f$  and their  $\lambda$  earns both marks  $1\checkmark$   $2\checkmark$

for incorrect / missing  $\mu$

EITHER

use of  $c = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$

OR

use of  $f = \frac{1}{2l} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$

for  $1\checkmark$  their value of  $\mu$  can be given to  $\geq 2$  sf but

must agree with  $\frac{0.5 \times g}{(\text{their } f \times \lambda)^2}$  OR  $\frac{0.5 \times g}{(\text{their } c)^2}$  **when rounded to 2**

**sf**; use of  $g = 9.81$  or  $9.8$  only; no ecf for mixed units

expected answer  $\mu = 9.9 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-1}$ ); be wary of which approach has been taken by the candidate

for  $12\checkmark$  'use of' means allow **either**

rearranges so that  $\mu$  is the subject eg  $\mu = \frac{T}{c^2}$

(accept  $\mu = \frac{mg}{c^2}$ ,  $\frac{T}{c^2} = \mu$  etc) **or**

substitution of all relevant data including their  $c$  into a correct expression with  $\mu$  as the only unknown

for  $T$  allow  $4.9 / 4.91 / 4.905$  (accept  $0.5 \times 9.81$  or  $0.5 \times 9.8$ ); allow mixed units; allow  $0.5g$

OR 'use of' means allow **either**

rearranges to  $\mu = \frac{T}{(2 \times l \times f)^2}$  OR  $\frac{T}{4 \times l^2 \times f^2}$  **or**

substitution of all relevant data including their  $l$  and  $f$  leaving  $\mu$  as the unknown; allow sub of  $\lambda$  for  $2l$

watch for possible error  $\lambda = L$

2

(e)  $0.71$  (mm)  $\checkmark$

only answer that gets mark

1

(f) ANY TWO FROM

repeat readings at different points along the rod and calculate an average / mean  $1\checkmark$

repeat readings in different directions (perpendicular to the rod) and calculate an average / mean  $2\checkmark$

reject / discard anomalous readings before calculating an average / mean  $3\checkmark$

award  $123\checkmark = 1$  MAX for checking at different points / in different directions to confirm that the rod is uniform / that there are no anomalies

*allow 'cylinder' / 'wire' etc for rod*

*for  $1\checkmark$   $2\checkmark$  and  $3\checkmark$  averaging idea only needs to be seen once;*

*if averaging idea missing then allow 'repeat at different points and in different directions, then remove anomalies'  $123\checkmark = 1$  MAX*

*if 'calculate' is not seen allow 'work out' / 'determine' / 'compute';*

*anything that sounds like a mathematical process is ok;*

*'find' / 'obtain' / 'take' / 'do an average' are just ok;*

*'get' is not ok*

*for  $1\checkmark$  allow repeat at 'different positions' / 'down / along the rod'*

*for  $2\checkmark$  allow (repeat in different directions) 'around the rod' / 'different orientations' / 'angles' / 'planes' / 'sides'*

*for  $3\checkmark$  allow 'ignore anomalies'; 'outlier' = 'anomaly'*

*reject 'calculate an average to eliminate effect of anomalies'*

*treat as neutral: 'turn the wheel to close the callipers' / suggestions about calibration*

*treat as neutral: 'zero callipers before use' this is a procedure to eliminate a source of systematic error*

2

(g) (for use of expected 0.71)

$$\rho = 8.9(41) \times 10^3 \text{ (kg m}^{-3}\text{)}$$

OR

(for use of 0.53)

$$\rho = 1.6(05) \times 10^4 \text{ (kg m}^{-3}\text{)}$$

OR

$$\rho = \frac{4.51 \times 10^{-3}}{(\text{their } d \text{ from (e)})^2}$$

OR

attempts to use  $\mu$  OR  $3.5(4) \times 10^{-3}$  divided by their (recognisable) cross-sectional area  $1\checkmark$

AND/OR

evidence showing cross-sectional area =  $\frac{\pi d^2}{4}$  using their d from (e) (allow  $\pi r^2$  using their d)  $_{2}\checkmark$

correct answer scores  $_{123}\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$

for  $_{123}\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$  allow an answer that rounds to the correct 2 sf value  
sample results for expected d

d/mm	A/m <sup>2</sup>	$\rho$ /kg m <sup>-3</sup>
0.71	$3.96 \times 10^{-7}$	$8.9(41) \times 10^3$
0.53	$2.21 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.6(05) \times 10^4$

for  $_{1}\checkmark$  accept use of symbols, eg

$$\rho = \frac{\mu}{A} / = \frac{3.54 \times 10^{-3}}{A(\times 1)} / = \frac{4 \times \mu}{\pi \times d^2} / = \frac{4 \times 3.54 \times 10^{-3}}{\pi \times d^2(\times 1)}$$

$$= \frac{3.54 \times 10^{-3}}{\pi \times r^2(\times 1)}$$

for  $_{2}\checkmark$  expect correct value of A seen or correct values of A or d in working, eg

$$\rho = \frac{3.54 \times 10^{-3}}{3.96 \times 10^{-7}(\times 1)} / = \frac{4 \times 3.54 \times 10^{-3}}{\pi \times (0.71 \times 10^{-3})^2 \times (1)}$$

accept values  $\geq 2$  sf for A; allow ecf d and don't penalise POT error in A or d (eg missing  $10^{-7}$ ,  $10^{-3}$ )

1  
2

[13]

**3.** (a) Waves travel to the boundaries and are reflected  $\checkmark$   
Not bounce off ...

1

two waves travelling in opposite directions interfere/superpose  $\checkmark$   
Not superimpose or interferes with itself

1

Fixed boundaries (cannot move so) are nodes  $\checkmark$   
creates nodes and antinodes  $\text{bland} = 0$

In some positions the waves always cancel /interfere destructively to give zero amplitude/no vibration/nodes)

**OR**

interfere constructively to produce positions of maximum amplitude/maximum vibration/antinodes  $\checkmark$

1  
Max 3

(b) Use of  $f = \frac{1}{2l} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$  ✓

*Either rearranges for  $\mu$  without substitution or substitutes correctly in the formula*

1

4.2 (4.19)  $\times 10^{-4}$  (kg) ✓

1

(c) 240 (244) ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

1

(d) 1 rotation of the peg = 22 mm ✓

*Or Reads increase in tension produced by the extra extension (about 10 N) from graph and adds to 25*

1

extra extension =  $22 \times 75/360 = 4.6$  mm

(ecf for incorrect circumference) ✓

$\pi d \times 75/360$  not evaluated = 1

1

Total extension =  $11 + 4.6$  (15.6 mm) so tension 35 - 36N ✓

*Inspect their length and their tension in the substitution*

1

Calculates frequency **for their tension**

*T must be greater than the original 25N*

*Condone adding or subtracting extra extension to 0.33 m*

*If  $4.0 \times 10^{-4}$  kg used then answer will be in range 448 Hz to 455 Hz*

*If  $4.19 \times 10^{-4}$  used 438 to 444 Hz*

1

[10]

4.

- (a) Period =  $0.2 \times 10^{-14}$  (s) read off

OR

Recognisable  $T$  substituted into  $T = 1 / f$  ✓

*An acceptable subject (period, time for one cycle, one cycle,  $T$ , etc.)*

*Allow non-standard symbol with unit seen on time.*

*Allow this subtraction of two times seen in  $f = 1/T$*

Use of  $T = 1 / f$  and  $c = f\lambda$  ✓

OR

Use of  $\lambda = cT$

*Use of here is:*

*Subject must be seen with substitutions or rearranged equations with  $f = 1/T$  and  $\lambda = c/f$*

*Condone power 10 error here*

*Condone lack of subject in vertical working where rearranged equation with appropriate subject seen at heading of column*

$6(0) \times 10^{-7}$  (m) ✓

*Number must be expressed as  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  or  $600 \times 10^{-9}$*

*or equivalent not enough to see only nano prefix.*

3

- (b) (Determines a fraction of cycle)

$$\frac{0.04}{0.2} \text{ or } \frac{2}{10} \text{ or } \frac{1}{5} \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ or } \frac{1.2(\times 10^{-7})}{6(\times 10^{-7})} \text{ or } 0.2\lambda \text{ seen} \checkmark$$

*Condone their fraction  $\times 2\pi$  or their decimal  $\times 2\pi$*

*For 1<sup>st</sup> mark*

$2\pi/5$  OR  $0.4 \pi$

OR

1.26 or 1.3 ✓

*Allow  $8\pi/5$  OR  $1.6 \pi$*

*OR*

*5.03 or 5.0*

2



(c) (Distance =)  $3 \times 10^{-7} \times 2.37 \times 10^5$  seen

OR

(Distance =) 0.07(11) (m) seen ✓

Subs into  $s = \frac{1}{2} at^2$  ✓

*Condone error in sub for s where formula has been otherwise correctly manipulated with a (or g) as subject*

**9.88** (3 sf only) ✓

*Alternative:*

1<sup>st</sup> mark      average speed =  $\frac{3 \times 10^{-7} \times 2.37 \times 10^5}{0.12}$

2<sup>nd</sup> mark       $a = \frac{2 \times \text{their average speed}}{0.12}$

3<sup>rd</sup> mark      9.88

3

(d) Draws a tangent to the curve at approximately

t = 120 ms and attempts a gradient calculation ✓

*Tangent must be a straight line that touches curve and divergent from curve before 90 ms and after 150 ms*

(Gradient =) 1.2 (range 1.1 to 1.3) ✓

*Allow  $1.2 \times 10^{-3}$  (range  $1.1 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $1.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ) ✓*

*Ignore units on answer line*

*2<sup>nd</sup> mark is dependent on 1<sup>st</sup> mark*

*Max 1 mark for correct answer in range where tangent satisfies above conditions but doesn't quite touch curve (half-square tolerance)*

**First alternative:**

1<sup>st</sup> mark

*Use of  $v = u + at$  with sub for  $a = 9.88$  or  $9.875$  and  $t = 0.12$*

2<sup>nd</sup> mark

1.2 or 1.19 or 1.185 **only**

**Second alternative:**

1<sup>st</sup> mark

*Use of  $s = \frac{1}{2} at^2$  and  $ds/dt = at$  with sub for  $a = 9.88$  or  $9.875$  and  $t = 0.12$*

2<sup>nd</sup> mark

1.2 or 1.19 or 1.185 **only**

4

- (e) (instantaneous) Velocity (of the mirror) or (instantaneous) speed (of the mirror) ✓

*Ignore any units quoted*

**Do not allow:**

*Average speed / constant speed*

4

[8]

5.

- (a)  $\pi / 180^\circ$  out of phase ✓

*Do not allow "out of phase".*

1

- (b) wavelength = 0.44 m ✓

$$c (= f\lambda) = 145 \text{ (m s}^{-1}\text{)} \checkmark$$

2

- (c) First harmonic frequency = 110 Hz ✓

$$T = 4 \times 110^2 \times 0.66^2 \times \left( \frac{3.1 \times 10^{-8}}{0.91} \right) \checkmark$$

$$71.8 \text{ N} \checkmark$$

3

- (d) Extension of string =  $3 \times 2\pi \times 3.0 \times 10^{-3}$  (= 5.65 cm) ✓

$$\text{energy stored} = 0.5 \times 71.8 \times 0.0565 = 2.03 \text{ (J)} \checkmark$$

Compares calculated energy quantitatively to another energy and draws correct inference, e.g. wire would be moving at about 80 mph so a risk / 2 J is the equivalent of 1 kg mass dropped through 0.2 m so a risk ✓

3

[9]