



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

**A. M. E. C. E. A**

P.O. Box 62157

00200 Nairobi - KENYA

Telephone: 891601-6

**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**JANUARY – APRIL 2019 TRIMESTER**

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS**

**REGULAR PROGRAMME**

**PHY 201: MECHANICS II**

**Date: APRIL 2019**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other Two Questions**

- Q1. a) i) Show that for a particle executing a simple harmonic motion(SHM), its velocity At any instant is  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \omega\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$  **(3marks)**
- ii) Derive an expression (the differential equation) for undamped harmonic oscillation. **(3marks)**
- b) When a Simple Harmonic wave is propagated through a medium, the displacement of the Particle (in cm) at any instant of time is given by  $y = 10\sin\frac{2\pi}{100}(3600t - 20)$ .  
Calculate the amplitude of the vibrating particle, wave velocity and the periodic time of Particle. **(4marks)**
- c) i) Define the following terms
- i) Isochronous **(1mark)**
  - ii) Damped oscillation **(1mark)**
  - iii) Resonance **(1mark)**
  - iv) Amplitude **(1mark)**
- ii) Given that the displacement of particle describing a simple harmonic motion is given by  $y = r \cos \omega t$ .  
Show that the acceleration of the particle is given by  $a = -\omega^2 y$  **(5marks)**

- d) A light spiral spring is loaded with a mass of 50g and it extends by 10cm. Calculate the Period of the small vertical oscillations. (Take  $g = 10 \text{ms}^{-2}$ ) **(3marks)**
- e) i) State the law of universal gravitation **(1mark)**
- ii) If  $T_e$  is the time taken for the earth to make one orbit around the sun, the radius of the earth's orbit is  $r_e = 1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{m}$  and  $T_e = 3.0 \times 10^7 \text{s}$ . Calculate the mass of the Sun. **(4marks)**
- f) A simple pendulum of length 2.5m and the mass of the bob is 40g. The extreme Displacement is  $75^\circ$  from the mean position. Find the kinetic energy possessed by the System at  $20^\circ$  from the mean position and the velocity of the bob at this point. **(3 marks)**
- Q2. a) A particle moving with Simple Harmonic Motion has velocities of 4cm/s and 3cm/s at distances 3cm and 4cm respectively from the equilibrium position.  
Find i) The amplitude of the oscillation **(3marks)**  
ii) The period **(3marks)**  
iii) The velocity of the particle as it passes through the equilibrium position. **(4 marks)**
- b) A simple pendulum was observed to perform forty oscillations in 100s, of amplitude  $4^\circ$ . Find  
i) The length of the pendulum **(3marks)**  
ii) The maximum linear acceleration of the pendulum bob **(3marks)**  
iii) The maximum velocity of the bob **(2marks)**  
iv) The maximum angular velocity of the pendulum. **(2marks)**
- Q3 a) State the principle of superposition of waves. **(2marks)**
- b) Deduce an expression for the resultant displacement of two waves with equal amplitudes, A, and quite close frequencies  $\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2$  respectively. **(8marks)**
- c) The following two waves in a medium were superposed.  
 $y_1 = 4 \sin(5x - 10t)$  and  
 $y_2 = 4 \sin(5x + 10t)$   
 Where x is in metres and t is in seconds.  
 (i) Establish an equation for the combined disturbance. **(5marks)**  
 (ii) Find the value of the combined amplitude when  
 $x = \frac{\pi}{10}$ .

d) Differentiate between constructive and destructive interference of waves. **(2marks)**

Q4 a) Define the term Fourier series and show that the Fourier coefficient  $b_n$  is given

$$\text{By } b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \quad \text{(5marks)}$$

b) Find the Fourier series for the function  $f(x) = x$  for  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$ . **(8marks)**

c) A particle of mass 2kg moves along the x axis and is attracted towards the origin O by a force whose magnitude is numerically equal to  $8x$ . Suppose that the particle has a damping force whose magnitude is equal to 8 times the instantaneous speed. If it is initially at rest at  $x = 20$ . Find

- i) The position at any time
- ii) The velocity at any time. **(7marks)**

Q5 a) The mass of the earth is  $5.98 \times 10^{24}$ kg and the gravitational constant is  $6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3/\text{Kg s}^2$ . Assuming the earth is a uniform sphere of radius  $6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$ . Find the gravitational force on a mass of 1.00Kg on the earth's surface. **(5marks)**

b) It is proposed to place a communication satellite in a circular orbit around the Equator at a height of  $3.59 \times 10^7 \text{ m}$  above the earth's surface. Find the period of Revolution of the satellite in hours and comment on the results.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Take } M_e &= 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ Kg} \\ R_e &= 6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m} \\ G &= 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3/\text{Kg s}^2 \end{aligned} \quad \text{(5marks)}$$

c) Explaining each step in your calculation and pointing out the assumptions you make, Use the information below to estimate the mean distance of the moon from the earth.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Period of rotation of the moon around the earth} &= 27.3 \text{ days} \\ \text{Radius of the earth} &= 6.37 \times 10^3 \text{ km} \\ \text{Acceleration due to the gravity at the earth's surface. } G &= 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2. \end{aligned}$$

**(5marks)**

d) From Newton's law of Gravitation, if the acceleration due to gravity,  $g_m$ , at the moon's surface is  $1.70 \text{ m/s}^2$  and its radius is  $1.74 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$ , Calculate the mass of the moon.

To what height would a signal rocket rise on the moon, if an identical one is fired on the Earth could reach 200m? (ignore atmospheric resistance). Explain your reasoning. **(5marks)**

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