



Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

PHYSICS

Paper 1 Multiple Choice (Core)

0972/11

May/June 2026

45 minutes

You must answer on the multiple choice answer sheet.

You will need: Multiple choice answer sheet
Soft clean eraser
Soft pencil (type B or HB is recommended)

INSTRUCTIONS

- There are **forty** questions on this paper. Answer **all** questions.
- For each question there are four possible answers **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**. Choose the **one** you consider correct and record your choice in soft pencil on the multiple choice answer sheet.
- Follow the instructions on the multiple choice answer sheet.
- Write in soft pencil.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on the multiple choice answer sheet in the spaces provided unless this has been done for you.
- Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You may use a calculator.
- Take the weight of 1.0 kg to be 9.8 N (acceleration of free fall = 9.8 m/s^2).

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- Each correct answer will score one mark.
- Any rough working should be done on this question paper.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

- 1 A student uses a stopwatch to determine the period of oscillation of a pendulum.

The initial reading on the stopwatch is 5.64 s.

The student starts the stopwatch, and then stops it after the pendulum has completed 15 oscillations.

The final reading on the stopwatch is 25.16 s.

What is the period of oscillation of the pendulum?

- A** 0.38 s **B** 1.30 s **C** 1.68 s **D** 2.05 s

- 2 What is the definition of velocity?

- A** distance travelled per unit time
B distance travelled $\times$ time taken
C gradient of a distance–time graph
D speed in a given direction

- 3 A falling object near to the surface of the Earth has an acceleration of free fall g .

What is the approximate value of g and what is the approximate change in g as the object gets nearer to the Earth?

	approximate value of g m/s²	approximate change in g
A	8.9	decreases
B	8.9	no change
C	9.8	decreases
D	9.8	no change

- 4 What is the weight of an object?

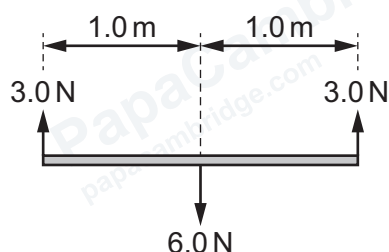
- A** the quantity of matter in the object
B the gravitational field strength of the object
C the gravitational force on the object
D the total energy of the object

- 5 The density of oil is 0.85 g/cm^3 . The density of pure water is 1.00 g/cm^3 . The density of mercury is 13.6 g/cm^3 .

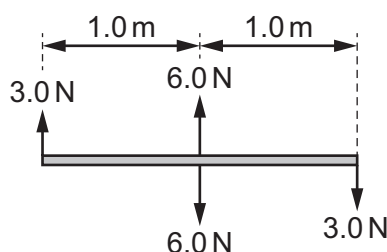
A metal object sinks in pure water and sinks in oil. The object floats in mercury.

What is the density of the metal?

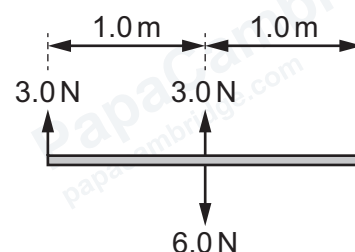
- A greater than 13.6 g/cm^3
 B less than 13.6 g/cm^3 but greater than 1.00 g/cm^3
 C less than 1.00 g/cm^3 but greater than 0.85 g/cm^3
 D less than 0.85 g/cm^3
- 6 All the forces acting on three identical beams are shown.



P



Q

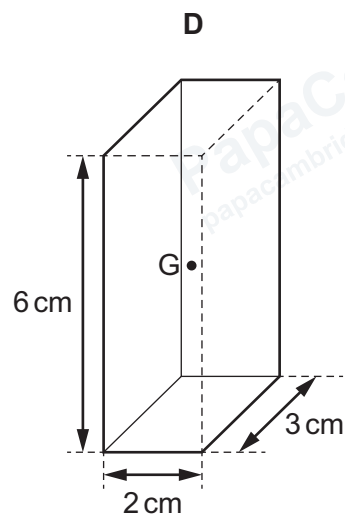
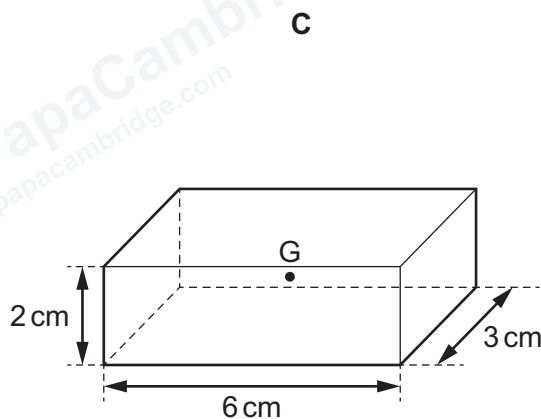
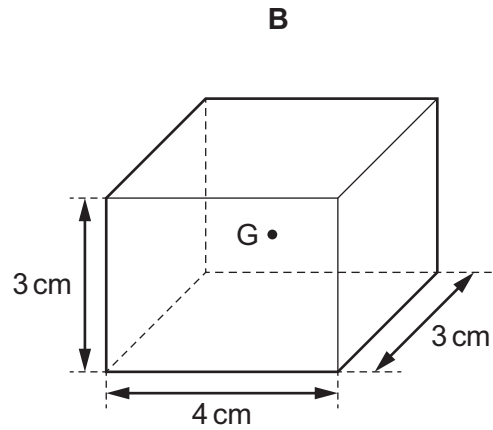
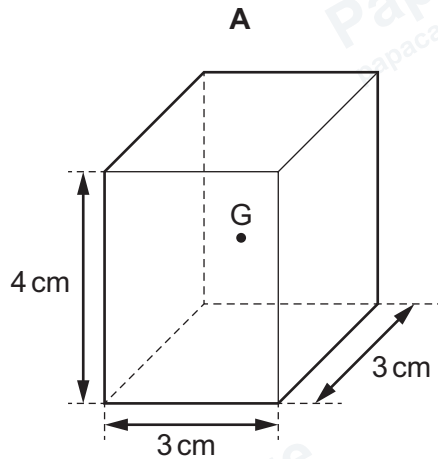


R

Which beams are in equilibrium?

- A P and R B P only C Q and R D Q only

- 7 Four blocks are made of the same metal. They have the same volume and weight. They are placed as shown in the diagrams. The centre of gravity of each block is labelled G. Which block is the most stable?



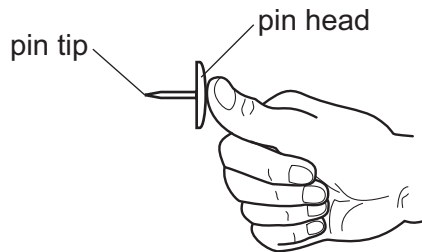
- 8 Which process transfers energy between stores by mechanical working?
- A** an electric current causing a lamp to give out light
 - B** a stone falling from the top of a building
 - C** light travelling from a lamp to a person's eye
 - D** thermal energy conducted through the base of a cooking pot

- 9 A force F moves an object a distance d in the direction of the force in a time t .

How much energy is transferred?

- A Fd B Ft C $\frac{Fd}{t}$ D $\frac{Ft}{d}$

- 10 A student pushes a drawing pin (thumb tack) into a notice board.

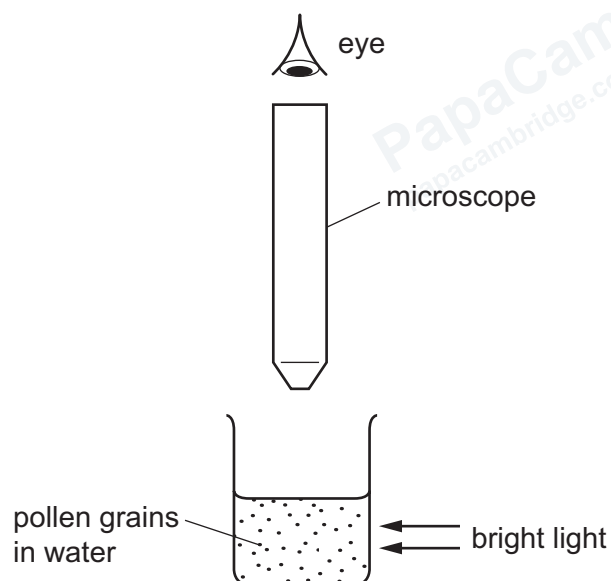


Which statement about the pin tip is correct?

- A The area of the pin tip is large so that the pressure is high.
B The area of the pin tip is large so that the pressure is low.
C The area of the pin tip is small so that the pressure is high.
D The area of the pin tip is small so that the pressure is low.

- 11 Very small pollen grains are suspended in water. A bright light shines from the side.

When looked at through a microscope, small specks of light are seen to be moving in a random, jerky manner.



What are the moving specks of light?

- A pollen grains being hit by other pollen grains
- B pollen grains being hit by water molecules
- C water molecules being hit by other water molecules
- D water molecules being hit by pollen grains

- 12 Which row gives the temperature of melting ice and the temperature of boiling water?

	temperature of melting ice / K	temperature of boiling water / K
A	−273	−173
B	−273	373
C	273	−173
D	273	373

- 13 Why are small gaps left between the metal rails of a railway track?

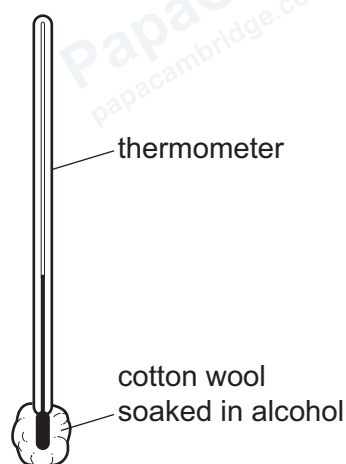
- A to allow for expansion of the rails on a hot day
- B to allow for contraction of the rails on a hot day
- C to allow for expansion of the rails on a cold day
- D to allow for contraction of the rails on a cold day

- 14 A bicycle tyre contains air. The temperature of the air in the tyre increases.

In which store does the energy stored increase?

- A chemical store
- B electrostatic store
- C internal store
- D nuclear store

- 15 A student wraps cotton wool around the bulb of a thermometer. The student soaks the cotton wool briefly in alcohol that is at room temperature.



The student observes that, after the thermometer and cotton wool are removed from the alcohol, the reading on the thermometer decreases to below room temperature.

Which statement explains the decrease in temperature?

- A The alcohol cools when it touches the thermometer bulb.
 - B The cotton wool insulates the thermometer from the warmer surroundings.
 - C The cotton wool is a good conductor of thermal energy.
 - D The most energetic alcohol molecules escape from the surface of the cotton wool.
- 16 A student compares three substances: air, water and wood.

In which substances is convection a possible method of thermal energy transfer?

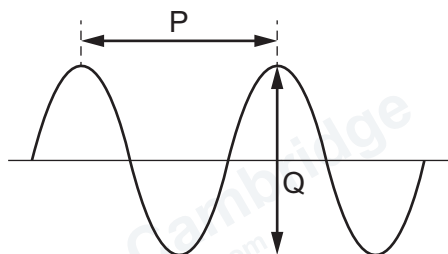
- A air and water only
- B air only
- C air, water and wood
- D water only

- 17 Four spheres have different surface textures and colours. All of the spheres are at the same temperature.

Which sphere emits infrared radiation at the greatest rate?

	surface texture	surface colour
A	shiny	black
B	shiny	white
C	dull	black
D	dull	white

- 18 The diagram shows a wave. Two distances, P and Q, are labelled.



What is distance P and what is distance Q?

	distance P	distance Q
A	wavelength	amplitude
B	wavelength	double the amplitude
C	double the wavelength	amplitude
D	double the wavelength	double the amplitude

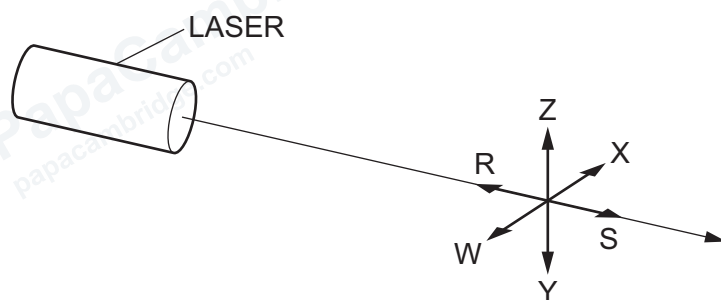
- 19 Sound travels through air at a speed of 340 m/s. A source generates sound waves at a frequency of 1.2 kHz.

What is the wavelength of the sound waves?

- A** 0.28 m **B** 3.5 m **C** 280 m **D** 410 m

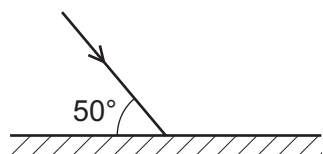
- 20 The diagram shows a beam of light leaving a LASER.

Direction RS is parallel to the beam. Directions WX and YZ are perpendicular to the beam.



Which directions are possible vibration directions for light in the beam?

- A RS, WX and YZ
 - B RS only
 - C WX and YZ only
 - D none of them
- 21 The diagram shows a ray of light incident on a plane mirror.



What is the angle of reflection of the ray?

- A 40°
 - B 50°
 - C 80°
 - D 130°
- 22 Light from the Sun passes through a converging lens and forms an image.

What is the description of the image formed?

- A It is real and diminished.
- B It is real and enlarged.
- C It is virtual and diminished.
- D It is virtual and enlarged.

- 23** Red, green and violet lights are part of the visible spectrum of light.

What is the order of colours from shortest to longest wavelength?

- A** red → green → violet
- B** red → violet → green
- C** violet → red → green
- D** violet → green → red

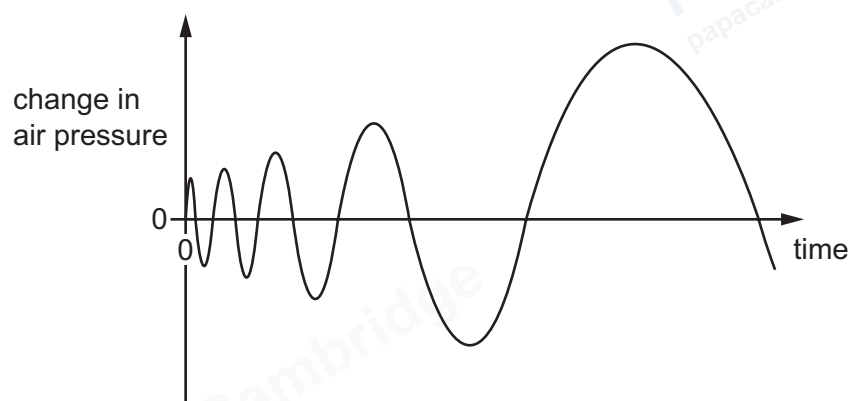
- 24** As the Universe expands, the wavelength of electromagnetic waves reaching the Earth from distant galaxies increases.

This can cause waves that are emitted in one part of the electromagnetic spectrum to be detected in another part of that spectrum.

Which change could be caused by expansion of the Universe?

- A** radio waves to microwaves
- B** microwaves to ultraviolet
- C** visible light to microwaves
- D** microwaves to gamma rays

- 25** The diagram represents a sound wave.



Which changes are occurring to this sound wave?

	frequency	amplitude
A	decreasing	decreasing
B	decreasing	increasing
C	increasing	decreasing
D	increasing	increasing

- 26 Two metal rods each have a painted end. The painted ends are placed next to the N pole and S pole of a bar magnet in turn.



The rods are made from iron, aluminium or magnetised steel.

rod	placed next to	observation
1	N pole of bar magnet	attracts
1	S pole of bar magnet	attracts
2	N pole of bar magnet	nothing happens
2	S pole of bar magnet	nothing happens

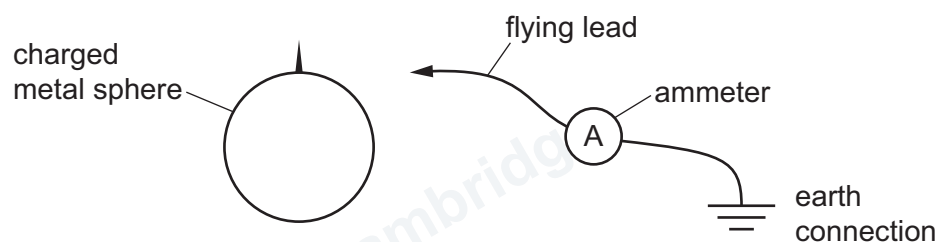
What are rod 1 and rod 2 made from?

	rod 1	rod 2
A	magnetised steel	aluminium
B	iron	magnetised steel
C	aluminium	iron
D	iron	aluminium

- 27 Which row gives the metal used to make the core of an electromagnet and one property of the electromagnet?

	metal	property
A	iron	permanent magnet
B	iron	temporary magnet
C	steel	permanent magnet
D	steel	temporary magnet

- 28 A charged metal sphere is insulated from its surroundings. It is **not** connected to a battery or power supply. A flying lead is used to connect the sphere to earth through an ammeter.



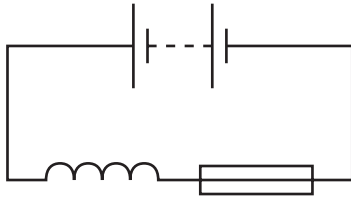
What happens to the pointer on the ammeter when the lead is connected to the sphere?

- A** It does **not** move.
- B** It deflects and then returns to zero.
- C** It deflects and gives a steady reading.
- D** It deflects to give a positive reading and then a negative reading.
- 29 Which apparatus is needed to measure the electromotive force (e.m.f.) of a cell?
- A** ammeter and force meter
- B** ammeter and voltmeter
- C** force meter only
- D** voltmeter only
- 30 A cable is used to connect an electrical device to a 240 V mains supply. The cable overheats if the current in it exceeds 40 A.

What is the maximum power of a device that can be connected to the mains supply using this cable without overheating?

- A** 0.17 W **B** 6.0 W **C** 280 W **D** 9600 W

- 31 The diagram shows a circuit.

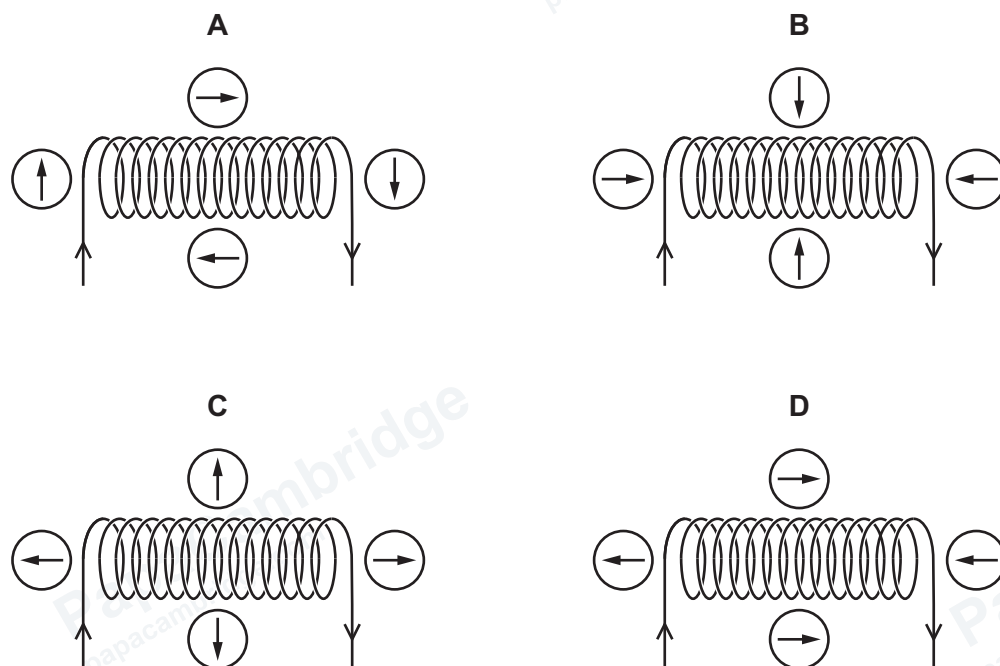


Which statement correctly describes this circuit?

- A A magnetising coil is in series with a fuse.
 - B A transformer is in series with a fuse.
 - C A magnetising coil is in series with a resistor.
 - D A transformer is in series with a resistor.
- 32 A 3.0Ω resistor and a 6.0Ω resistor are connected in parallel.
What is the resistance of the combination?
- A 2.0Ω
 - B 4.5Ω
 - C 9.0Ω
 - D 18Ω
- 33 A cable connected to an electric kettle has damaged insulation. The live wire inside the cable is exposed.
What is a possible hazard of the damaged insulation?
- A A person touches the exposed wire and gets an electric shock.
 - B The cable breaks and blows the fuse in the circuit.
 - C The kettle boils and injures the person.
 - D The kettle does **not** work if the live wire is exposed.
- 34 Which statement is correct for a hair dryer with a double-insulated outer casing?
- A It does **not** need a fuse or an earth wire.
 - B It needs an earth wire but **not** a fuse.
 - C It needs a fuse but **not** an earth wire.
 - D It needs a fuse and an earth wire.

- 35** Four small compasses are placed close to a current-carrying solenoid.

In which directions do the compass needles point?



- 36** What is the charge on the nucleus of an atom and what is the charge on the electrons in orbit around the nucleus?

	charge on nucleus	charge on electrons
A	negative	negative
B	negative	positive
C	positive	negative
D	positive	positive

- 37** Some sources of background radiation are natural and other sources are due to human activity.

Which source is natural?

- A** medical X-rays
- B** nuclear weapons testing
- C** radioactive waste from power stations
- D** radon gas from rocks

38 Isotope X undergoes radioactive decay to produce nuclei of a different element.

Which statement about isotope X must be correct?

- A** It emits α -particles or γ -radiation.
- B** It emits α -particles or β -particles.
- C** It emits β -particles or γ -radiation.
- D** It emits γ -radiation only.

39 Which statement about the Solar System is correct?

- A** All the planets are rocky.
- B** Only the Earth has a moon.
- C** Pluto is a dwarf planet.
- D** There are many stars in the Solar System.

40 Which description of a galaxy is correct?

- A** a collection of billions of stars
- B** a collection of gaseous planets orbiting a star
- C** a collection of rocky planets orbiting a star
- D** all of the stars that exist

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