Surname		Other Names	
Centre Number		Candidate Number	
Candidate Signature			

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General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination

PHYSICS (SPECIFICATION A) **PHA8/W**
Unit 8 Nuclear Instability: Turning Points in Physics Option

Thursday 15 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.15 am

For this paper you must have:
- a calculator
- a pencil and ruler

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions
- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Show all your working.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information
- The maximum mark for this paper is 40. This includes up to 2 marks for the Quality of Written Communication.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- A *Data sheet* is provided on pages 3 and 4. You may wish to detach this perforated sheet at the start of the examination.
- You are expected to use a calculator where appropriate.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Questions indicated on the paper should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in these answers.

For Examiner's Use			
Number	Mark	Number	Mark
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Total (Column 1) →			
Total (Column 2) →			
Quality of Written Communication			
TOTAL			
Examiner's Initials			

Data Sheet

- A perforated *Data Sheet* is provided as pages 3 and 4 of this question paper.
- This sheet may be useful for answering some of the questions in the examination.
- You may wish to detach this sheet before you begin work.

Data Sheet

Fundamental constants and values

Quantity	*Symbol*	*Value*	*Units*
speed of light in vacuo	c	3.00×10^{8}	$\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$
permeability of free space	μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7}$	$\mathrm{H\,m^{-1}}$
permittivity of free space	ε_0	8.85×10^{-12}	$\mathrm{F\,m^{-1}}$
charge of electron	e	1.60×10^{-19}	C
the Planck constant	h	6.63×10^{-34}	J s
gravitational constant	G	6.67×10^{-11}	$\mathrm{N\,m^2\,kg^{-2}}$
the Avogadro constant	N_A	6.02×10^{23}	$\mathrm{mol^{-1}}$
molar gas constant	R	8.31	$\mathrm{J\,K^{-1}\,mol^{-1}}$
the Boltzmann constant	k	1.38×10^{-23}	$\mathrm{J\,K^{-1}}$
the Stefan constant	σ	5.67×10^{-8}	$\mathrm{W\,m^{-2}\,K^{-4}}$
the Wien constant	α	2.90×10^{-3}	m K
electron rest mass (equivalent to 5.5×10^{-4}u)	m_e	9.11×10^{-31}	kg
electron charge/mass ratio	e/m_e	1.76×10^{11}	$\mathrm{C\,kg^{-1}}$
proton rest mass (equivalent to 1.00728u)	m_p	1.67×10^{-27}	kg
proton charge/mass ratio	e/m_p	9.58×10^{7}	$\mathrm{C\,kg^{-1}}$
neutron rest mass (equivalent to 1.00867u)	m_n	1.67×10^{-27}	kg
gravitational field strength	g	9.81	$\mathrm{N\,kg^{-1}}$
acceleration due to gravity	g	9.81	$\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$
atomic mass unit (1u is equivalent to 931.3 MeV)	u	1.661×10^{-27}	kg

Fundamental particles

Class	*Name*	*Symbol*	*Rest energy* /MeV
photon	photon	γ	0
lepton	neutrino	ν_e	0
		ν_μ	0
	electron	$e^\pm$	0.510999
	muon	$\mu^\pm$	105.659
mesons	pion	$\pi^\pm$	139.576
		π^0	134.972
	kaon	$K^\pm$	493.821
		K^0	497.762
baryons	proton	p	938.257
	neutron	n	939.551

Properties of quarks

Type	*Charge*	*Baryon number*	*Strangeness*
u	$+\frac{2}{3}$	$+\frac{1}{3}$	0
d	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$+\frac{1}{3}$	0
s	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$+\frac{1}{3}$	-1

Geometrical equations

arc length $= r\theta$

circumference of circle $= 2\pi r$

area of circle $= \pi r^2$

area of cylinder $= 2\pi rh$

volume of cylinder $= \pi r^2 h$

area of sphere $= 4\pi r^2$

volume of sphere $= \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

Mechanics and Applied Physics

$v = u + at$

$s = \left(\frac{u+v}{2}\right)t$

$s = ut + \frac{at^2}{2}$

$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$

$F = \frac{\Delta(mv)}{\Delta t}$

$P = Fv$

$\textit{efficiency} = \frac{\textit{power output}}{\textit{power input}}$

$\omega = \frac{v}{r} = 2\pi f$

$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = r\omega^2$

$I = \sum mr^2$

$E_k = \frac{1}{2} I\omega^2$

$\omega_2 = \omega_1 + \alpha t$

$\theta = \omega_1 t + \frac{1}{2}\alpha t^2$

$\omega_2^2 = \omega_1^2 + 2\alpha\theta$

$\theta = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)t$

$T = I\alpha$

angular momentum $= I\omega$

$W = T\theta$

$P = T\omega$

angular impulse = change of angular momentum $= Tt$

$\Delta Q = \Delta U + \Delta W$

$\Delta W = p\Delta V$

pV^γ = constant

work done per cycle = area of loop

input power = calorific value × fuel flow rate

indicated power as (area of p – V loop) × (no. of cycles/s) × (no. of cylinders)

friction power = indicated power – brake power

$\textit{efficiency} = \frac{W}{Q_{in}} = \frac{Q_{in} - Q_{out}}{Q_{in}}$

maximum possible efficiency $= \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H}$

Fields, Waves, Quantum Phenomena

$g = \frac{F}{m}$

$g = -\frac{GM}{r^2}$

$g = -\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta x}$

$V = -\frac{GM}{r}$

$a = -(2\pi f)^2 x$

$v = \pm 2\pi f\sqrt{A^2 - x^2}$

$x = A\cos 2\pi ft$

$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$

$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$

$\lambda = \frac{\omega s}{D}$

$d\sin\theta = n\lambda$

$\theta \approx \frac{\lambda}{D}$

${}_1n_2 = \frac{\sin\theta_1}{\sin\theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$

${}_1n_2 = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$

$\sin\theta_c = \frac{1}{n}$

$E = hf$

$hf = \phi + E_k$

$hf = E_1 - E_2$

$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$

$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0\varepsilon_0}}$

Electricity

$\epsilon = \frac{E}{Q}$

$\epsilon = I(R + r)$

$\frac{1}{R_T} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \cdots$

$R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + \cdots$

$P = I^2 R$

$E = \frac{F}{Q} = \frac{V}{d}$

$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{Q}{r^2}$

$E = \frac{1}{2}QV$

$F = BIl$

$F = BQv$

$Q = Q_0 e^{-t/RC}$

$\Phi = BA$

Turn over ▶

Data Sheet

$$\text{magnitude of induced e.m.f.} = N\frac{\Delta\Phi}{\Delta t}$$

$$I_{rms} = \frac{I_0}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$V_{rms} = \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Mechanical and Thermal Properties

$$\text{the Young modulus} = \frac{\text{tensile stress}}{\text{tensile strain}} = \frac{F}{A}\frac{l}{e}$$

$$\text{energy stored} = \tfrac{1}{2}Fe$$

$$\Delta Q = mc\,\Delta\theta$$

$$\Delta Q = ml$$

$$pV = \tfrac{1}{3}Nm\overline{c^2}$$

$$\tfrac{1}{2}m\overline{c^2} = \tfrac{3}{2}kT = \frac{3RT}{2N_A}$$

Nuclear Physics and Turning Points in Physics

$$\text{force} = \frac{eV_p}{d}$$

$$\text{force} = Bev$$

$$\text{radius of curvature} = \frac{mv}{Be}$$

$$\frac{eV}{d} = mg$$

$$\text{work done} = eV$$

$$F = 6\pi\eta rv$$

$$I = k\frac{I_0}{x^2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} = -\lambda N$$

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2meV}}$$

$$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$T_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$$

$$R = r_0 A^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$E = mc^2 = \frac{m_0c^2}{\left(1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$l = l_0\left(1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$t = \frac{t_0}{\left(1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

Astrophysics and Medical Physics

Body	*Mass*/kg	*Mean radius*/m
Sun	2.00×10^{30}	7.00×10^{8}
Earth	6.00×10^{24}	6.40×10^{6}

1 astronomical unit = 1.50×10^{11} m

1 parsec = 206265 AU = 3.08×10^{16} m = 3.26 ly

1 light year = 9.45×10^{15} m

Hubble constant (H) = 65 km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1}

$$M = \frac{\text{angle subtended by image at eye}}{\text{angle subtended by object at unaided eye}}$$

$$M = \frac{f_o}{f_e}$$

$$m - M = 5\log\frac{d}{10}$$

$$\lambda_{max}T = \text{constant} = 0.0029\ \text{m K}$$

$$v = Hd$$

$$P = \sigma AT^4$$

$$\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{v}{c}$$

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = -\frac{v}{c}$$

$$R_s \approx \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

Medical Physics

$$\text{power} = \frac{1}{f}$$

$$\frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{f} \quad \text{and} \quad m = \frac{v}{u}$$

$$\text{intensity level} = 10\log\frac{I}{I_0}$$

$$I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$$

$$\mu_m = \frac{\mu}{\rho}$$

Electronics

Resistors

Preferred values for resistors (E24)
Series: 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.5 1.6 1.8 2.0 2.2 2.4 2.7 3.0 3.3 3.6 3.9 4.3 4.7 5.1 5.6 6.2 6.8 7.5 8.2 9.1 ohms
and multiples that are ten times greater

$$Z = \frac{V_{rms}}{I_{rms}}$$

$$\frac{1}{C_T} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} + \cdots$$

$$C_T = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + \cdots$$

$$X_C = \frac{1}{2\pi fC}$$

Alternating Currents

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$

Operational amplifier

$G = \dfrac{V_{out}}{V_{in}}$ voltage gain

$G = -\dfrac{R_f}{R_1}$ inverting

$G = 1 + \dfrac{R_f}{R_1}$ non-inverting

$V_{out} = -R_f\left(\dfrac{V_1}{R_1} + \dfrac{V_2}{R_2} + \dfrac{V_3}{R_3}\right)$ summing

Turn over for the first question

SECTION A: NUCLEAR INSTABILITY

Answer **all** of this question.

1 (a) Calculate the radius of the $^{238}_{92}U$ nucleus.

$r_0 = 1.3 \times 10^{-15}$ m

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(2 marks)

(b) At a distance of 30 mm from a point source of γ rays the corrected count rate is *C*. Calculate the distance from the source at which the corrected count rate is 0.10 *C*, assuming that there is no absorption.

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(2 marks)

(c) The activity of a source of β particles falls to 85% of its initial value in 52 s. Calculate the decay constant of the source.

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(3 marks)

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(d) Explain why the isotope of technetium, $^{99}Tc_m$, is often chosen as a suitable source of radiation for use in medical diagnosis.

You may be awarded additional marks to those shown in brackets for the quality of written communication in your answer.

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(3 marks)

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Turn over for the next question

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SECTION B: TURNING POINTS IN PHYSICS

Answer **all** questions.

2 (a) Describe, in terms of electric and magnetic fields, the nature of electromagnetic waves travelling in a vacuum. You may wish to draw a labelled diagram.

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(3 marks)

(b) Electrons are emitted from a metal plate when monochromatic light is incident on it, provided that the frequency of the light is greater than or equal to a threshold value.

You may be awarded additional marks to those shown in brackets for the quality of written communication in your answer.

(i) How did Einstein explain this effect?

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(ii) Discuss the significance of Einstein's explanation.

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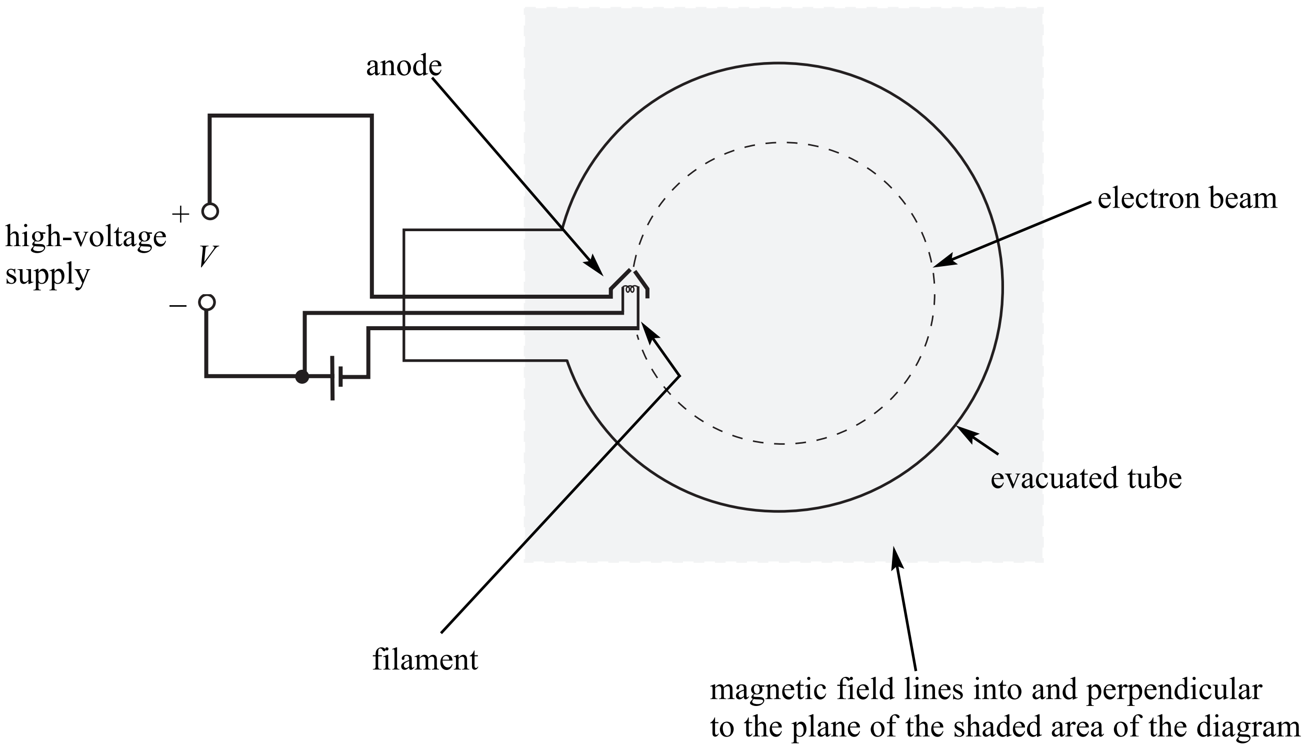
(4 marks)

7

Turn over for the next question

3 **Figure 1** shows an electron gun in an evacuated tube. Electrons emitted by *thermionic emission* from the metal filament are attracted to the metal anode which is at a fixed potential, V, relative to the filament. Some of the electrons pass though a small hole in the anode to form a beam which is directed into a uniform magnetic field.

Figure 1



(a) (i) Explain what is meant by thermionic emission.

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(ii) Show that the speed, v, of the electrons in the beam is given by

$$v = \left(\frac{2eV}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

where m is the mass of the electron and e is the charge of the electron.

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(3 marks)

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(b) The beam of electrons travels through the field in a circular path at constant speed.

(i) Explain why the electrons travel at constant speed in the magnetic field.

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(ii) Show that the radius, r, of the circular path of the beam in the field is given by

$$r = \left(\frac{2mV}{B^2 e}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

where B is the magnetic flux density and V is the pd between the anode and the filament.

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(iii) The arrangement described above was used to measure the specific charge of the electron, e/m. Use the following data to calculate e/m.

B = 3.1 mT
r = 25 mm
V = 530 V

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(7 marks)

10

Turn over

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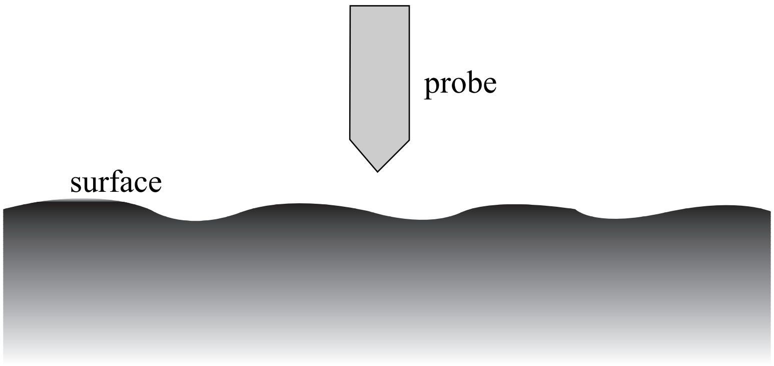
4 In a scanning tunnelling microscope (STM), a metal probe with a sharp tip is scanned across a surface, as shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2



(a) Explain why electrons transfer between the tip of the probe and the surface when the gap between the tip and the surface is very narrow and a pd is applied across it.

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(3 marks)

(b) Describe how an STM is used to obtain an image of a surface.

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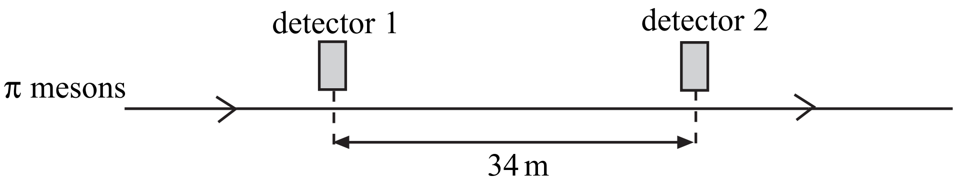
(3 marks)

6

5 π mesons, travelling in a straight line at a speed of $0.95\,c$, pass two detectors 34 m apart, as shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3



(i) Calculate the time taken, in the frame of reference of the detectors, for a π meson to travel between the two detectors.

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(ii) π mesons are unstable and decay with a half-life of 18 ns when at rest. Show that approximately 75% of the π mesons passing the first detector decay before they reach the second detector.

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(5 marks)

5

Quality of Written Communication *(2 marks)*

2

END OF QUESTIONS

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