12 Barnard's star is a red dwarf star in the vicinity of the Sun. The wavelength of a line in the spectrum of light emitted from Barnard's star is measured to be 656.0 nm. The same light produced by a source in a laboratory has a wavelength of 656.2 nm.

(a) Calculate the velocity of Barnard's star relative to the Earth.

(3)

Velocity = ...

(b) A diffraction grating can be used to analyse the radiation emitted by a variety of sources.

(i) A diffraction grating of known grating spacing is used in a school laboratory to analyse the light emitted by a laser.

Describe how the diffraction grating is used and the measurements that should be taken.

(3)

(ii) A diffraction grating with grating spacing of 2.2×10^{-6} m is used to determine the difference in wavelength for the spectral line emitted by Barnard's star.

Comment on the suitability of using a diffraction grating with this spacing. You should include appropriate calculations.

(4)

(c) Visible light from the star originates from the photosphere. In the photosphere of Barnard's star, hydrogen and helium atoms are at a temperature of 3100 K.

(i) Calculate the mean kinetic energy of an atom in the photosphere at a temperature of 3100 K.

(2)

Mean kinetic energy = ...

(ii) Describe how these atoms emit visible light.

(2)

(Total for Question 12 = 14 marks)