

**12** In February 2021 the spacecraft Perseverance Rover landed on Mars. When the spacecraft was 11.0km above the surface of Mars, parachutes opened to slow the descent. The parachutes detached from the spacecraft when it was 2.1 km above the surface of Mars.

Calculate the change in gravitational potential energy of the spacecraft during the parachute section of its descent.

mass of spacecraft = 1030 kg

mass of Mars =  $6.39 \times 10^{23}$  kg

radius of Mars = 3390 km

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Change in gravitational potential energy of the spacecraft = .....

**(Total for Question 12 = 3 marks)**