4 **(a)** State what is meant by the *diffraction* of a wave.

.....

.....

.....[2]

(b) A laser produces a narrow beam of coherent light of wavelength 632 nm. The beam is incident normally on a diffraction grating, as shown in Fig. 4.1.

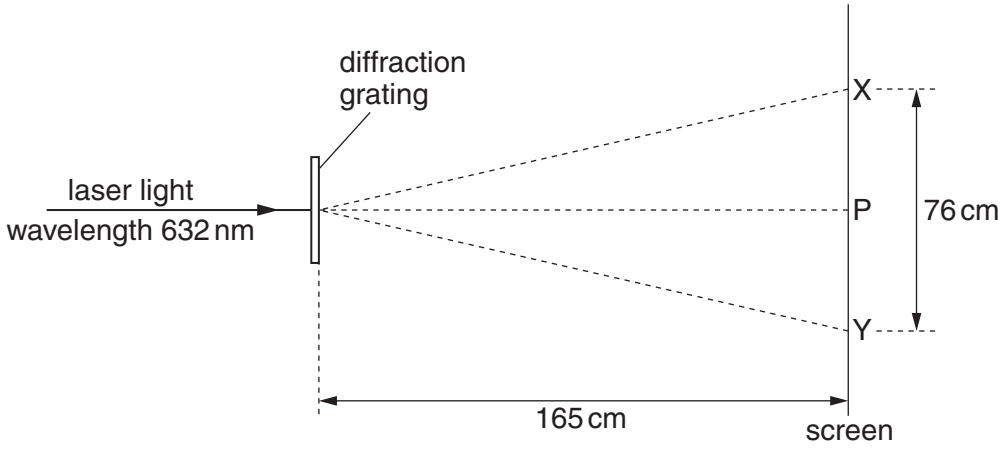

Fig. 4.1

Spots of light are observed on a screen placed parallel to the grating. The distance between the grating and the screen is 165 cm.
The brightest spot is P. The spots formed closest to P and on each side of P are X and Y.
X and Y are separated by a distance of 76 cm.
Calculate the number of lines per metre on the grating.

number per metre = ... [4]

(c) The grating in **(b)** is now rotated about an axis parallel to the incident laser beam, as shown in Fig. 4.2.

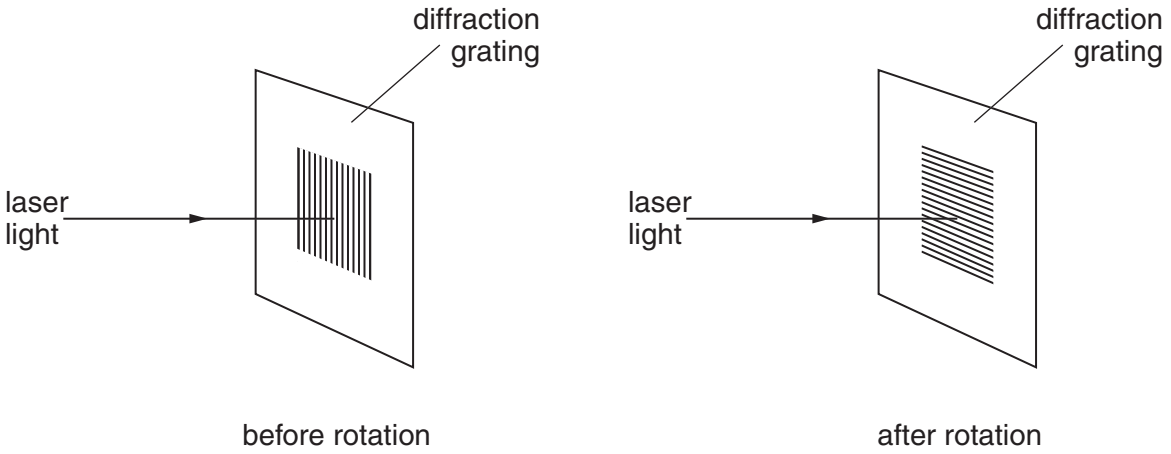

Fig. 4.2

State what effect, if any, this rotation will have on the positions of the spots P, X and Y.

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.....

.....[2]

(d) In another experiment using the apparatus in **(b)**, a student notices that the distances XP and PY, as shown in Fig. 4.1, are not equal.
Suggest a reason for this difference.

.....

.....[1]