

One end of a light elastic string, of natural length  $a$  and modulus of elasticity  $4mg$ , is attached to a fixed point  $O$ . The other end of the string is attached to a particle of mass  $m$ . The particle moves in a horizontal circle with a constant angular speed  $\sqrt{\frac{g}{a}}$  with the string inclined at an angle  $\theta$  to the downward vertical through  $O$ . The length of the string during this motion is  $(k+1)a$ .

**(a)** Find the value of  $k$ . [4]

**(b)** Find the value of  $\cos \theta$ . [2]