



A particle  $P$  of mass  $m$  is attached to one end of a light inextensible string of length  $a$ . The other end of the string is attached to a fixed point  $O$ . The particle  $P$  is held with the string taut and the string makes an angle  $\theta$  with the downward vertical through  $O$ . The particle  $P$  is projected at right angles to the string with speed  $\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{10ag}$  and begins to move downwards along a circular path. When the string is vertical, it strikes a small smooth peg at the point  $A$  which is vertically below  $O$ . The circular path and the point  $A$  are in the same vertical plane. After the string strikes the peg, the particle  $P$  begins to move in a vertical circle with centre  $A$ . When the string makes an angle  $\theta$  with the upward vertical through  $A$  the string becomes slack (see diagram). The distance of  $A$  below  $O$  is  $\frac{5}{9}a$ .

- (a) Find the value of  $\cos \theta$ . [6]
- (b) Find the ratio of the tensions in the string immediately before and immediately after it strikes the peg. [4]