

A hollow cylinder of radius a is fixed with its axis horizontal. A particle P , of mass m , moves in part of a vertical circle of radius a and centre O on the smooth inner surface of the cylinder. The speed of P when it is at the lowest point A of its motion is $\sqrt{\frac{7}{2}ga}$.

The particle P loses contact with the surface of the cylinder when OP makes an angle θ with the upward vertical through O .

(a) Show that $\theta = 60^\circ$. [5]

(b) Show that in its subsequent motion P strikes the cylinder at the point A . [5]