

A particle  $P$  of mass  $m$  is attached to one end of a light elastic string of natural length  $a$  and modulus of elasticity  $\frac{4}{3}mg$ . The other end of the string is attached to a fixed point  $O$  on a rough horizontal surface. The particle is at rest on the surface with the string at its natural length. The coefficient of friction between  $P$  and the surface is  $\frac{1}{3}$ . The particle is projected along the surface in the direction  $OP$  with a speed of  $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{ga}$ .

Find the greatest extension of the string during the subsequent motion.

[5]