

Answer **all** the questions in the spaces provided.

- 1 (a) Explain how a satellite may be in a circular orbit around a planet.

.....

.....

.....[2]

- (b) The Earth and the Moon may be considered to be uniform spheres that are isolated in space. The Earth has radius R and mean density ρ . The Moon, mass m , is in a circular orbit about the Earth with radius nR , as illustrated in Fig. 1.1.

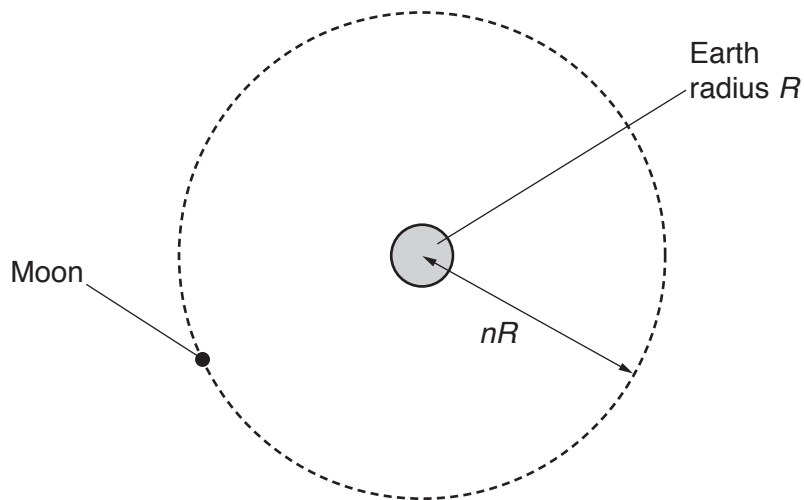


Fig. 1.1

The Moon makes one complete orbit of the Earth in time T .
Show that the mean density ρ of the Earth is given by the expression

$$\rho = \frac{3\pi n^3}{GT^2}.$$

[4]

- (c) The radius R of the Earth is $6.38 \times 10^3 \text{ km}$ and the distance between the centre of the Earth and the centre of the Moon is $3.84 \times 10^5 \text{ km}$.
The period T of the orbit of the Moon about the Earth is 27.3 days.
Use the expression in (b) to calculate ρ .

$$\rho = \dots\dots\dots \text{ kg m}^{-3} \text{ [3]}$$

[Total: 9]