

- 1 The Earth may be considered to be a sphere of radius 6.4×10^6 m with its mass of 6.0×10^{24} kg concentrated at its centre.

A satellite of mass 650 kg is to be launched from the Equator and put into geostationary orbit.

- (a) Show that the radius of the geostationary orbit is 4.2×10^7 m.

[3]

- (b) Determine the increase in gravitational potential energy of the satellite during its launch from the Earth's surface to the geostationary orbit.

energy = J [4]

- (c) Suggest one advantage of launching satellites from the Equator in the direction of rotation of the Earth.

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