6 An electric shower unit is to be fitted in a house. The shower is rated as 10.5 kW, 230 V. The shower unit is connected to the 230 V mains supply by a cable of length 16 m, as shown in Fig. 6.1.

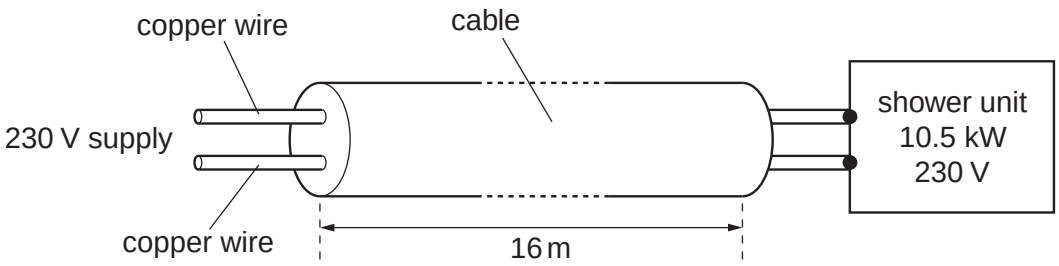

Fig. 6.1

(a) Show that, for normal operation of the shower unit, the current is approximately 46 A.

[2]

(b) The resistance of the two wires in the cable causes the potential difference across the shower unit to be reduced. The potential difference across the shower unit must not be less than 225 V.
The wires in the cable are made of copper of resistivity $1.8 \times 10^{-8}\,\Omega\,\text{m}$.
Assuming that the current in the wires is 46 A, calculate

(i) the maximum resistance of the cable,

resistance = ... Ω [3]

(ii) the minimum area of cross-section of each wire in the cable.

area = ... m^2 [3]

(c) Connecting the shower unit to the mains supply by means of a cable having wires with too small a cross-sectional area would significantly reduce the power output of the shower unit.

(i) Assuming that the shower is operating at 210V, rather than 230V, and that its resistance is unchanged, determine the ratio

$$\frac{\text{power dissipated by shower unit at 210V}}{\text{power dissipated by shower unit at 230V}}.$$

ratio = ... [2]

(ii) Suggest and explain one further disadvantage of using wires of small cross-sectional area in the cable.

.....

.....

..... [2]