4 A spring is kept horizontal by attaching it to points A and B, as shown in Fig. 4.1.

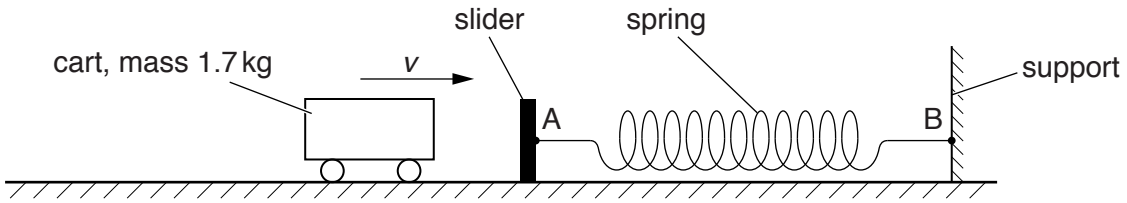

Fig. 4.1

Point A is on a movable slider and point B is on a fixed support. A cart of mass 1.7 kg has horizontal velocity v towards the slider. The cart collides with the slider. The spring is compressed as the cart comes to rest. The variation of compression x of the spring with force F exerted on the spring is shown in Fig. 4.2.

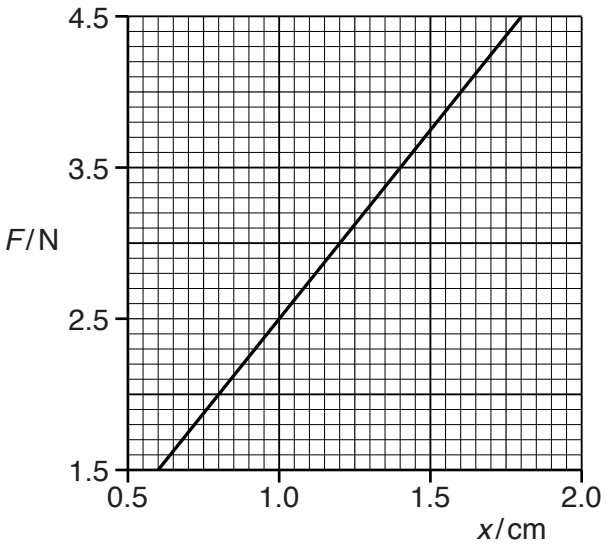

Fig. 4.2

Fig. 4.2 shows the compression of the spring for F = 1.5 N to F = 4.5 N. The cart comes to rest when F is 4.5 N.

(a) Use Fig. 4.2 to

(i) show that the compression of the spring obeys Hooke's law,

.....

.....

.....[2]

(ii) determine the spring constant of the spring,

spring constant = ... $N\,m^{-1}$ [2]

(iii) determine the elastic potential energy E_P stored in the spring due to the cart being brought to rest.

E_P = ... J [3]

(b) Calculate the speed v of the cart as it makes contact with the slider. Assume that all the kinetic energy of the cart is converted to the elastic potential energy of the spring.

speed = ... $m\,s^{-1}$ [2]

[Turn over