

- 1 (a) State Newton's law of gravitation.

.....

 [2]

- (b) A binary star consists of star A, of mass $4.0 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$, and star B, of mass $2.0 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$, separated by a distance of $3.3 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}$. The stars are both in circular orbit around their common centre of gravity X, as shown in Fig. 1.1.

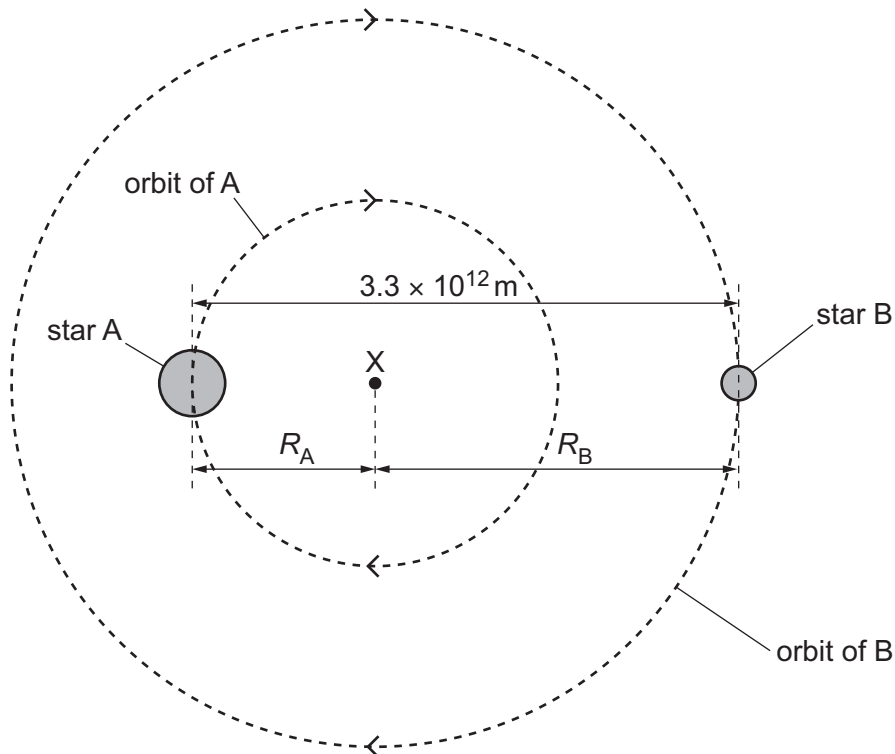


Fig. 1.1

The radius R_B of the orbit of star B is double the radius R_A of the orbit of star A.

- (i) Use Newton's law of gravitation to calculate the magnitude of the gravitational force exerted by each star on the other.

force = N [2]



- (ii) Calculate the centripetal acceleration of star A.

acceleration = ms^{-2} [1]

- (iii) Use your answer in (b)(ii) to determine the period of the orbit of star A.

period = s [3]

- (iv) By placing a tick (✓) in each row, complete Table 1.1 to show how the quantities indicated for star B compare with the same quantities for star A.

Table 1.1

	B less than A	B equal to A	B greater than A
centripetal acceleration			
linear speed			
period			

[3]

[Total: 11]