3 A vertical rod is fixed to the horizontal surface of a table, as shown in Fig. 3.1.

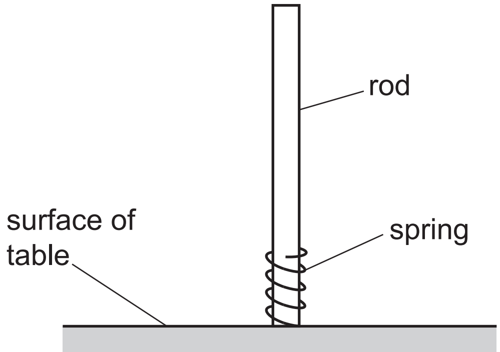

Fig. 3.1 (not to scale)

A spring of mass 7.5 g is able to slide along the full length of the rod.

The spring is first pushed against the surface of the table so that it has an initial compression of 2.1 cm. The spring is then suddenly released so that it leaves the surface of the table with a kinetic energy of 0.048 J and then moves up the rod.

Assume that the spring obeys Hooke's law and that the initial elastic potential energy of the compressed spring is equal to the kinetic energy of the spring as it leaves the surface of the table. Air resistance is negligible.

(a) By using the initial elastic potential energy of the compressed spring, calculate its spring constant.

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

(b) Calculate the speed of the spring as it leaves the surface of the table.

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

(c) The spring rises to its maximum height up the rod from the surface of the table. This causes the gravitational potential energy of the spring to increase by 0.039 J.

(i) Calculate, for this movement of the spring, the increase in height of the spring after leaving the surface of the table.

increase in height = ... m [2]

(ii) Calculate the average frictional force exerted by the rod on the spring as it rises.

average frictional force = ... N [2]

(d) The rod is replaced by another rod that exerts negligible frictional force on the moving spring. The initial compression x of the spring is now varied in order to vary the maximum increase in height Δh of the spring after leaving the surface of the table. Assume that the spring obeys Hooke's law for all compressions.

On Fig. 3.2, sketch a graph to show the variation with x of Δh. Numerical values are not required.

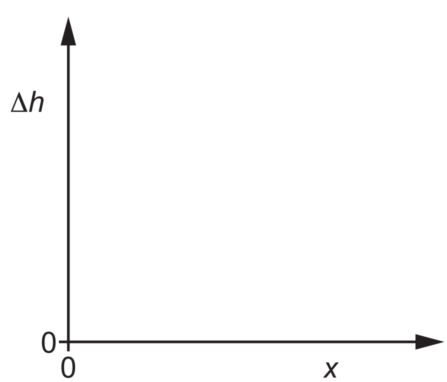

Fig. 3.2

[2]

[Total: 10]