

Answer **all** the questions in the spaces provided.

- 1 (a) (i) State what is meant by *gravitational field strength*.

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[1]

- (ii) Explain why, at the surface of a planet, gravitational field strength is numerically equal to the acceleration of free fall.

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.....

[1]

- (b) An isolated uniform spherical planet has radius R .

The acceleration of free fall at the surface of the planet is g .

On Fig. 1.1, sketch a graph to show the variation of the acceleration of free fall with distance x from the centre of the planet for values of x in the range $x = R$ to $x = 4R$.

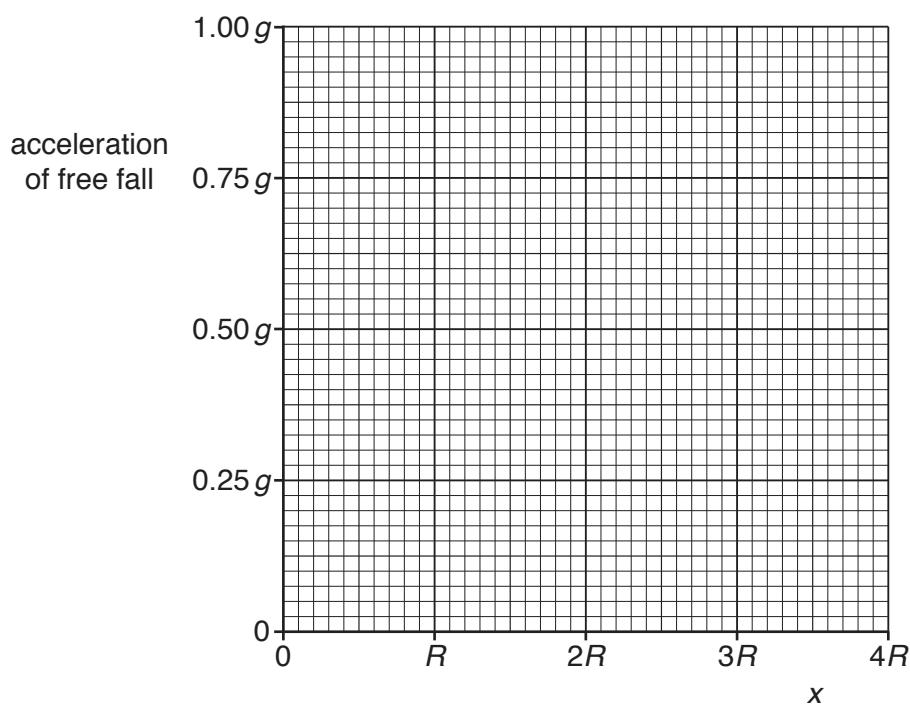


Fig. 1.1

[3]

- (c) The planet in (b) has radius R equal to 3.4×10^3 km and mean density 4.0×10^3 kg m $^{-3}$.

Calculate the acceleration of free fall at a height R above its surface.

acceleration of free fall = ms $^{-2}$ [3]

[Total: 8]