

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

- 1 A satellite is in a circular orbit of radius r about the Earth of mass M , as illustrated in Fig. 1.1.

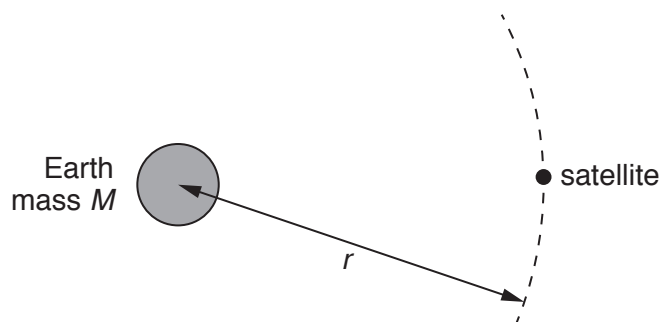


Fig. 1.1

The mass of the Earth may be assumed to be concentrated at its centre.

- (a) Show that the period T of the orbit of the satellite is given by the expression

$$T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2 r^3}{GM}$$

where G is the gravitational constant. Explain your working.

[3]

- (b) (i) A satellite in geostationary orbit appears to remain above the same point on the Earth and has a period of 24 hours.
State two other features of a *geostationary* orbit.

1.
-
2.
-

[2]

- (ii) The mass M of the Earth is 6.0×10^{24} kg.
Use the expression in (a) to determine the radius of a geostationary orbit.

radius = m [2]

- (c) A global positioning system (GPS) satellite orbits the Earth at a height of 2.0×10^4 km above the Earth's surface.
The radius of the Earth is 6.4×10^3 km.

Use your answer in (b)(ii) and the expression

$$T^2 \propto r^3$$

to calculate, in hours, the period of the orbit of this satellite.

period = hours [2]

[Total: 9]