

3 (a) Define *specific heat capacity*.

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(b) A sealed container of fixed volume V contains N molecules, each of mass m , of an ideal gas at pressure p .

(i) State an expression, in terms of V , N , p and the Boltzmann constant k , for the thermodynamic temperature T of the gas.

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(ii) Show that the mean translational kinetic energy E_K of a molecule of the gas is given by

$$E_K = \frac{3}{2}kT.$$

[2]

(iii) Explain why the internal energy of the gas is equal to the total kinetic energy of the molecules.

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(c) The gas in (b) is supplied with thermal energy Q .

(i) Explain, with reference to the first law of thermodynamics, why the increase in internal energy of the gas is Q .

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- (ii) Use the expression in **(b)(ii)** and the information in **(c)(i)** to show that the specific heat capacity c of the gas is given by

$$c = \frac{3k}{2m}.$$

[2]

- (d) The container in **(b)** is now replaced with one that does not have a fixed volume. Instead, the gas is able to expand, so that the pressure of the gas remains constant as thermal energy is supplied.

Suggest, with a reason, how the specific heat capacity of the gas would now compare with the value in **(c)(ii)**.

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