

- 5 (a) Define electric potential at a point.

[2]

- (b) An isolated conducting sphere is charged. Fig. 5.1 shows the variation of the potential V due to the sphere with displacement x from its centre.

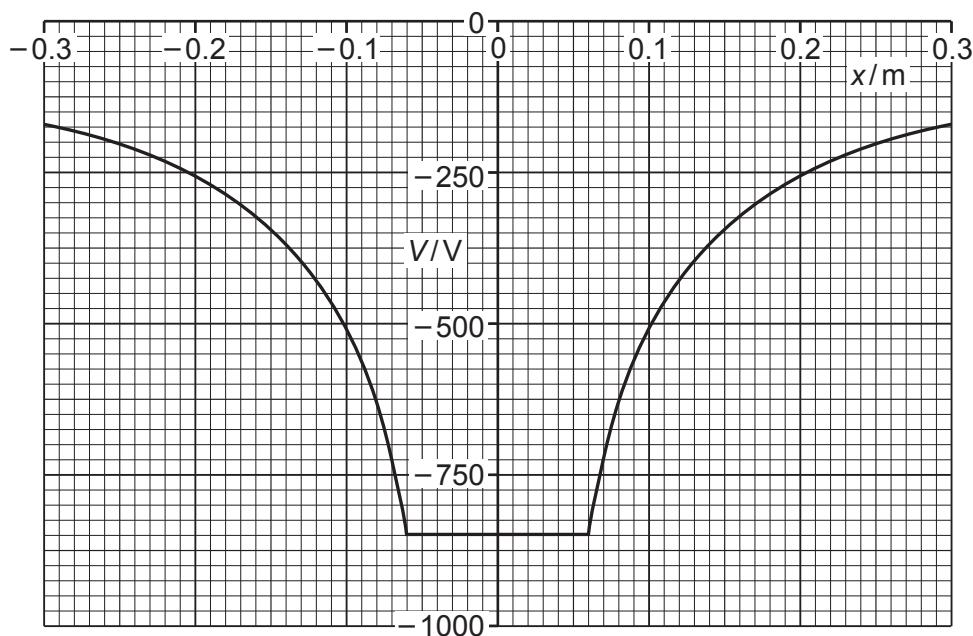


Fig. 5.1

Use Fig. 5.1 to determine:

- (i) the radius of the sphere

$$\text{radius} = \dots \text{m} [1]$$

- (ii) the charge on the sphere.

$$\text{charge} = \dots \text{C} [2]$$

- (c) Two spheres are identical to the sphere in (b). Each sphere has the same charge as the sphere in (b).

The spheres are held in a vacuum so that their centres are separated by a distance of 0.46 m. Assume that the charge on each sphere is a point charge at the centre of the sphere.

- (i) Calculate the electric potential energy E_P of the two spheres.

$$E_P = \dots \text{ J} [2]$$

- (ii) The two spheres are now released simultaneously so that they are free to move.

Describe and explain the subsequent motion of the spheres.

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[3]