

5 (a) Define electric potential at a point.

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..... [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.

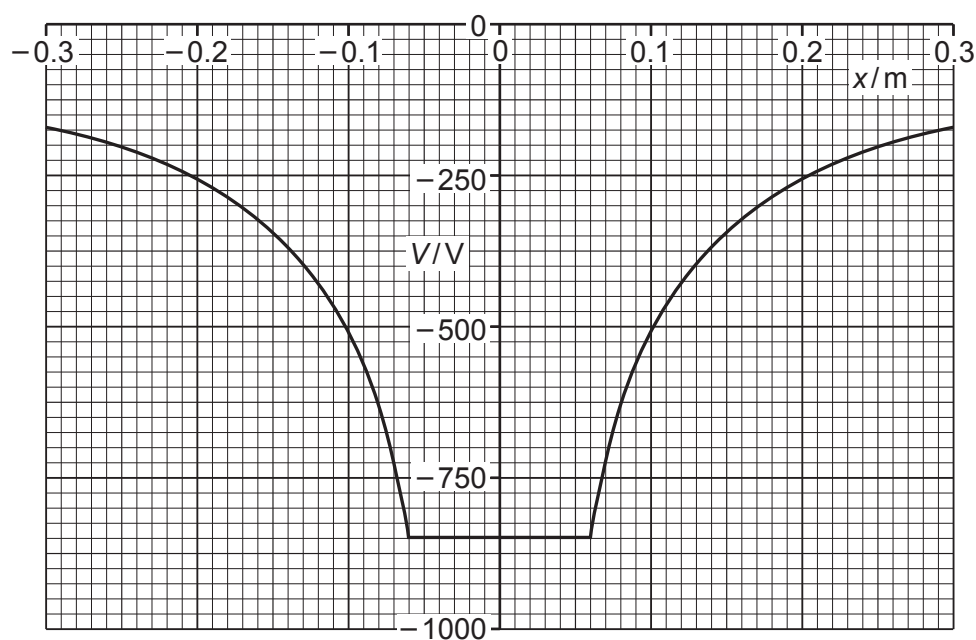


Fig. 5.1

Use Fig. 5.1 to determine:

(i) the radius of the sphere

radius = m [1]

(ii) the charge on the sphere.

charge = 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.

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

- (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]