

- 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

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

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- (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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