

- 1 (a) Define gravitational potential energy of a mass at a point.

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[1]

- (b) A spherical planet has mass M and radius R . The planet may be considered to have all its mass concentrated at its centre.

A rocket is launched from the surface of the planet such that the rocket moves radially away from the planet. The rocket engines are stopped when the rocket is at a height R above the surface of the planet.

The mass of the rocket, after its engines have been stopped, is m .

- (i) Show that, for the rocket to travel from a height R to a height $2R$ above the planet's surface, the change ΔU in magnitude of the gravitational potential energy of the rocket is given by the expression

$$\Delta U = \frac{GMm}{6R}.$$

[2]

- (ii) During the ascent from a height R to a height $2R$, the speed of the rocket changes from 7600 m s^{-1} to 7320 m s^{-1} . The planet has a radius of $3.40 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$.

Determine a value for the mass M of the planet.

$$M = \dots \text{ kg} [3]$$

- (iii) State two assumptions made in the determination in (b)(ii).

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..... [2]

- (c) (i) A satellite is orbiting in a geostationary orbit around the Earth of mass M .

Explain why the satellite must be above the equator.

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- (ii) Deduce the distance r of the geostationary satellite from the centre of the Earth in terms of M .

Explain your working clearly.

[2]

