

- 3 (a) A planet may be assumed to be a uniform sphere. It has gravitational potential ϕ at distance r from the centre of the planet. The variation with $1/r$ of ϕ is shown in Fig. 3.1.

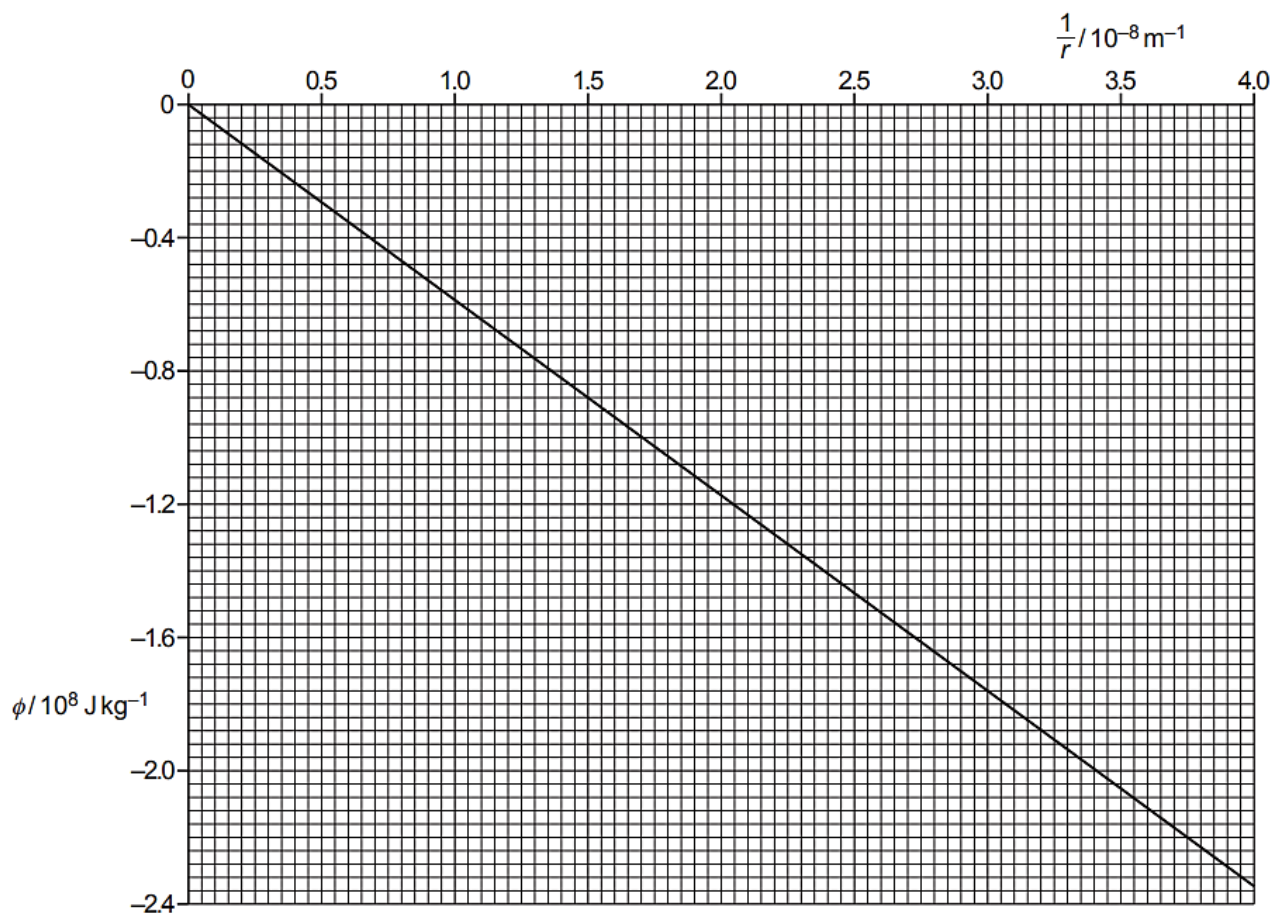


Fig. 3.1

- (i) Show that the mass of the planet is $8.8 \times 10^{25} \text{ kg}$.

[2]

- (ii) The period of rotation of the planet is 0.72 Earth days.

A satellite in orbit around the planet remains above the same point on the surface of the planet. The speed of the satellite is 8400 m s^{-1} . The mass of the satellite is 1200 kg.

Determine the additional energy required to move the satellite from its orbit to infinity.

energy required = J [3]

- (b) To move the satellite to a new, stable circular orbit closer to the planet, a short rocket thrust is required to begin the manoeuvre.

Explain the direction of this initial thrust.

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 [2]