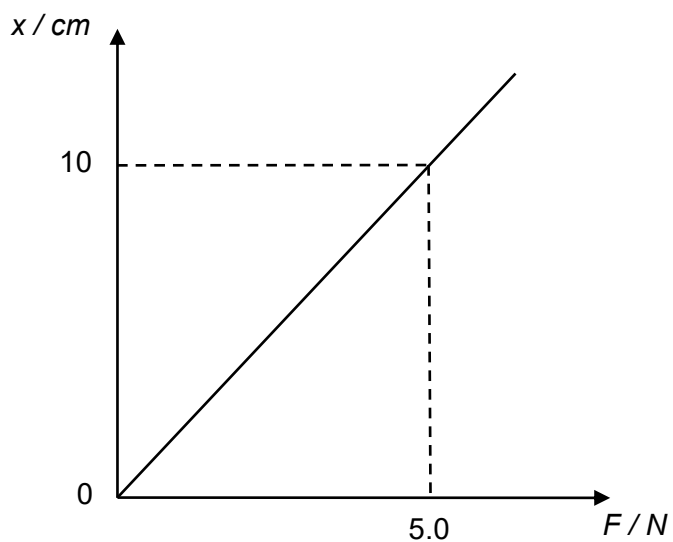


- 8 The variation of the extension  $x$  of a light spring with the force  $F$  applied is shown below.



Slotted masses with a total weight of 3.0 N were initially hung on the spring.

What is the decrease in the elastic potential energy stored in the spring when a slotted mass weighing 0.5 N is removed from the system?

- A** 0.013 J                      **B** 0.015 J                      **C** 0.028 J                      **D** 0.056 J