

- 2 (a) (i) The pressure p in an ideal gas is given by the expression

$$p = \frac{1}{3} \frac{Nm}{V} \langle c^2 \rangle$$

State the meaning of each of the symbols in the equation.

N :

m :

V :

$\langle c^2 \rangle$:

[2]

- (ii) Using the equation in (i) and the equation of state of an ideal gas, $pV = NkT$, derive an expression for the relationship between the internal energy of the ideal gas and the thermodynamic temperature T .

[2]

- (b) (i) The gravitational field is relatively weak on the surface of the Moon. The escape speed (i.e. the minimum speed which a body must have in order to escape to an infinite distance) from the Moon is 2.38 km s^{-1} .

Argon-40 may be assumed to be an ideal gas. Calculate the temperature of argon-40 gas at which the r.m.s speed of its atoms is equal to the escape speed from the Moon.

temperature = K [2]

- (ii) An appreciable amount radioactive potassium-40 is discovered below the lunar surface. It is known that potassium-40 decays to form argon-40 gas.

With reference to your answer in (b)(i), discuss the likelihood of argon-40 being present in the Moon's atmosphere.

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[2]

[Total: 8]

