

- 2 (a) Define *gravitational potential* at a point.

..... [1]

- (b) The Earth, of radius 6400 km, has mass 6.0×10^{24} kg.

A global positioning satellite of mass 1600 kg is in an orbit of radius 2.7×10^7 m about the centre of the Earth. The satellite is launched from the Earth's surface.

Calculate the change in gravitational potential energy ΔE_P for this satellite.

$$\Delta E_P = \dots \text{ J} [2]$$

- (c) (i) A satellite of mass m orbits a planet of mass M . The mass of the planet may be assumed to be a point mass at its centre.

Show that the kinetic energy E_k of the satellite in an orbit of radius r is given by

$$E_k = \frac{GMm}{2r}.$$

[2]





- (ii) Use the information in (b) and the expression in (c)(i) to calculate the kinetic energy E_K of the global positioning satellite in its orbit.

$$E_K = \dots \text{ J [1]}$$

- (iii) A student wants to calculate the change in kinetic energy of a satellite launched from the Earth to its orbit. The student calculates the initial and final kinetic energies using the expression in (c)(i).

Suggest and explain whether the student's method is correct.

[2]

[Total: 8]

