

9 (a) (i) State what is meant by a field of force.

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[1]

(ii) State **two** similarities of and **two** differences between electric and gravitational fields.

similarities

1

2

differences

1

2

[4]





- (b) A planet has one moon, as shown in Fig. 9.1.

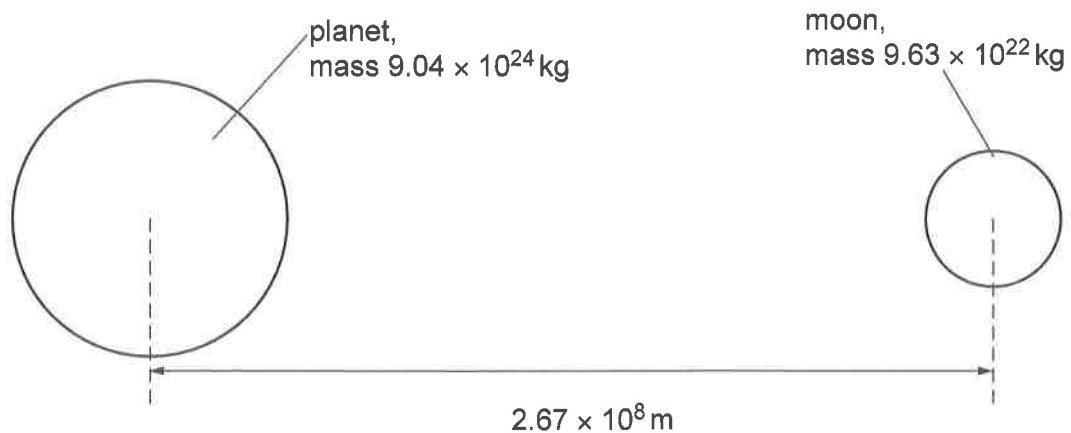


Fig. 9.1 (not to scale)

The planet and the moon are both spheres of uniform density.

The planet has a mass of 9.04×10^{24} kg.

The moon has a mass of 9.63×10^{22} kg.

The distance between the centre of the planet and the centre of the moon is 2.67×10^8 m.

Assume that, outside the planet, the gravitational field due to the planet is identical to that of a point mass at its centre. This assumption also applies to the moon.

The planet–moon system is isolated in space.

- (i) The gravitational field strength due to the moon at its surface is 2.71 N kg^{-1} .

Show that the radius of the moon is 1.54×10^6 m.

[1]





- (ii) Explain why the gravitational field strength is not 2.71 N kg^{-1} everywhere on the surface of the moon, and why it varies with position around the surface of the moon.

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[3]

- (iii) There is a point between the planet and the moon where the gravitational field strength is zero. This is called the null point.

- (A) Calculate the shortest distance of this null point from the surface of the moon.

distance = m [4]

- (B) Explain why the gravitational potential at the null point is not zero.

[2]

[2]



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- (C) Calculate the gravitational potential at the null point.

gravitational potential = J kg^{-1} [3]

- (c) Two point charges are placed close to each other in space. On the line between these charges there is a point where the electric potential is zero.

Explain why, for these charges, there **cannot** be a point on this line where the electric field strength is zero.

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[2]