

3 A satellite orbiting the Earth is in a geostationary orbit.

(a) State the period of the satellite and state one feature of geostationary orbit.

..... [2]

(b) Explain how the satellite can be accelerating even though it travels at a constant speed.

..... [3]

(c) (i) A satellite of mass  $m$  has a geostationary orbit around the Earth. The radius of the orbit is  $r$ . The speed of the satellite is  $v$ . The mass of the Earth is  $M$ .

Use Newton's law of gravitation to write an equation that relates the centripetal force on the satellite to the gravitational force acting on the satellite.

[1]

(ii) Calculate the height of a geostationary satellite above the Earth's surface.

mass of Earth =  $5.97 \times 10^{24}$  kg  
radius of Earth =  $6.37 \times 10^6$  m

height of satellite = ..... m [4]

[Total: 10]

