

- 2 (a) A satellite is used to broadcast television signals to north-western Europe.

(i) State the type of orbit that is required for a satellite used for this purpose.

..... [1]

(ii) The satellite moves at a constant speed.

Explain why it is accelerating.

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..... [3]

- (b) Table 2.1 shows data for some of the planets in the solar system.

**Table 2.1**

name	orbital period $T$ /years	radius $r$ of orbit around Sun/AU
Mercury	0.24	0.39
Venus	0.62	0.72
Earth	1.0	1.0
Mars	1.9	1.5
Saturn	30	9.5





- (i) 1 AU means 1 astronomical unit which is the radius of the orbit of the Earth around the Sun.

It is suggested that the orbital period  $T$  and the radius of the orbit around the sun  $r$  are related by the equation:

$$T = p \times r^q$$

where  $p$  and  $q$  are constants.

Describe how a graph can be plotted to determine the constants  $p$  and  $q$ .

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..... [3]

- (ii) It is found that, when  $T$  is in years and  $r$  is in AU, the numerical value of  $p$  is 1.0 and the value of  $q$  is 1.5.

The planet Uranus has an orbital period of 84 years.

Calculate the radius of its orbit in AU.

radius = ..... AU [2]



- (c) A scientist plots some values of the gravitational force  $F$  acting on a satellite orbiting the Earth.

Fig. 2.1 shows how  $F$  varies with  $1/r^2$ , where  $r$  is the radius of the orbit.

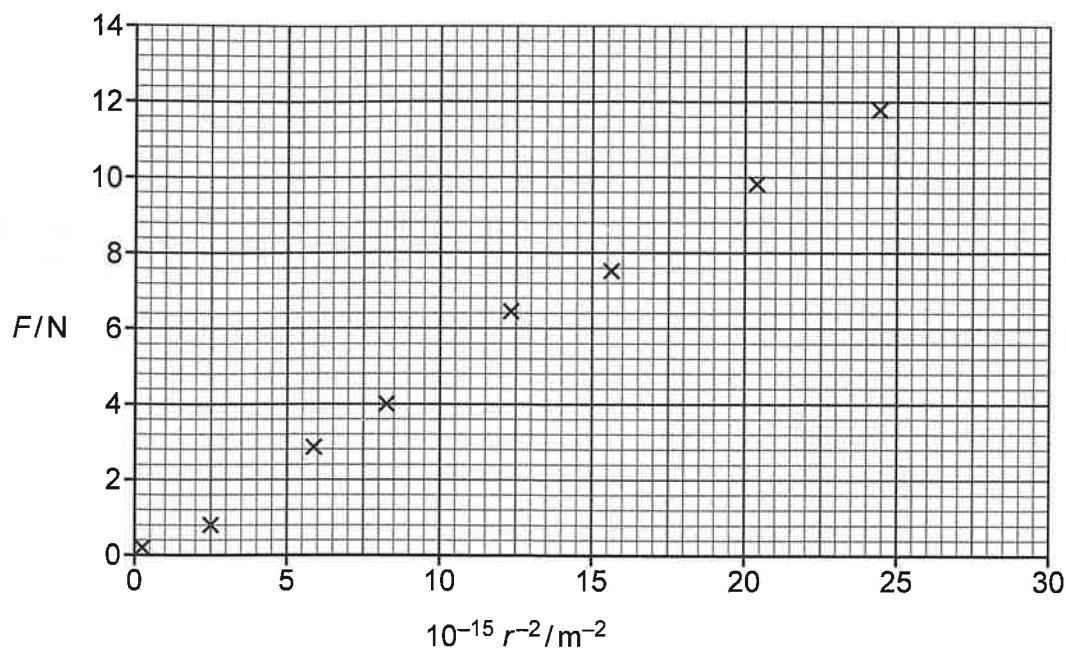


Fig. 2.1

- (i) On Fig. 2.1, draw the line of best fit. [1]
- (ii) Calculate the gradient of the graph.

State the unit.

gradient = ..... unit ..... [3]

- (iii) Prior to launch, the mass of the satellite was measured to be  $1200\text{ g} \pm 10\text{ g}$ . The satellite is a cube with side length  $10.0\text{ cm} \pm 0.1\text{ cm}$ .

Calculate the density of the satellite with an estimate of its percentage uncertainty.

density = .....  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$

uncertainty = ..... %  
[3]

[Total: 16]