

BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2014-15

A2 Challenge Solutions

- 1 a) i) Momentum ☒
 ii) mgh ☒ $\sqrt{2gh}$ ☒
 iii) mgh ☒ h ☒
 b) i) $\sqrt{2gh}$, downwards ☒
 ii) $\sqrt{2gh}$, upwards ☒ $2\sqrt{2gh}$ ☒
 iii) $2\sqrt{2gh}$ ☒ $3\sqrt{2gh}$ ☒
 iv) $9h$ ☒
 c) Speed after falling 1m = $\sqrt{2gh} = \sqrt{2 \times 10 \times 1} = 4.47 \text{ms}^{-1}$ ☒

By the reasoning above, successive balls will rise at $3\sqrt{2gh}$, $7\sqrt{2gh}$, $15\sqrt{2gh}$, $31\sqrt{2gh}$, $63\sqrt{2gh}$, $127\sqrt{2gh}$, $255\sqrt{2gh}$, $511\sqrt{2gh}$, $1023\sqrt{2gh}$, $2047\sqrt{2gh}$, $4095\sqrt{2gh}$ etc (spot that the coefficients 'double+ 1' each time) ☒

As escape velocity is 2460 times 4.47ms^{-1} , 12 balls are required to reach escape velocity (Proposition not changed by use of $g=9.81 \text{ms}^{-2}$) ☒

TOTAL 14

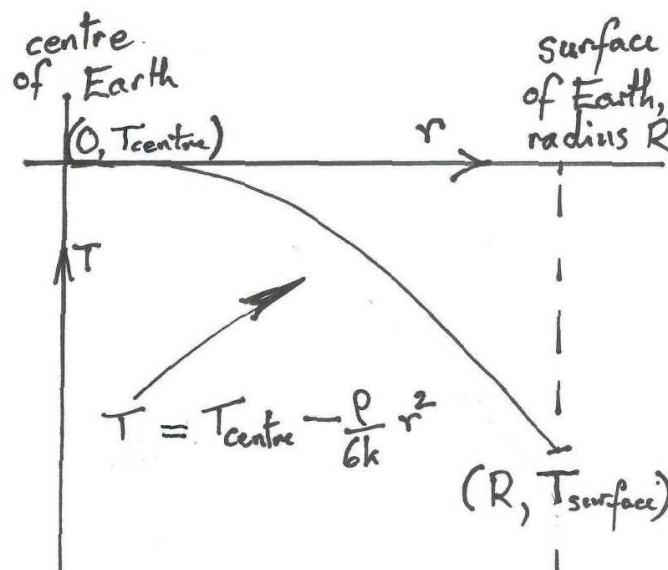
- 2 a) i) zero ☒
 ii) a node ☒
 iii) π or anything suggesting anti-phase (to give zero resultant displacement) ☒
 $0, 2\pi$ or anything suggesting in phase ☒
 $\pi, 3\pi, (2n+1)\pi$ or anything else suggesting anti-phase ☒
 b) i) virtual ☒
 ii) both S, S' originate from same source and therefore must have a fixed phase difference **owtte** ☒
 iii) Light does not go on that side of the reflector ☒
 iv) $\lambda = xd/L$ ☒ $= 10^{-3} \times 5 \times 10^{-4} / 1.00 = 5 \times 10^{-7} \text{m}$ ☒
 v) Reflection introduces an extra phase difference of π , in addition to zero phase difference arising from geometrical p.d. ☒, so central fringe is dark/ zero intensity **owtte** ☒
 vi) The zero-order in Young's fringes (with normal incidence) is an interference maximum. **owtte** ☒

TOTAL 13

- 3 a) i) $1/R = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2$ **owtte** ✓
 ii) correct re-arrangement to give $R = R_1 R_2 / (R_1 + R_2)$ ✓
- b) i) 40Ω ✓
 ii) $((40+20)||20)$ (parallel part) + 20 = 35Ω ✓
 iii) Now this becomes $((r+20)||20) + 20$ realise this ✓
 ie $\frac{20(r+20)}{r+40} + 20 = \frac{40r+1200}{r+40}$ **owtte** ✓
 iv) Equating this to r and solving leads to $r = 20\sqrt{3}\Omega$

TOTAL 9

- 4 a) i) temperature higher than surroundings ✓
 ii) As thermal energy travels down temperature gradient, Earth gets hotter towards centre. **owtte** ✓
 iii) $4\pi r^3 \rho / 3$ ✓
 iv) Area of shell is $4\pi r^2$, ✓
 so total power output is $(4\pi r^2) \times (-k \delta T / \delta r) = 4\pi r^3 \rho / 3$ ✓
 Rearranging gives $\delta T = -(\rho / 3k) r \delta r$ ✓
 v) Integrating wrt r and using $T = T_{\text{centre}}$ when $r = 0$ ✓
 Leads to $T = T_{\text{centre}} - \rho r^2 / 6k$ ✓
 vi)



Falls between centre and surface ✓
 Parabolic form with vertex correctly placed ✓

- b) They are much hotter in the centre than at the surface and may therefore reach ignition temperature. **owtte** ✓
 Breaking such a hot and occluded body of combustible material open exposes it to air richer in oxygen which can cause it to erupt violently into flames. **owtte** ✓

TOTAL 14