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# KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER  
MAIN EXAMINATIONS

FOR THE DEGREE OF B.Ed. (SCIE) & B.Sc. (PHYS)

**COURSE CODE:** SPH 215

**COURSE TITLE:** MODERN PHYSICS

**DURATION:** 2 HOURS

**DATE:** TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 **TIME:** 11.30 – 1.30PM

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Answer **QUESTION ONE** (Compulsory) and any other two (2) Questions.
- Indicate **answered questions** on the front cover.
- Start every question on a new page and make sure question's number is written on each page.

This paper consists of 4 printed pages. Please Turn Over



KIBU observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

**You may need to use the following constants:**

Speed of light	$c = 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$
Planks constant	$h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J.s}$
Electron charge	$e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
Rest mass of an electron	$M_e = 9.1 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Kg}$
Rest mass of a neutron	$M_n = 9.1 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Kg} = 1.0087 \text{ u} = 939.6 \text{ Mev/C}^2$
Rest mass of a proton	$M_p = 9.1 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Kg} = 1.0078 \text{ u}$
Mass of deuteron ( ${}^2_1\text{H}$ )	$= 2.0141 \text{ u}$
One atomic mass unit	$\text{u} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ Kg} = 931 \text{ Mev/C}^2$
Compton formula	$\lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_0 c} (1 - \cos\phi)$
Stefan's constant	$\sigma = 5.670 \times 10^{-8} \text{ w/m}^2 \cdot \text{k}^4$
Chemical formula for gold	${}^{197}_{79}\text{Au}$
Atomic mass of	${}^{238}_{92}\text{U} = 238.0508 \text{ u}$
Atomic mass of	${}^{234}_{90}\text{Th} = 228.0436 \text{ u}$
Atomic mass of	${}^4_2\text{He} = 4.0026 \text{ u}$
Permittivity of free space	$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m}$
Paschen series formula	$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R \left[ \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{n^2} \right]$
Half life of carbon	$= 5760 \text{ years}$
Atomic spacing	$d = \left\{ \frac{M}{k_p} (1.66 \times 10^{-27}) \right\}^{\frac{1}{3}}$
Bionomial expression	$(1 \pm x)^n = 1 \pm nx + \frac{n(n-1)x^2}{2!} \pm \dots \dots \dots$
Wien's constant	$\omega_c = 2.898 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m.K}$

**QUESTION 1(20 MARKS) - COMPULSORY**

- What is the relativistic value of the de Broglie wavelength of a particle whose rest mass is  $m_0$  (3 marks).
- Mention the two postulates of special relativity (2 marks)
- Ultraviolet light of wavelength 360 nm and intensity  $1 \text{ w/m}^2$  is directed at a potassium surface. Determine the maximum kinetic energy (in eV) of photoelectrons given that the work function of potassium is 2.2 eV. (3 marks).
- Find the atomic spacing (lattice constant) of a crystal rock salt, NaCl, whose formula mass is 58.5u and whose density  $2.16 \times 10^3 \text{ Kg/m}^3$  (3 marks).
- Two observers, A on earth and B in a space craft whose speed is  $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ , both set their watches to the same time when the space craft is abreast of the earth. How much time must elapse by A's reckoning before the watches differ by 2s? (4 marks).
- A stationary body explodes into fragments of rest mass 1 kg that moves apart at speeds of 0.8c. Find the rest mass of the original body? (2 marks).
- State the Pauli exclusion principle (1 mark).



- h) An astronaut whose height on earth is exactly 8ft is lying parallel to the axis of a spacecraft moving at a speed of  $0.7c$  relative to the earth. What is his height as measured by an observer in the same spacecraft by an observer on earth? (2 marks).
- i) Experiments show that  $13.6\text{eV}$  is required to separate a hydrogen atom into a proton and an electron, that is its binding energy is  $-13.6\text{eV}$ . Find the orbital radius and velocity of the electron in a hydrogen atom (5 marks).
- j) A measurement establishes the position of a proton with an accuracy of  $\pm 10^{-11}\text{m}$ . Find the uncertainty in the protons position 2s later. Assume  $V \ll c$ . (3 marks).
- k) A man has a mass of 100 Kg on the ground. When he is in an aircraft in flight, mass is 102 Kg as determined by an observer on the ground. What is the speed of the aircraft ? (2 marks).

### QUESTION 2 (20 MARKS)

- a) Name and describe the process by which the photoelectrons are released from the plate X by electromagnetic radiation. (4 marks)

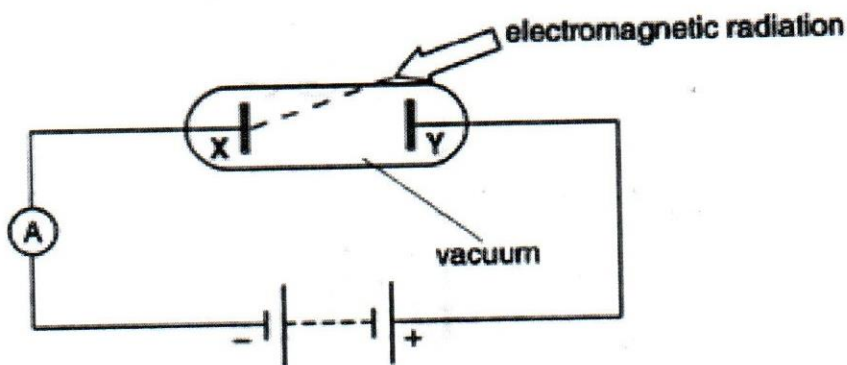


Figure 1: Showing an electrical circuit including a photocell

- b) Starting with the expression of the total energy as  $E = E_0 + K.E$ , derive the expression for the low speed approximation for the Kinetic energy, K.E. (6 marks).
- c) Show that for massless particles, the relation between their energy and mass is  $E = Pc$ , where the symbols have their usual meaning (10 marks).

### QUESTION 3 (20 MARKS)

- a) X-rays of wavelength  $10 \times 10^{-12}\text{m}$  are scattered from a target.
- (i) Find the wavelength of x-rays scattered through  $45^\circ$  (2 marks)
- (ii) Find the maximum wavelength present in the scattered x-rays. (2 marks)
- (ii) Find the maximum K.E of the recoil electrons. ( $\lambda_c$  of an electron is  $2.424\text{pm}$ ) (2 marks)
- b) Find the de Broglie wavelength of :
- (i) A 46-g golf ball with a velocity of  $30\text{m/s}$ . (2 marks)

- (ii) An electron with a velocity of  $10^7$  m/s. (2 marks)
- c) With an aid of a well labeled diagram, show that the total energy of an electron in a hydrogen atom whose orbit has a radius  $r$  is  $E = -e^2 \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0 r}$  (10 marks).

#### **QUESTION 4 (20 MARKS)**

- a) Define the following terms: nuclear fission, nuclear fusion and binding energy (3 marks).
- b) The Polonium isotope  ${}_{84}^{210}\text{Po}$  is unstable and emits a 5.3 MeV alpha particle. The atomic mass of  ${}_{84}^{210}\text{Po}$  is 209.9829u and that of  ${}^4_2\text{He}$  is 4.0026u. Identify the daughter nucleus and find its atomic mass. (2 marks)
- c) Derive the expressions for both the decay law and half-life (3 marks).
- d) A sample of 1g of  ${}_{83}^{209}\text{Bi}$  with a half life of  $2.7 \times 10^7$  yr decays into a stable isotope of thallium by emitting alpha particles. What would be the activity of the sample? (2 marks).
- e) Using well labeled diagram, derive the Compton wavelength (6 marks)
- f) Utilizing the three types of baryons, determine the quark model for protons and neutrons and their antiparticles (4 marks)

#### **QUESTION 5 (20 MARKS)**

- a) i) What do you understand by the term black body (2 mark)
- ii) A patient waiting to be seen by a physician is asked to remove all his/ her clothes in a room whose temperature is  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . Calculate the rate of heat loss by radiation from the patient, if his /her skin is at a temperature of  $36^\circ\text{C}$  and his or her surface area is  $1.6\text{m}^2$ . Assume an emissivity of 0.8 (3 marks).
- b) i) Define the term impact parameter (2 mark).
- ii) The impact parameter  $b$  is related to the scattering angle  $\theta$ , by an expression  $\cot \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 K}{Ze^2} b$  where the symbols have their usual meaning. Find the angle through which a 5 MeV alpha particle approaching a gold nucleus with an impact parameter of  $2.5 \times 10^{-13}\text{m}$  is scattered (4 marks).
- c) Starting with the expression of angular velocity  $\omega$  and the wave number  $k$ , show that the de Broglie wave group associated with the moving body travels with the same velocity as the body, i.e.  $u=v$  (9 marks).