



# **KIBABII UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS  
FOR THE DEGREE  
OF  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS**

**COURSE CODE: SPC 212**

**COURSE TITLE: VIBRATIONS AND WAVES**

**DATE: 19/7/2022 TIME: 2:00PM-4:00PM**

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### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Question ONE is compulsory and carries 30 marks
- Attempt any two of the remaining questions. Each carries 20 marks.
- Symbols used here hold their usual meaning Speed of sound in air  $v = 343\text{m/s}$

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt}; \quad \ddot{x} = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

KIBU observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

This paper consists of 4 printed pages. Please Turn Over 

**QUESTION ONE**

**(30 MARKS)**

- a. Name with examples the classification of waves. (2.mks)
- b. Given that the motion of a point x at time t is same as the motion of the point x = 0 at an earlier time  $(t - \frac{x}{v})$  for a sinusoidal wave  $y(x, t) = A\sin\omega t$  and propagation constant  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  show that  $\omega = vk$ . (3.mks)
- c. For a particle with a displacement of  $y = A\sin(\omega t - kx)$ , determine;  
 (i). velocity of the particle  
 (ii). acceleration of the particle. (4.marks)  
 Hence show that the wave equation with V as the wave speed is given as
- $$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = v^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}$$
- (3.marks)
- d. (i) Show that the propagation velocity is given as
- $$V = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$$
- (3.marks)
- e. A clothline has a linear mass density of  $25\text{Kg/m}^3$  and is stretched with a tension of 2500N. One end is given a sinusoidal motion with frequency of 500Hz and amplitude 1m. At a time  $t=0$ , the end has zero displacement and moving in +y direction.
- i. Find the speed, amplitude, angular frequency, period, wavelength and wave number. (6.marks)



- ii. Write a wave function describing the wave
- iii. Find the position of the point  $x=25\text{m}$  and time  $t=15\text{s}$
- iv. Find the transverse velocity at  $x=2.5$  at  $t=15\text{s}$
- v. Find the slope of the string at  $x=25$  at  $t=10\text{s}$

(1.marks)  
 (1.marks)  
 (1.marks)  
 (1.marks)

f. (i) Show that  $V = \sqrt{\frac{B}{\rho}}$  where B is the bulk modulus

(3.marks)

$\rho$  is density of medium.

(ii) Determine the speed of sound waves in water and find a wavelength of a wave having a frequency  $262\text{Hz}$  ( $k=45.8 \times 10^{-11}\text{Pa}$ ,  $\rho=1000\text{Kg/m}^3$ ). (1.marks)

(iii) What is the speed of longitudinal wave in a steel rod, given  $Y=2 \times 10^{11}$ ,  $\rho = 7.8 \times 10^3\text{Kg/m}^3$  (1.marks)

## QUESTION TWO.

[20 Marks]

- a) A block of mass  $m = 100\text{ g}$  attached to a horizontal spring with  $k = 0.4\text{ N/m}$  is in simple harmonic motion with a displacement given by  $x = -0.2 \cos(\omega t)$ . Calculate the period, T, and the velocity of the block at time  $t = 3T/8$ . [4 marks]
- b) Write down the differential equation that characterizes any simple harmonic oscillation, and its general solution. List the three conditions that must be satisfied for simple harmonic motion to occur in a mechanical system. [4 marks]
- c) A particle of mass  $100\text{ g}$  executes simple harmonic motion about  $x = 0$  with angular frequency  $\omega = 10\text{ s}^{-1}$ . Its total mechanical energy is  $E_{\text{tot}} = 0.45\text{ J}$ . Find the displacement of the particle when its speed is  $2\text{ m/s}$ . [3 marks]
- d) A damped oscillator is driven by a force  $F(t) = F_0 \cos(\omega_e t)$ . Explain briefly what is meant by the *transient* and the *steady-state* solutions for the displacement  $x(t)$ , and write down the general form of the steady-state solution. [3 marks]
- e) State the principle of linear superposition and give two examples of physical phenomena that rely on it. [3 marks]
- f) Write down the general form for a harmonic wave travelling along the x axis, in terms of  $k$ ,  $\omega$  and  $\phi_0$ . Determine the wavelength, frequency, phase constant, and phase speed of the wave

$$y(x,t) = 0.5 \sin\left(0.2\pi x + 3\pi t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right),$$

in which the units of  $x$  and  $y$  are metres and  $t$  is in seconds.

[3 marks]

- g) Write down the one-dimensional wave equation, and show that the function  $y(x,t) = 2e^{-3x+6t}$  is a solution

[3 marks]

- h) A violin string must be tuned to vibrate at a frequency of 660 Hz in its fundamental mode. The vibrating part of the string is 33 cm long, and the linear density is 3 g/m. What is the

tension when the string is in tune?

[3 marks]

- i) The equation of motion of a damped oscillator is

$$\square \quad \ddot{x} + \frac{\gamma}{m} \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$

Briefly state what each term in this equation represents physically.

[2 marks]

Consider the special case in which  $\gamma = 2m\omega_0$

- i. What is this type of damping, called?

[1 mark]

- ii. Re-write the equation of motion with  $\omega_0$  as the only constant.

[1 mark]

### QUESTION THREE.

[20 Marks]

A particle of mass  $m$  is in simple harmonic motion about an equilibrium position  $x = 0$ , with an angular frequency  $\omega$ .

- (a) Write down the differential equation of motion for the particle. Give the general solution for  $x(t)$ , and its first two derivatives,  $\dot{x}(t)$  and  $\ddot{x}(t)$ .

[4 marks]

- (b) If the potential energy is defined to be  $U = 0$  at equilibrium, show that

$$U = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2 \quad \text{in general. (Hint: use the work-energy theorem.)} \quad [4 \text{ marks}]$$

- (c) Use the results from (a) and (b) and the general definition of kinetic energy  $K$ , to find  $K$  and  $U$  as functions of time. Use these to find an expression for the total mechanical energy,  $E_{\text{tot}} = K + U$ .

[4 marks]



- (d) Obtain a formula for the kinetic energy in terms of  $m$ ,  $\omega$ ,  $x$  and the amplitude of oscillation. Find the displacement  $x$  at which  $K = U$ . [4 marks]
- (e) Sketch the dependence of  $K$ ,  $U$ , and  $E_{\text{tot}}$  on displacement  $x$ . Label the minimum and maximum values of all quantities. [4 marks]

#### QUESTION FOUR

[20 Marks]

- (a) A standing wave on a string for which the wave speed is  $v$  has the equation  $y(x, t) = A \sin(kx) \cos(\omega t)$ . If the string has fixed ends at  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$ , then derive the allowed wavelengths,  $\lambda_n$  and frequencies  $f_n$  of the normal modes. [8 Marks]
- (b) If the wavefunction in (a) is re-written  $y(x, t) = \psi(x) \cos(\omega t)$ , then give the formula for  $\psi_n(x)$  of the normal modes, in terms of  $n$  and  $L$ . [4 Marks]
- (c) Sketch  $\psi_n(x)$  for the first three harmonics, indicating clearly all nodes and antinodes. [4 Marks]
- (d) Show that the normal modes satisfy the equation [4 Marks]

$$\frac{d^2 \psi_n(x)}{dx^2} + \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2} \psi_n(x) = 0$$

#### QUESTION FIVE

[20 Marks]

The equation of motion of a damped oscillator is given in equation (1)

$$\ddot{x} + \frac{\gamma}{m} \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$

This has three classes of solution given by equations (2), (3) and (4) below for the displacement  $x$ :

$$x(t) = e^{-\gamma t / 2m} (C_1 t + C_2)$$

where  $q \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\gamma^2}{4m^2} - \omega_0^2}$  in equation (3), and  $\omega \equiv \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \frac{\gamma^2}{4m^2}}$  in equation

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- (a) A steel block of mass  $m = 8 \text{ kg}$  is attached to a spring with  $k = 64 \text{ N m}^{-1}$  and a damping constant,  $\gamma = 48 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$ . The block is in equilibrium at  $t = 0$ , when it receives an impulse that gives it an initial velocity of  $+2.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .
- (i) Which of solutions given by equations above describes the motion of the block at  $t \geq 0$ ? Justify your answer. [4 Marks]
  - (ii) Use the information given to determine the values of all constants in the appropriate  $x(t)$  equation, and thus specify both the displacement and the velocity of the block as functions of time. [6 Marks]
- (b) Another block+spring system has the same  $m$  and  $k$  as in (a), but a different,  $\gamma$ , and is additionally subjected to a harmonic external force that varies in time with angular frequency  $\omega_e$  and amplitude  $F_0$
- (i) Write down the equation of motion for this system. [2 Marks]
  - (ii) Briefly explain what is meant by the *transient* and *steady-state* solutions in this case, and write down the general form of the steady-state solution. [4 Marks]
  - (iii) Calculate the maximum value of  $\gamma$  for which the driving force could possibly cause resonance. [4 Marks]