Making measurements and analysing data - 2021/20 GCE AS Physics A

1. Nov/2021/Paper_156/01/No.22

A student is determining the acceleration of free fall g using a metal sphere on a ramp. The sphere is released from the ramp at different heights. The speed v of the sphere at the bottom of the ramp is determined.

The acceleration of free fall g is given by the expression $g = \frac{v^2}{2d}$, where d is the initial height of the sphere and v is speed of the sphere at the bottom of the ramp.

The student records the following data.

- $d = 0.100 \pm 0.002 \,\mathrm{m}$
- $v = 1.4 \pm 0.1 \,\mathrm{m \, s^{-1}}$
- (a) Name the instrument the student should use to measure d.

.....[1]

(b) Calculate the absolute uncertainty in g. Write your answer to 2 significant figures.

absolute uncertainty = ms⁻² [3]

2.	Nov/2020,	/Paper_	156/01/	/No.22
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A toy parachute is falling through air.

The air resistance *F* acting on the parachute is given by the expression

$$F = kv^2$$

where v is the speed of the parachute and k is a constant.

(a) The S.I. base units for F are $kg m s^{-2}$.

Show that the S.I. base units for k are $kg m^{-1}$.

[2]

- (b) The following items of data are collected for the parachute.
 - $v = 1.20 \pm 0.12 \,\mathrm{m}\,\mathrm{s}^{-1}$
 - $F = 4.00 \pm 0.24 \,\mathrm{N}$

Calculate the absolute uncertainty in k. Write your answer to 2 significant figures.

absolute uncertainty in $k = \dots kg m^{-1}$ [3]