



ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

Mark scheme

June 2003

GCE

Physics A

Unit PHA3/P

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Unit 3

1 AO3a : *planning*:

measurements:

- (to determine the transit time of the falling cake-case)
use a stopwatch (**not** from rest) (✓)
 - (to determine (vertical) distance fallen)
use a (metre) ruler or tape measure (**not** from rest) (✓)
 - (to determine mass (weight) of cake-case)
measure with balance (not scales) (✓)
 - (to determine the cross-sectional area of the cake-case)
measure the (mean) diameter/radius using (300 mm) ruler (✓)
- any three ✓✓✓

strategy:

- find v using correct physics e.g. $\frac{\text{(vertical) distance}}{\text{transit time}}$ (✓)
 - (no credit for measuring vertical distance in a certain time)
 - find A from $\frac{\pi(\text{diameter})^2}{4}$ (✓)
 - D is same as weight (mg) (when falling at terminal velocity) (✓)
 - repeat either using different weights (e.g. stacked cases) or paper cases of different diameters (cross-sectional areas) (✓)
 - shape factor* found by graphical method: expect explanation, suitable graph e.g. D against ρAv^2 ; determine gradient (✓)
- any four ✓✓✓✓

control:

- any sensible e.g. avoid draughts ✓

difficulties:

(*difficulty* + *how overcome* = 2)

any **two** of the following

- reduce uncertainty in timing
by making cases fall through large distance (e.g. ≥ 2 m) and/or
by repeating readings and averaging
by avoiding parallax error (viewing at eye level)

- reduce uncertainty in diameter/radius
by measuring across several diameters and averaging

- reduce uncertainty in vertical distance
by ensuring ruler is vertical: expect description of how this is done

✓✓✓✓

max(8)
(8)

2	AO3b : implementing		
(a)(i)	<i>accuracy</i>	w to nearest mm, sensible value θ_1 and θ_2 to nearest $^\circ$, $\theta_1 - \theta_2 \geq 25^\circ$	✓ ✓
(a)(ii)		n , no unit, in range 1.35 to 1.65	✓
(b)	<i>tabulation readings</i>	s/mm $\theta_1/^\circ$ $\theta_2/^\circ$ 5 sets of s , θ_1 and θ_2 , s range ≥ 10.0 cm (mark deducted for each missing set or poor range)	✓ ✓
(c)	<i>tabulation</i>	$(s \cos \theta_2)$ $\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2)$	✓
(b)	<i>significant figures</i>	all s to nearest mm, all θ_1 and θ_2 to nearest $^\circ$,	
(c)		both sets of derived data to 3 s.f. or 4 s.f.	✓
(c)	<i>quality</i>	4 of 5 points to ± 2 mm of straight line of positive gradient (providing suitably-scaled graph drawn)	✓ (8)

3 AO3c : applying evidence and drawing conclusions processing

(c)	<i>axes</i>	marked $s \cos \theta_2/\text{mm}$ and $\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2)/(\text{no unit})$ (deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ for each missing, rounding down)	✓✓
	<i>scale</i>	suitable (e.g. 8×8) [5×5 , 2×8 , 8×2 ✓]	✓✓
	<i>points</i>	5 points plotted correctly with straight best-fit line drawn	✓
	deductions		
(d)		G from suitable Δ (e.g. 8×8) $G = w \pm 10\%$ [$\pm 20\%$ ✓]	✓ ✓✓ (8)

4 AO3d : evaluating evidence and procedures

(e)(i)	θ_1 (and/or θ_2) larger so uncertainty in θ reduced	✓ ✓	
(e)(ii)	measured (between emergent ray and projection of incident ray) at two places [repeated readings accepted] use of set-square or protractor to ensure perpendicular distance is measured	✓ ✓	
(e)(iii)	range of s decreased (not s smaller) range of θ_1 and θ_2 reduced	✓ ✓	(6) (22)