CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

PHYSICS **9702/35**

Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills 1 **May/June 2026**

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: The materials and apparatus listed in the confidential instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You will be allowed to work with the apparatus for a maximum of 1 hour for each question.
- You should record all your observations in the spaces provided in the question paper as soon as these observations are made.
- You may use a calculator.
- You should show all your working and use appropriate units.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

For Examiner's Use	
1	
2	
Total	

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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You may not need to use all of the materials provided.

1 In this experiment, you will investigate a balanced metre rule.

You have been provided with a metre rule and some masses.

(a) • Place some of the masses on the rule as shown in Figure 1.1.

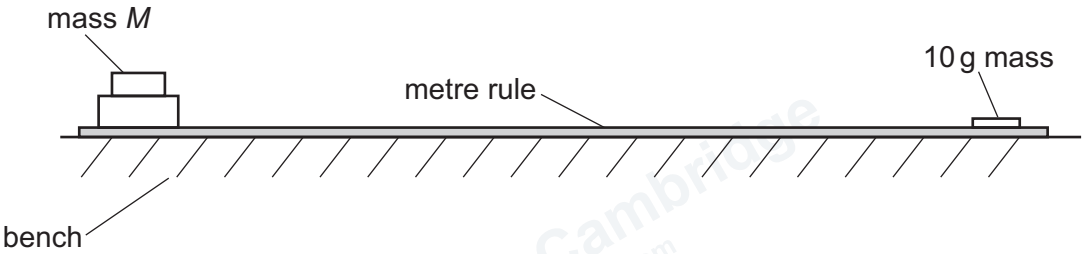


Figure 1.1

- Place one 10 g mass on the rule with its centre at the 95.0 cm mark.
  This mass must remain in place throughout the experiment.
- Place a total mass of 150 g on the rule with its centre at the 5.0 cm mark.

  The value of n is given by $n = \frac{M}{10\,\text{g}}$ where M is the mass placed at the 5.0 cm mark.

  For this value of M, the value of n is 15.
- Carefully place the rule and masses on the pivot as shown in Figure 1.2.

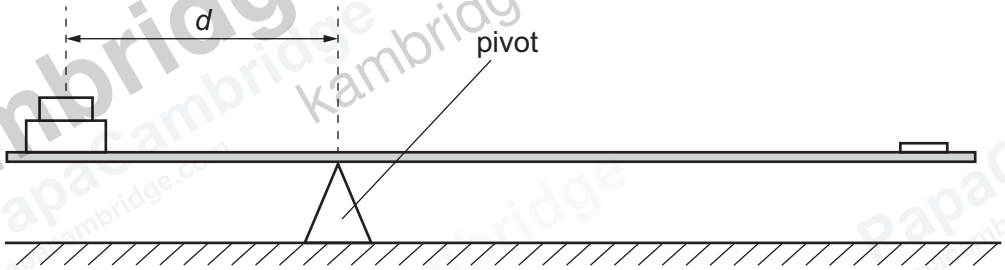


Figure 1.2

- Adjust the position of the rule on the pivot until the rule is balanced.
- The distance between the pivot and the 5.0 cm mark on the rule is d.

  Record d.

d = ... [1]

(b) Change M by changing the total mass at the 5.0 cm mark. Adjust the position of the pivot until the rule is balanced. Calculate n using $n = \frac{M}{10\,\text{g}}$.

Repeat until you have six sets of values of M, n and d.

Record your results in a table. Include values of $\frac{1}{d}$ in your table.

[10]

(c) **(i)** Plot a graph of $\frac{1}{d}$ on the y-axis against n on the x-axis. [3]

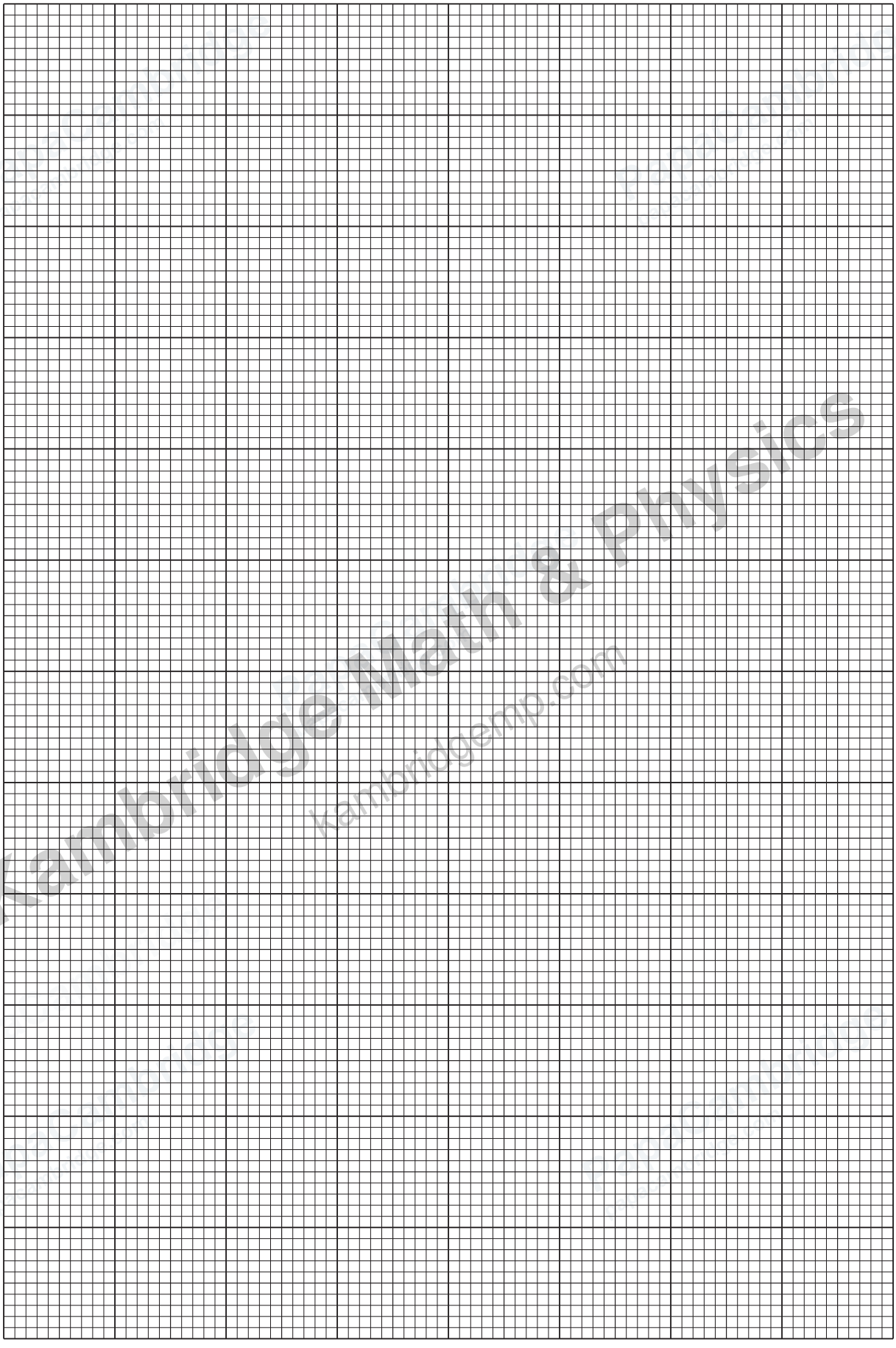
(ii) Draw the straight line of best fit. [1]

(iii) Determine the gradient and y-intercept of this line.

gradient = ...

y-intercept = ...

[2]



(d) It is suggested that the quantities d and n are related by the equation

$$\frac{1}{d} = Pn + Q$$

where P and Q are constants.

Using your answers in **1(c)(iii)**, determine the values of P and Q.
Give appropriate units.

P = ...

Q = ...
[2]

(e) Theory suggests that

$$\frac{Q}{P} = \frac{S + m}{m}$$

where m = 10.0 g and S is the mass of the rule.

Determine S.
Give an appropriate unit.

S = ... [1]

[Total: 20]

You may not need to use all of the materials provided.

2 In this experiment, you will investigate the resistance of a parallel combination of resistance wires.

You have been provided with two metre rules with resistance wires attached.

(a) (i) • A, B and C are crocodile clips.

Connect A to the soldered joint as shown in Figure 2.1.

• Connect B and C as shown in Figure 2.1.

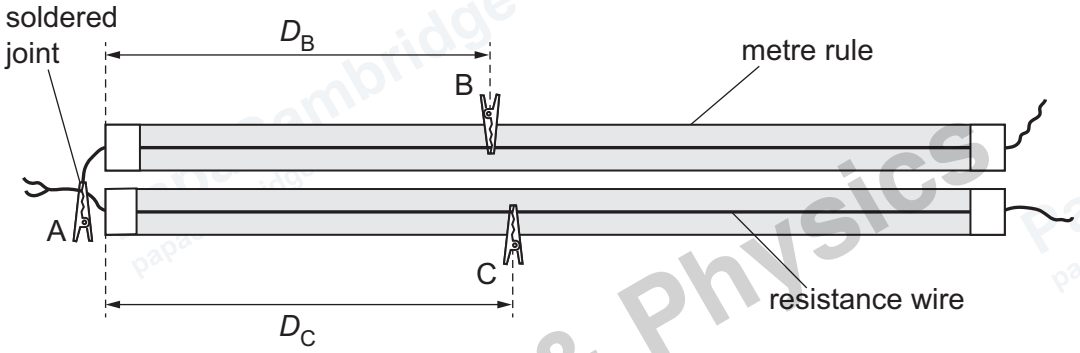


Figure 2.1

• Adjust the position of B so that the length L of wire between A and B is approximately 50 cm.

• Determine L.

L = ...

• Estimate the percentage uncertainty in your value of L. Show your working.

percentage uncertainty = ... %

[1]

(ii) • Adjust the position of C so that the length of wire between A and C is also L.

• The distance from the end of the metre rule to B is D_B.
The distance from the end of the metre rule to C is D_C, as shown in Figure 2.1.

Measure and record D_B and D_C.

D_B = ...

D_C = ...

[1]

(b) (i) • Connect the circuit as shown in Figure 2.2.

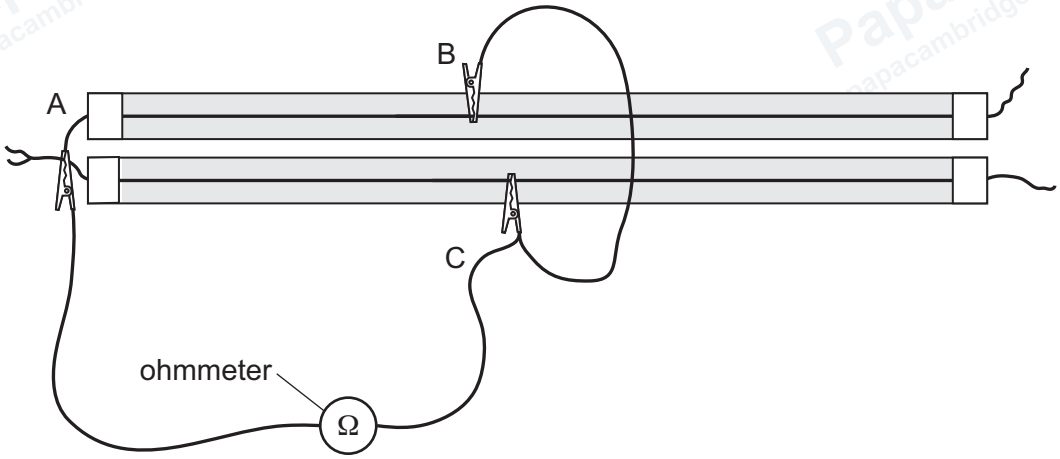


Figure 2.2

• The reading on the ohmmeter is R.

Record R.

R = ... [1]

(ii) • The value of x is 15.0 cm.

Calculate $(D_B - x)$ and $(D_C + x)$.

$(D_B - x)$ = ...

$(D_C + x)$ = ...

• Adjust the positions of B and C as shown in Figure 2.3.

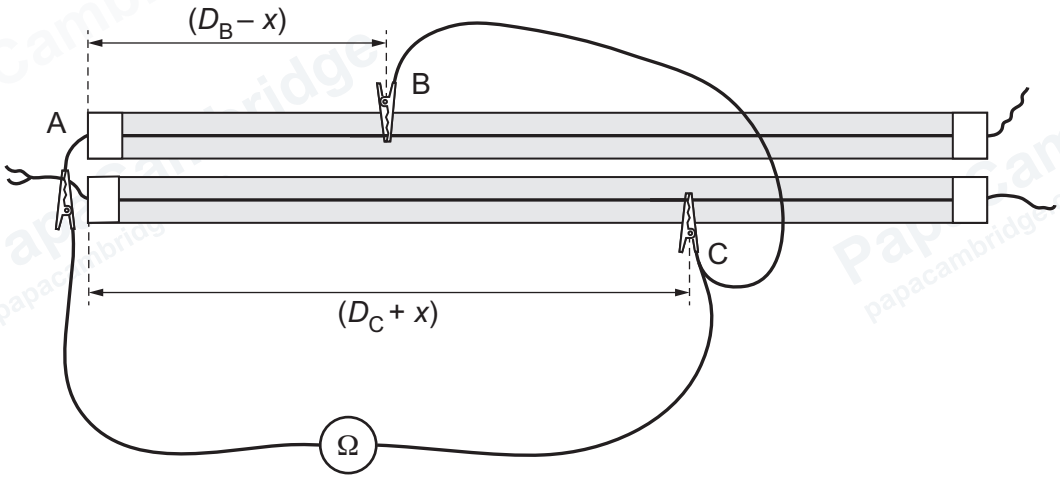


Figure 2.3

[1]

(iii) The ohmmeter reading is R_X.

Record R_X.

R_X = ... [1]

(iv) Calculate $\frac{R_X}{R}$.

$\frac{R_X}{R}$ = ... [1]

(v) Justify the number of significant figures that you have given for your value of $\frac{R_X}{R}$.

.....

.....

..... [1]

(c) Using a value of x of 25.0 cm, repeat **2(b)(ii)**, **2(b)(iii)** and **2(b)(iv)**.

$(D_B - x)$ = ...

$(D_C + x)$ = ...

R_X = ...

$\frac{R_X}{R}$ = ...
[3]

(d) It is suggested that the relationship between R_X, R and x is

$$\frac{R_X}{R} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{k}$$

where k is a constant.

Using your data, calculate **two** values of k.

first value of k = ...

second value of k = ...

[1]

(e) It is suggested that the percentage uncertainty in the values of k is 15%.

Using this uncertainty, explain whether your results support the relationship in **2(d)**.

.....

.....

.....

..... [1]

(f) **(i)** Describe **four** sources of uncertainty or limitations of the procedure for this experiment.

For any uncertainties in measurement that you describe, you should state the quantity being measured and a reason for the uncertainty.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

3 .....

.....

4 .....

.....

[4]

(ii) Describe **four** improvements that could be made to this experiment. You may suggest the use of other apparatus or different procedures.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

3 .....

.....

4 .....

.....

[4]

[Total: 20]

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