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232/1  
Physics  
Paper 1

**Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)  
Physics Paper 1**

**Instructions to candidates**

- This paper consists of two sections **A** and **B**.
- Answer **all** the questions in the two sections in the spaces provided after each question
- All working **must** be clearly shown.
- Electronic calculators and Mathematical tables may be used.
- All numerical answers **should be expressed** in the **decimal** notations.

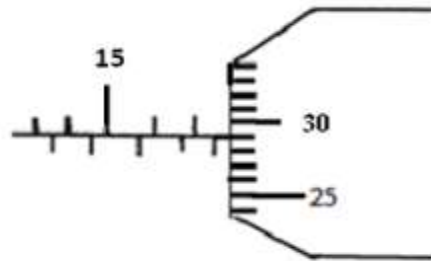
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SECTION	QUESTION	MAX MARKS	CANDIDATE'S SCORE
A	1 – 11	25	
B	12	08	
	13	07	
	14	10	
	15	06	
	16	09	
	17	07	
	18	08	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>80</b>	

*This paper consists of 14 printed pages. Candidates should check to ascertain that all pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.*

Section A (25Marks)

1. The diagram below shows a micrometer screw gauge. What is the reading in SI units? (2 marks)



*Sleeve scale = 17.50mm*

*Thimble scale = 29 X 0.01 = 0.29mm* ✓

*Total reading = 17.50 + 0.29*

*= 17.79mm*

*= 1 779 X 10<sup>-2</sup> m* ✓

2. Apart from friction, name another factor that reduces efficiency in machines. (1 mark)

*Energy lost/used to lift the machine parts / Weight of machine parts* ✓

3. Diffusion in gases is faster than in liquids; state two reasons why this is so. (2 marks)

*-Density of gases is lower than in liquids* ✓

*-Intermolecular forces in gases are weaker than in liquids.* ✓

*-Kinetic energy of gas particles is higher than that of liquids*

4. A tube of radius 9 mm has a constriction of diameter 10mm. Water flows in the tube at 3ms<sup>-1</sup>. Determine the velocity of water in the constriction. (3 marks)

*Rate of flow; a<sub>1</sub> v<sub>1</sub> = a<sub>2</sub> v<sub>2</sub>* ✓

[DOWNLOAD MORE RESOURCES](#) | *πx0.009<sup>2</sup> X 3 = v<sub>2</sub> X π X 0.005<sup>2</sup>* ✓

*v<sub>2</sub> = 9.72 ms<sup>-1</sup>* ✓

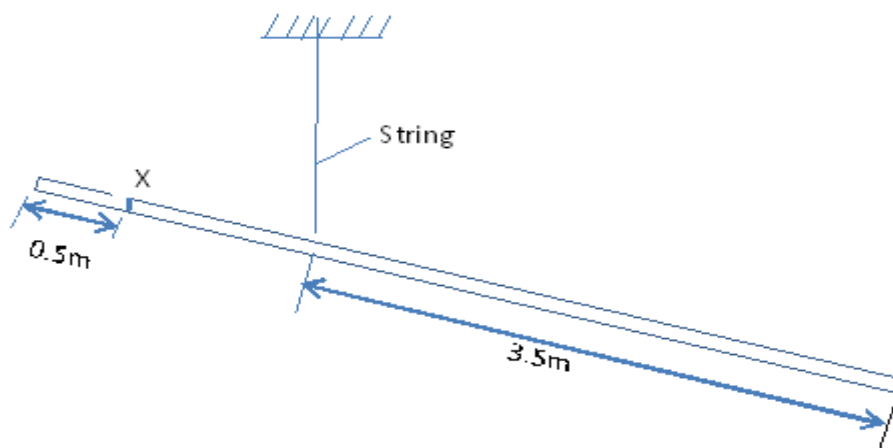
5. (a) A student obtained ice at 0°C from a refrigerator and placed it in a beaker on a bench. After 4 minutes, the temperature rose to 4°C. State the changes that would be observed in the water in terms of;

(i) density *Increases* ✓ (1 mark)

(ii) mass *remains constant* ✓ (1 mark)

(ii) volume *Decreases* ✓ (1 mark)

6. The diagram below shows a uniform 5m long metal rod of mass 800g. It is suspended by a string tied at a point 3.5m from one end. Determine the load which should be hung at point X to keep the plank horizontal. (3 marks)



*At equilibrium, sum of clockwise moments = sum of anticlockwise moments* ✓

$$8N \times 1m = X \times 1m$$
 ✓

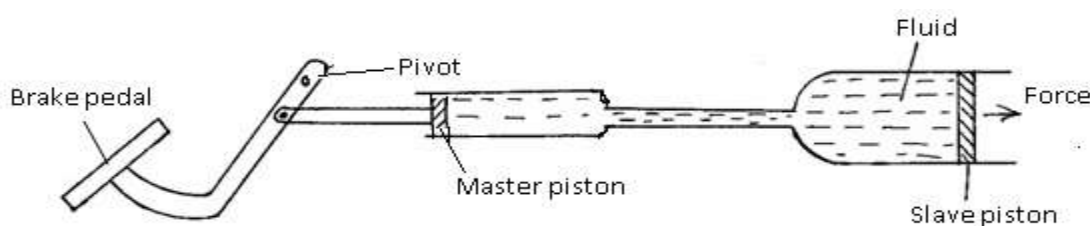
$$X = \underline{8N}$$
 ✓

7. Explain why ice skaters use sharp-edged shoes to slide on ice (2 marks)

*Sharp edged shoes exert high pressure on ice which lowers the melting point of ice.*

*Melted water below provides lubrication/ lowers friction hence skidding/ sliding occurs.*

8. The diagram below shows a braking system.



Why is the master piston, made smaller than the slave piston? (1 mark)

*A small piston exerts high pressure transmitted to the larger/slave piston,*

*This produces a larger force in the slave piston.*

9. A faulty thermometer reads 2°C when dipped in ice at 0°C and 95°C when dipped in steam at 100°C. What would this thermometer read if placed in water at room temperature at 18°C?

(3 marks)

$$0 \text{-----} 100 \longrightarrow 100 \text{ units}$$

$$2 \text{-----} 95 \longrightarrow 93 \text{ units}$$

$$1 \text{ unit} = 93/100 = 0.93 \text{ units}$$

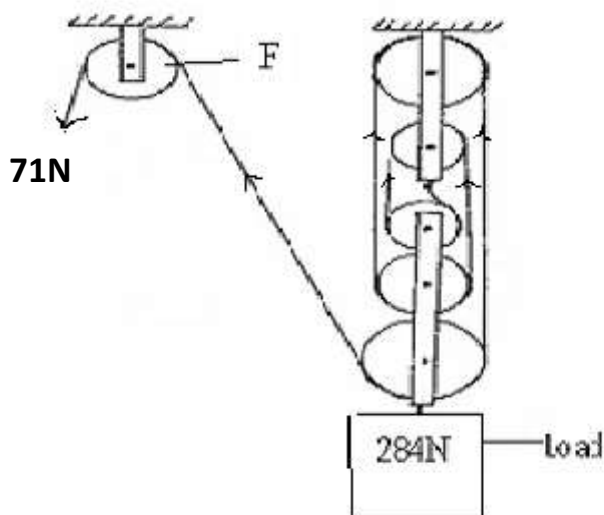
$$18 \text{ units} = 18 \times 0.93$$

$$= 16.74$$

$$\text{Reading} = 2 + 16.74$$

$$= \underline{18.74^\circ \text{C}}$$

10. The figure **below** shows a machine being used to raise a load. Use the information given in the figure to answer questions **below**.



- (a) Determine the efficiency of the machine. (3 marks)

$$\begin{aligned}
 V.R. &= 5 & \text{Efficiency} &= \frac{M.A.}{V.R} \times 100 \\
 M.A. &= \frac{284}{71} & &= \frac{4}{5} \times 100 \checkmark \\
 &= 4 \checkmark & &= 80\% \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

11. Using Kinetic theory of matter, explain why solids expand when heated (2 marks)

**Heat increases the kinetic energy of molecules** ✓  
**This leads to increase in the distance covered by moving molecules, hence its length increases** ✓

**Section B (55 Marks)**

12. A bullet of mass 24g travelling in a horizontal path with a velocity of  $450\text{ms}^{-1}$  strikes a wooden block of wood of mass 976g resting on a rough horizontal surface. After impact, the bullet and the block move together for a distance of 7.5m before coming rest.

(a) Name the type of collision which takes place above (1 mark)

**Inelastic collision** ✓

(b) What's the velocity of the two bodies when they start sliding (2marks)

$$m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = (m_1 + m_2)v$$

$$\frac{22}{1000} \times 450 + \frac{976}{1000} \times 0 = (\frac{976}{1000} + \frac{26}{1000})v$$

$$v = \underline{10.8\text{ms}^{-1}}$$

(c) Calculate the force which brings the two bodies to rest (3 marks)

$$V^2 = u^2 + 2 a s$$

$$0 = 10.8^2 + 2 X a X 7.5$$

$$a = - 10.8^2/15$$

$$a = \underline{-7.7776 \text{ms}^{-1}}$$

$$F = ma = 1 X -7.7776 \text{ms}^{-1}$$

$$F = \underline{-7.7776 \text{N}}$$

(d) Determine the coefficient of friction between the block and the surface during this motion.

(2 marks)

$$F = \mu R = \mu mg$$

$$= m a = \mu X 1 X 10$$

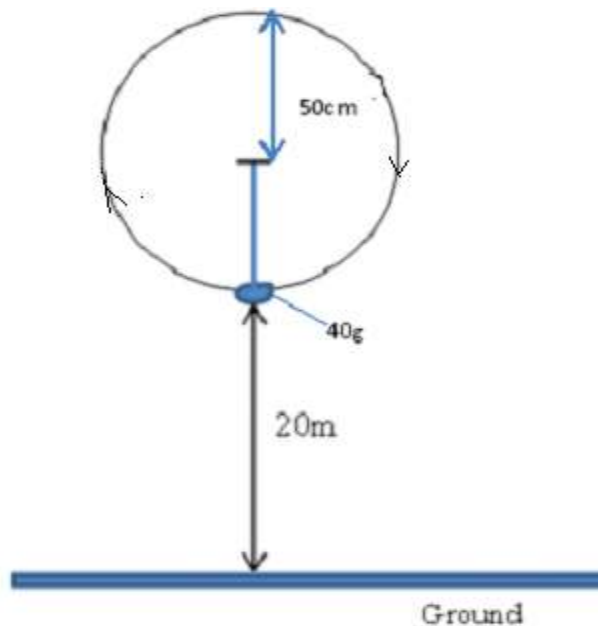
$$\mu = \frac{1 X 7.776}{10}$$

✓

13 (a) Give reason why a body moving in a circular path with constant speed is said to be accelerating. (1mk)

✓  
*This is due to constant change in direction of body  
hence change in velocity is acceleration*

(b) A stone of mass 40g is tied to the end of a string 50cm long such that it is 20m above the ground at its lowest level as shown in the diagram below. It is whirled in a vertical circle at 2rev/s.



(i) If the string breaks at its lowest level as shown, what is the velocity with which it travels?

(2 mark)

$$\omega = 2\pi f = 2 \times 3.142 \times 2$$

$$\omega = 12.567 \text{ rads}^{-1} \checkmark$$

$$v = r \omega = 0.5 \times 12.567$$

$$v = \underline{6.283 \text{ ms}^{-1}} \checkmark$$

(ii) Calculate the maximum tension in the string.

(2 mks)

$$T = mv^2/r - mg$$

$$= 40/1000 \times 6.283^2/0.5 - 40/1000 \times 10 \checkmark$$

$$= \underline{2.7583 \text{ N}} \checkmark$$

(d) Determine the maximum horizontal distance it travels from the breaking point

(2 marks)

$$h = \frac{1}{2} gt^2$$

$$20 = 5t^2$$

$$t^2 = 4 \quad t = 2 \text{ s} \checkmark \rightarrow$$

$$R = ut$$

$$= 6.283 \times 2$$

$$= \underline{12.566 \text{ m}} \checkmark$$

14 (a) Give reason why ink is most likely to ooze out of a pen when one is up in an airplane.

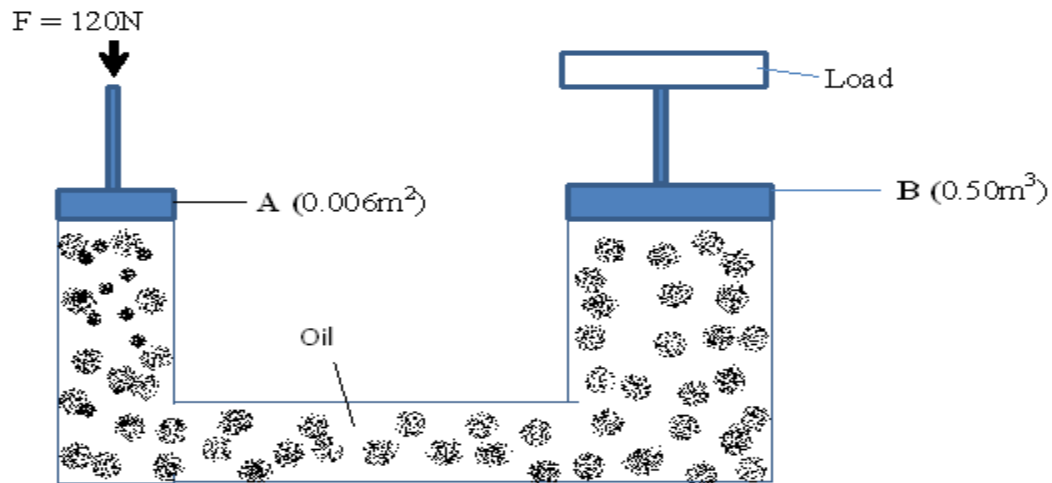
(1mark)

*The pressure in the pen is higher than that outside the pen (atmospheric pressure).*

*This causes the ink to flow outwards due to difference in pressure.*  $\checkmark$

(b) The figure below is a simple hydraulic machine used to raise heavy loads.





Calculate;

- (i) The pressure exerted on the oil by the force applied at A (2marks)

$$P = \frac{F}{A} = \frac{120}{0.006} \checkmark = \underline{20,000\text{Nm}^{-2}} \checkmark$$

$$\begin{aligned} F &= P \times A \\ &= 20,000 \times 0.50 \checkmark \\ &= \underline{10,000\text{N}} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

- (iii) Give two properties which make the oil suitable for use in this machine (2marks)

- *Should be incompressible* ✓
- *Should be non corrosive* ✓
- *Should have high boiling point and low melting point*

(c) The height of a mountain is 1360m. The barometer reading at the base of the mountain is 74cmHg. Given that the densities of mercury and air are  $13,600\text{Kg m}^{-3}$  and  $1.25\text{Kg m}^{-3}$  respectively, determine the barometer reading at the top of the mountain. (3 marks)

$$h_1\rho_1g = h_2\rho_2g$$

$$1360 \times 1.25 = \frac{(74 - x)}{100} \times 13600$$

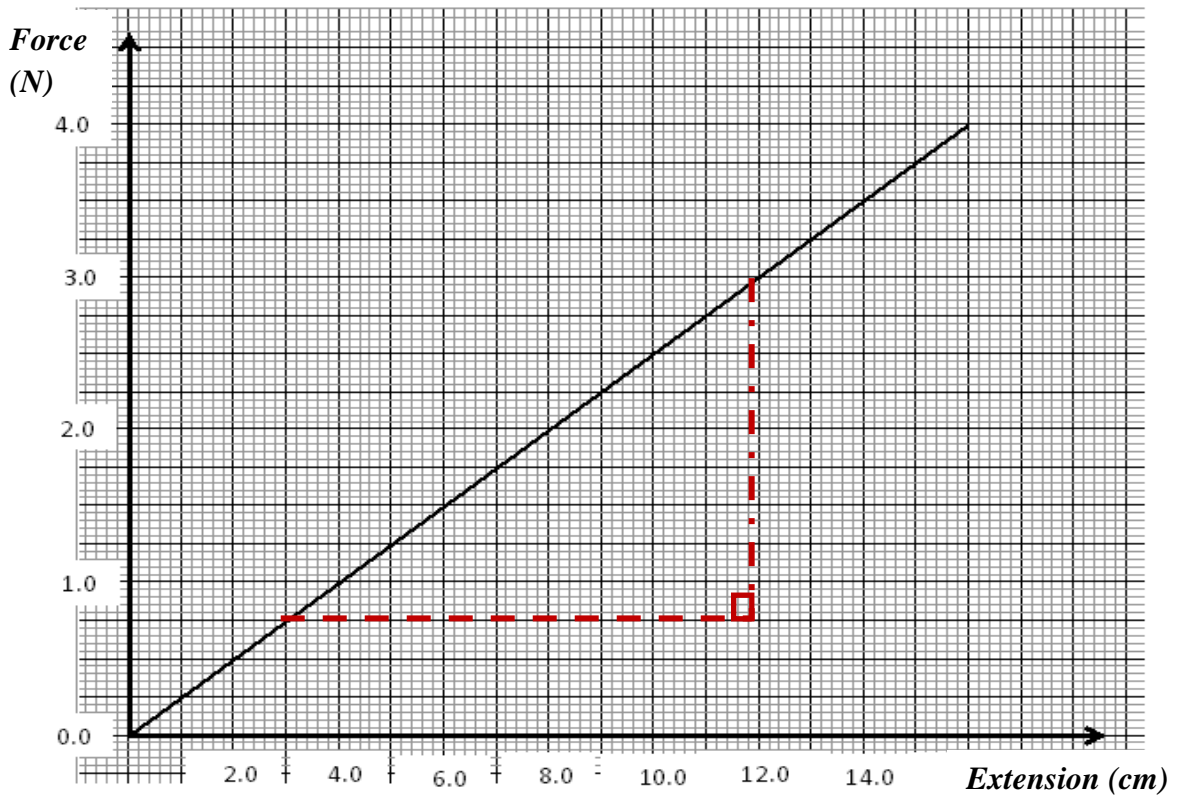
$$\underline{x = 61.5\text{cm}}$$

15 (a) State Hooke's Law

(1mark)

*For a helical spring or any other elastic material, the extension of a string is directly proportional to the force applied, so long as the elastic limit is not exceeded*

(b) The diagram below shows a graph of force against extension for a certain spring.



- (i) What is the spring constant of the spring? (2 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Gradient} &= \frac{(3-1)}{(12-4)} \checkmark \\ &= 0.25 \text{Ncm}^{-1} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) What force would cause two such springs placed side by side to stretch by 10cm (3 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In parallel arrangement, } k &= 25 \times 2 = 50 \text{ Ncm}^{-1} \checkmark \\ F &= k e = 50 \times 0.1 \checkmark \\ &= 5 \text{Ncm}^{-1} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

16. (a) What is meant by specific latent heat of fusion of a substance? (1mk)

*The amount of heat energy required to change a unit mass of solid to liquid at constant temperature.* ✓

(b) In an experiment to determine the specific latent heat of vaporization of water, steam at 100°C was passed into water contained in a well-lagged copper calorimeter. The following measurements were made:

- Mass of calorimeter = 60g
- mass of water + calorimeter = 145g
- Final mass of calorimeter + water + condensed steam = 156g
- Final temperature of the mixture = 48°C

[Specific heat capacity of water = 4200JK<sup>-1</sup>k<sup>-1</sup> and specific heat capacity of copper = 390JK<sup>-1</sup>k<sup>-1</sup>]

Determine the;

(i) mass of condensed steam. (1mk)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mass of steam} &= 156 - 145 \\ &= \underline{11 \text{ g}} \end{aligned}$$

(ii) The heat gained by the water and calorimeter if the initial temperature of the calorimeter and water is 20°C. (3mks)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Heat gained by water} + \text{heat gained by calorimeter} &= 0.085 \times 4200 (48-20) + 0.06 \times 390(48-20) \\ &= \underline{10,651.2 \text{ J}} \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Given that  $L_v$  is the specific latent heat of vaporization of steam, write an expression for the heat given out by steam. (1mark)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Heat lost by steam} &= \text{Heat lost by condensing steam} + \text{heat lost by condensed steam} \\ &= 0.011 \times L_v + 0.011 \times 4200 \times (100 - 48) \\ &= \underline{0.011L_v + 2,402.4} \end{aligned}$$

(iv) Determine the value of  $L_v$  above (2mks)

*Heat lost by steam + heat lost by condensed water = heat gained by water + heat gained by calorimeter*

$$0.011 X L_v + 0.011 X 4200 X (100 - 48) = 0.085 X 4200 (48 - 20) + 0.06 X 390(48 - 20) \checkmark$$

$$L_v = 749,890.9091 \text{ JKg}^{-1} \checkmark$$

(v) State the assumption made in the above experiment (1 mark)

- *There are no heat losses*  $\checkmark$
- *There is no change in mass*

17. A cork of volume  $100 \text{ cm}^3$  is floating on water. If the density of the cork is  $0.25 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  and that of water is  $1 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ;

(a) Calculate the mass of the cork (2 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mass} &= \text{density} \times \text{volume} \\ &= 100 \times 0.25 \checkmark \\ &= \underline{25 \text{ g}} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

(b) Hence, find the upthrust force on the cork (2 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Upthrust} &= \text{Weight of the liquid displaced} \\ &= \frac{100}{1000} \times 1 \times 10 \checkmark \\ &= \underline{1 \text{ N}} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

(c) What minimum force is required to immerse the cork completely (2 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Weight of the cork} &= \frac{25}{1000} \times 10 \\ &= 0.25 \text{ N} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{Minimum downward force required} = 1.0 - 0.25$$

$$= 0.75 \text{ N} \checkmark$$

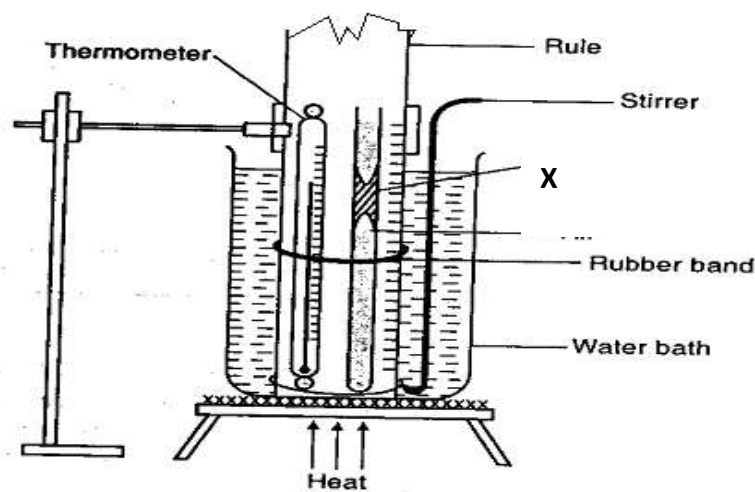
(d) What is the effect on the upthrust force in a liquid when the temperature of the liquid is reduced? (1mark)

- Upthrust reduces ✓

18. (a) State Pressure Law (1mark)

*The pressure of a fixed mass of gas is directly proportional to its absolute temperature provided volume is kept constant.* ✓

(b) The following diagram shows a set up of apparatus used to verify Charles Law.



(i) Give the name of part labelled X (1 mark)

- Sulphuric acid index ✓

(ii) What is the function of the part named in (i) above? (1 mark)

- A drying agent ✓
- Indicate the volume of gas ✓

(iii) Briefly explain how the set up above is used to verify Charles Law (3 marks)

- The apparatus are set up as shown and the water bath heated
- The temperature and volume /length of index is recorded at regular intervals of time ✓
- A graph of volume of versus absolute temperature is drawn and graph analysed. ✓
- a straight line cutting the temperature axis at about -273K is obtained; hence volume is directlyproportional to absolute temperature. ✓

(c) A certain mass of hydrogen gas occupies a volume of  $1.6\text{m}^3$  at a pressure of  $1.5 \times 10^5\text{Pa}$  and a temperature of  $12^\circ\text{C}$ . Determine the volume when the temperature is  $0^\circ\text{C}$  at a pressure of  $1.0 \times 10^3\text{Pa}$ .

(2 marks)

$$P_1V_1/T_1 = P_2V_2/T_2$$

$$1.5 \times 10^5 \times 1.6 / 285 = 1.0 \times 10^3 \times V_2 / 273 \checkmark$$

$$V_2 = 1.5 \times 10^5 \times 1.6 \times 273 / (2.85 \times 1.0 \times 10^3)$$

$$= \underline{229.89 \text{ m}^3} \checkmark$$