Practice Question Set For A-Level
Subject : Physics
Paper-1 Topic: Mechanics And Materials

Name of the Student:____

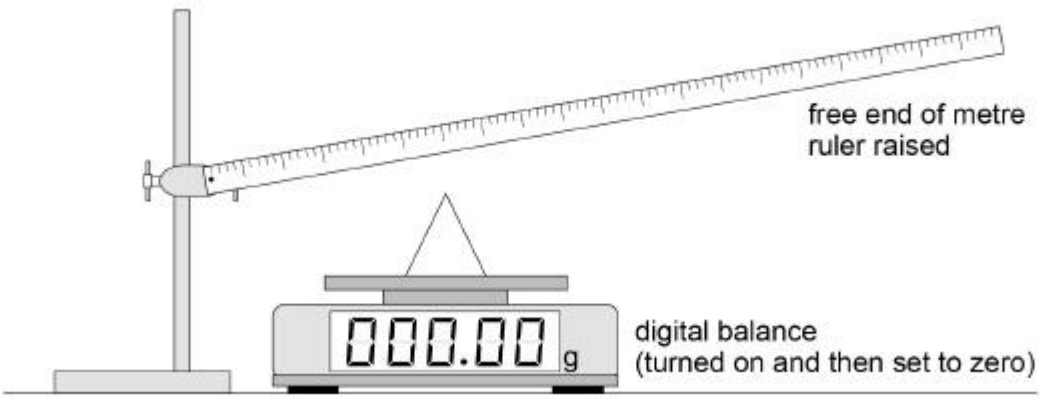
Max. Marks : 19 Marks **Time : 19 Minutes**

Q1.

This question is about using a digital balance to investigate the force on a wire placed in a magnetic field when there is an electric current in the wire.

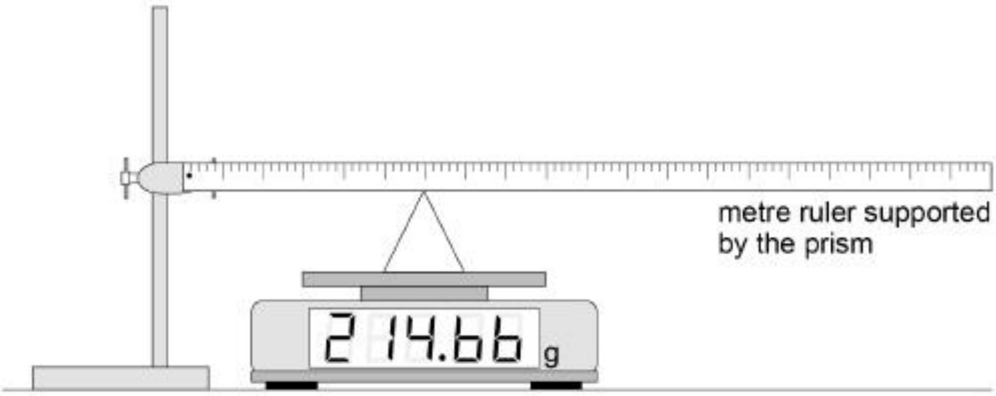
A student carries out the procedure shown in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**.
A metre ruler is pivoted at the 1.0 cm mark and a prism is placed on a digital balance. The free end of the ruler is raised and the balance is turned on and then set to zero, as shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1



The ruler is then supported by the prism with the apex of the prism at the 30.0 cm mark as shown in **Figure 2**. The height of the pivot is adjusted so that the ruler is horizontal.

Figure 2



(a) Deduce the mass of the ruler.
State **one** assumption you make.

mass of ruler = ____________________ g

assumption ____

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(3)

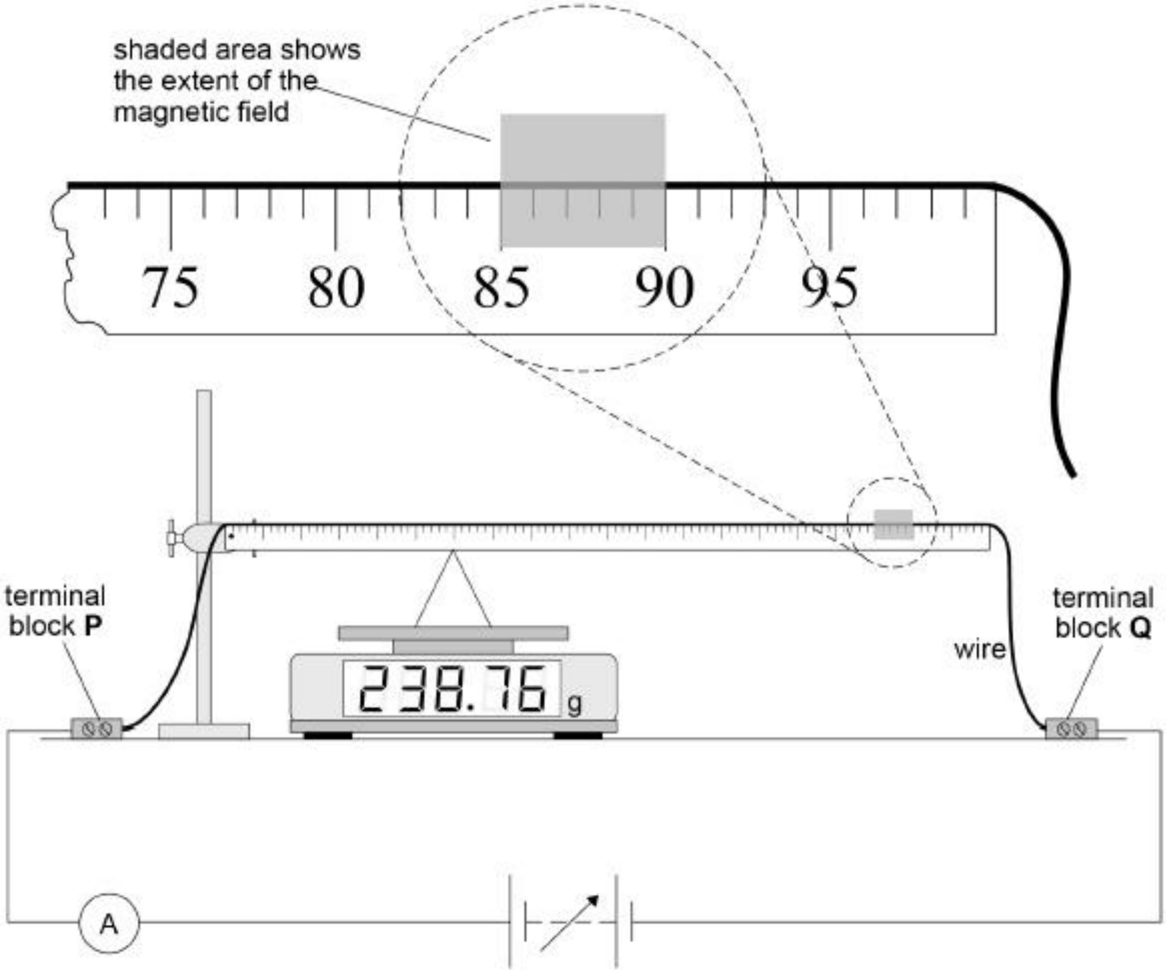
(b) The student attaches a uniform wire to the upper edge of the ruler, as shown in **Figure 3**.

The ends of the wire are connected to terminal blocks **P** and **Q** which are fixed firmly to the bench. A power supply and an ammeter are connected between **P** and **Q**.

These modifications cause the balance reading to increase slightly.

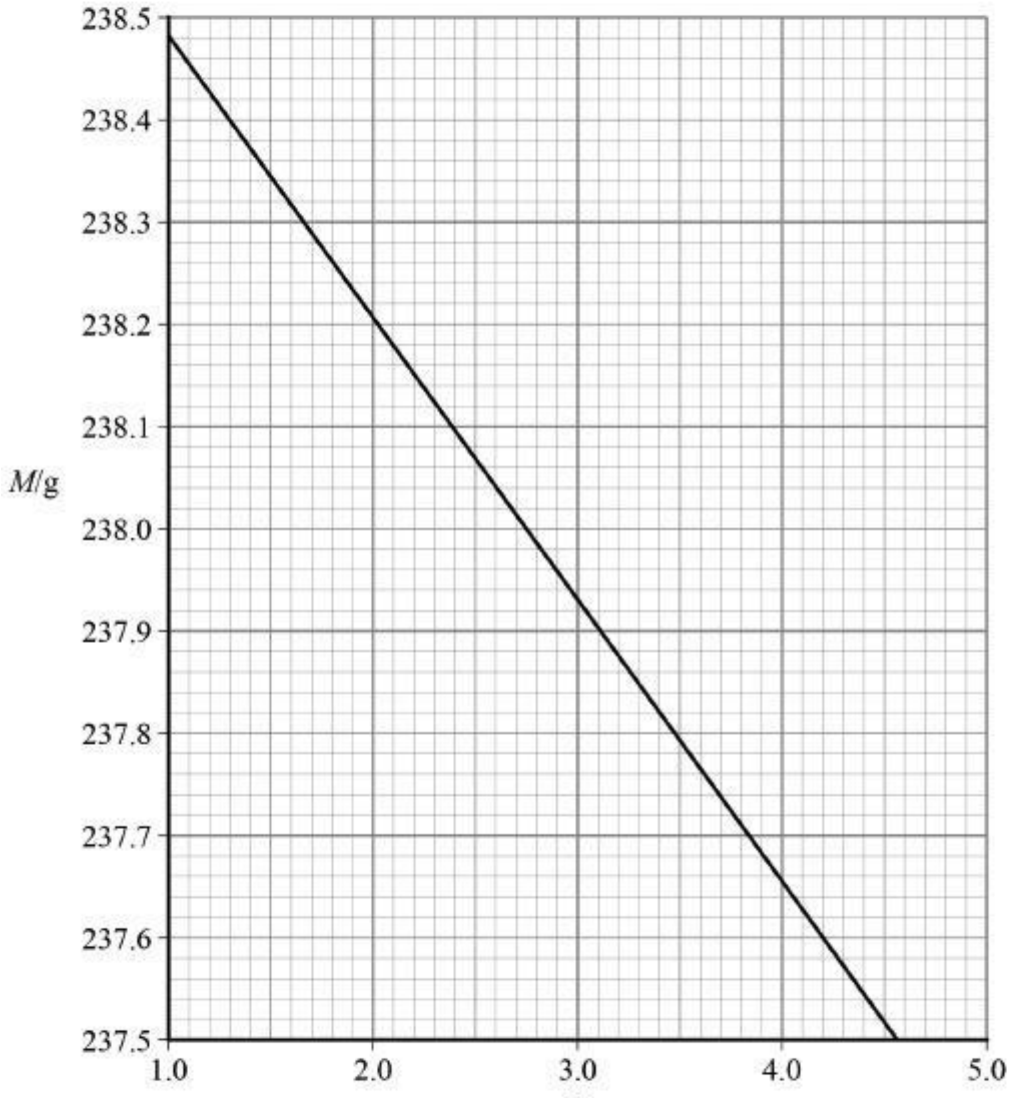
A horizontal uniform magnetic field is applied, perpendicular to the wire, between the 85 cm and 90 cm marks, as shown in the close-up diagram in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3



The balance reading M is recorded for increasing values of current I.
A graph of these data is shown in **Figure 4**.

Figure 4



State and explain the direction of the horizontal uniform magnetic field.

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(3)

(c) It can be shown that B, the magnitude of the magnetic flux density of the horizontal uniform magnetic field, is given by

$$B = \frac{\sigma}{3L}$$

where

σ = change in force acting on the prism per unit current in the wire
L = length of the region where the magnetic field cuts through the wire.

Determine B.

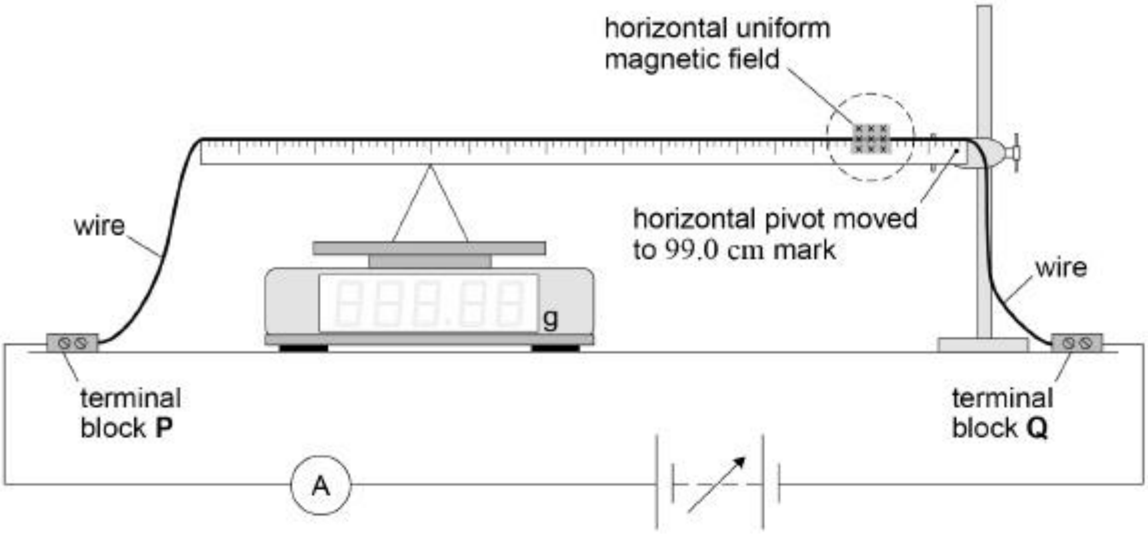
B = ____________________ T

(3)

(d) The experiment is repeated with the ruler pivoted at the 99.0 cm mark.
Nothing else is changed from **Figure 3**.

This arrangement is shown in **Figure 5**.

Figure 5



Tick (✔) **one** box in row 1 and **one** box in row 2 of the table to identify the effect, if any, on the magnitude of the forces acting on the apparatus as a certain current is passed through the wire.

Tick (✔) **one** box in row 3 and **one** box in row 4 of the table to identify the effect, if any, on the graph produced for this modified experiment compared with the graph in **Figure 4**.

		Reduced	**No effect**	**Increased**
1	Force acting on the current-carrying wire due to the horizontal uniform magnetic field			
2	Force acting on the prism due to the pivoted ruler			
3	Gradient of the graph			
4	Vertical intercept of the graph			

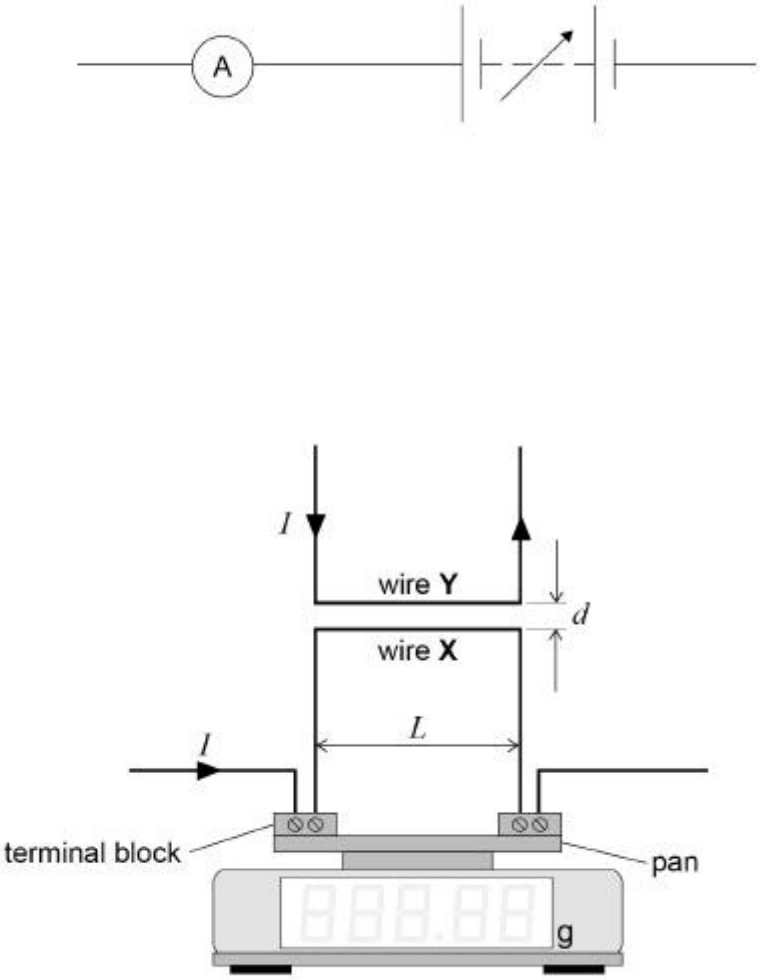
(3)

(e) **Figure 6** shows the balance being used to measure the forces between two wires.
The connections joining these wires to the power supply are not shown.

The pan of the balance moves a negligible amount during use and it supports a straight conducting wire **X** of horizontal length L.
Terminal blocks are used to connect **X** into the circuit. The weight of these does not affect the balance reading.
A second conducting wire **Y** is firmly supported a distance d above **X**.

Show, by adding detail to **Figure 6**, the wire connections that complete the circuit.
The currents in **X** and **Y** must have the same magnitude and be in the directions indicated.

Figure 6



(2)

(f) The vertical force F on wire **X** due to the magnetic field produced by wire **Y** is given by

$$F = \frac{kI^2L}{d}$$

where

- k is a constant
- d is the perpendicular distance between **X** and **Y**
- I is the current in the wires

and

- L is the horizontal length of wire **X**.

A student wants to measure k using the arrangement in **Figure 6**.

The student is told that the following restrictions must apply:

- L is fixed
- I must not exceed 5.0 A
- the result for k must be obtained using a **graphical method**
- the experimental procedure must involve **only one** independent variable.

Explain what the student could do to find k.

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(5)
(Total 19 marks)