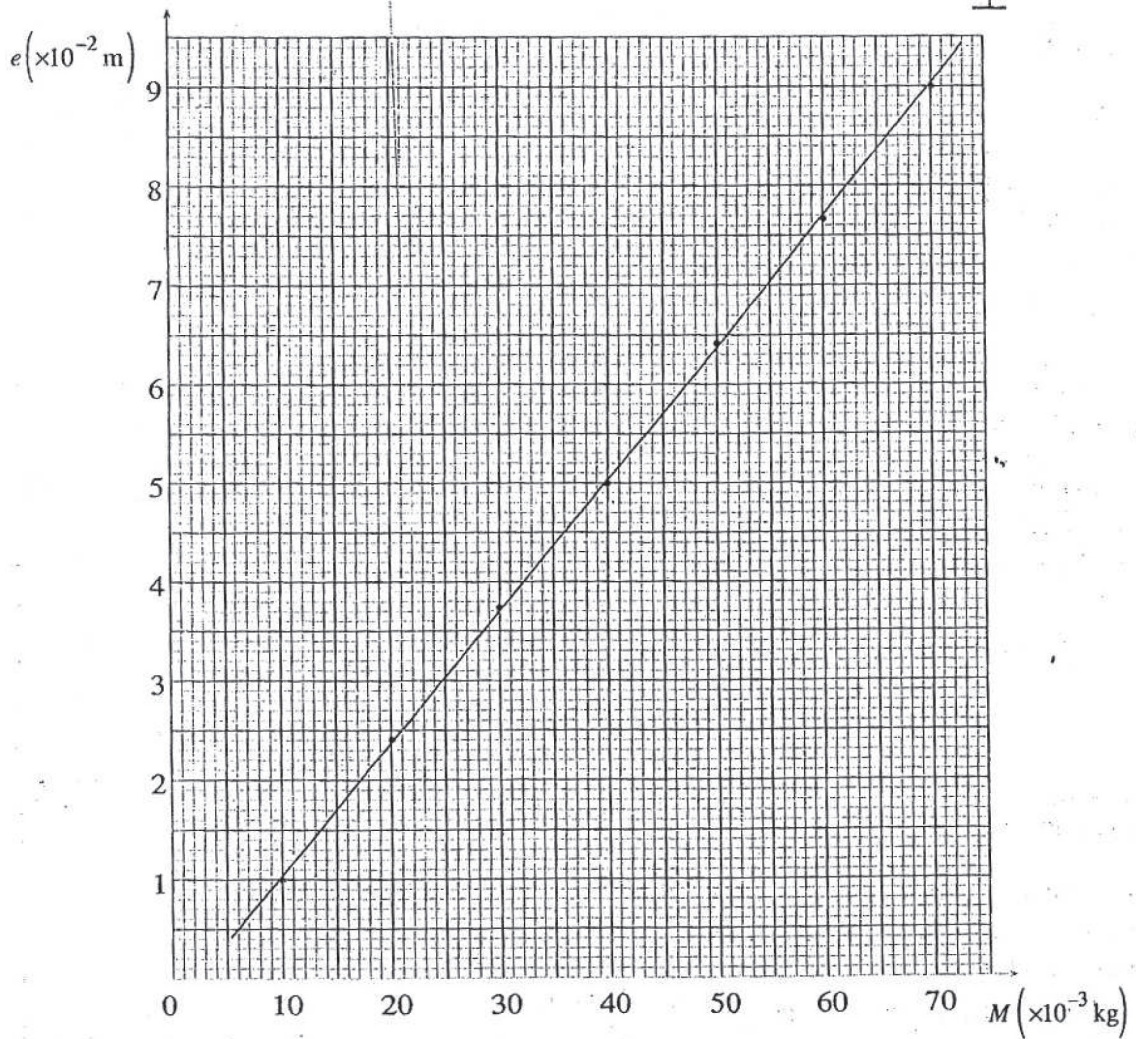
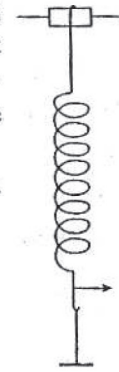


2008 A/L Structured Essay Question No (01)

- i. Figure shows a spring whose upper end is firmly clamped to a rigid stand, and a light pointer attached to its lower end. You are to determine the spring constant (k) of the spring. A set of standard weights and a metre ruler are provided.
- (a) Draw the metre ruler on the figure at its correct position in order to measure the extension (e) of the spring.
- (b) The extension (e) versus load (M) graph for such a spring is shown below.



- (i) Determine the spring constant k of the spring in kg m^{-1} .

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- (ii) Clearly indicate on the graph the two points which you have used to determine k .

- (c) The spring with a load M attached is set in vertical oscillations by giving a small displacement. The period (T) of the oscillations is given by

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{M + \frac{m}{3}}{kg}} \quad \text{where } m \text{ is the mass of the spring.}$$

- (i) Rearrange the above expression in the **most suitable** manner to draw a graph in order to determine the acceleration due to gravity (g) and mass (m) of the spring.

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- (ii) What additional instrument do you need to take measurements in this experiment?

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- (iii) What quantities would you extract from the graph to determine g and m ?

To determine g :

To determine m :

- (d) If the percentage error of M values is 1%, how many oscillations would you need to take in order to match the percentage error of T also to 1%? (Fractional error of T is $\frac{2\Delta T}{T}$, and error in time measurement is 0.1 s. Take $T = 2$ s).

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- (e) A student used a brand new spring whose turns are **pressed against each other** to draw the graph mentioned in (b) above. On the figure given below, sketch the shape of the graph that you would expect in this situation.

