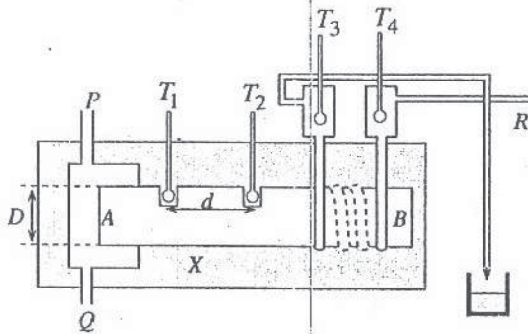


2008 A/L Structured Essay Question No (02)

2. A part of an experimental setup that is used to determine the thermal conductivity of a metal using Searle's method is shown in the figure.



- (a) Draw a figure of the apparatus that you need to connect to tube *R*, in the appropriate place of the space in front of *R*. Clearly show how you would connect the apparatus to *R*.

- (b) What additional instruments are essential in order to perform this experiment?

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- (c) End *A* of the metal bar is heated using steam. Give two reasons as to why it is better to send steam through tube *P* rather than sending through tube *Q*.

- (i)
 (ii)

- (d) How do you observe whether the system has reached the steady state?

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- (e) How do you achieve a good thermal contact between thermometers T_1 , T_2 and the metal bar?

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- (f) You are provided with the following set of data related to this experiment.

Reading of the thermometer T_1 (θ_1)	= 75.0 °C
Reading of the thermometer T_2 (θ_2)	= 61.0 °C
Reading of the thermometer T_3 (θ_3)	= 37.0 °C
Reading of the thermometer T_4 (θ_4)	= 28.0 °C
Mass of water collected in 3.0 minutes (<i>M</i>)	= 0.4 kg
Cross sectional area of the metal rod (<i>A</i>)	= $1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2$
Distance between the thermometers T_1 and T_2 (<i>d</i>)	= 0.08 m
Specific heat capacity of water (<i>s</i>)	= 4200 J kg ⁻¹ K ⁻¹

Calculate the thermal conductivity of metal.

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- (g) Space X is filled with a good thermal insulator such as polystyrene to reduce the heat loss from the metal bar. Thermal conductivity of air is $0.025 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ and that of polystyrene is $0.08 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ which implies that air is a good thermal insulator than polystyrene. Explain why it is still better to fill the space X with polystyrene rather than having air.

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