AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 6.2.4.1

Power

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**10**
Available paper years	**2018–2025**

Using this booklet

1. Answer the questions in order and show your working.
2. Original question numbers and marks are retained.
3. Print at actual size (100%) for measuring questions.
4. Use the companion answer booklet to check your work.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 01

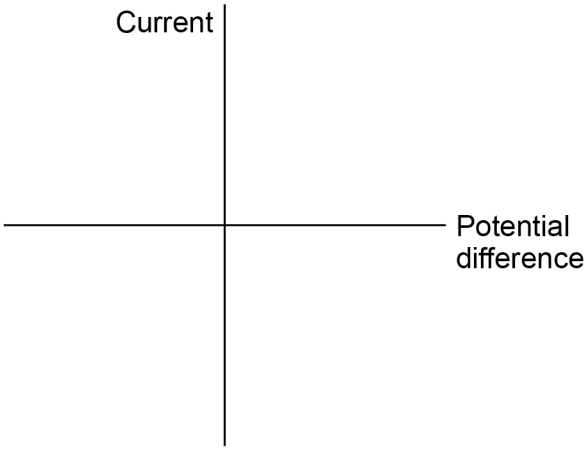
June 2018 | 8464/P/1H | Original Q6

0 6 A student built a circuit using filament lamps.

0 6 . 1 Sketch a current potential difference graph for a filament lamp on **Figure 9**

[2 marks]

Figure 9

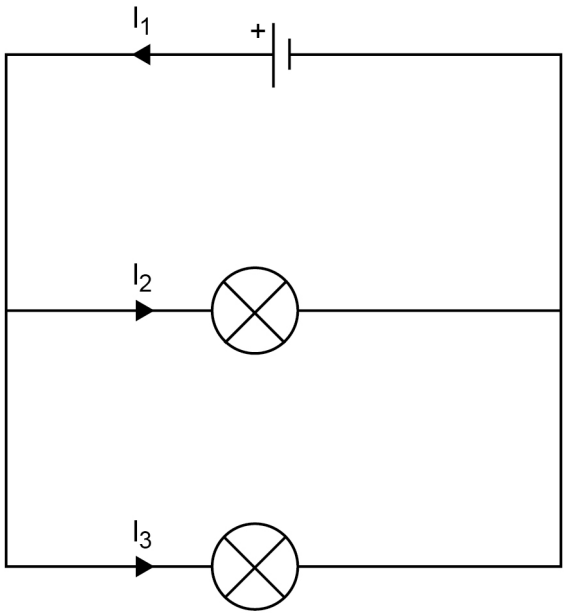


6.2.4.1 Power

Question 01 · continued

Figure 10 shows the circuit with two identical filament lamps.

Figure 10



0 6 . 2 Compare the currents I_1, I_2 and I_3

[2 marks]

Question 6 continues on the next page

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 01 · continued

0 6 . 3 Calculate the charge that flows through the cell in 1 minute.

Each filament lamp has a power of 3 W and a resistance of 12 Ω

Write any equations that you use.

Give the unit.

[6 marks]

Charge = _____

Unit = _____

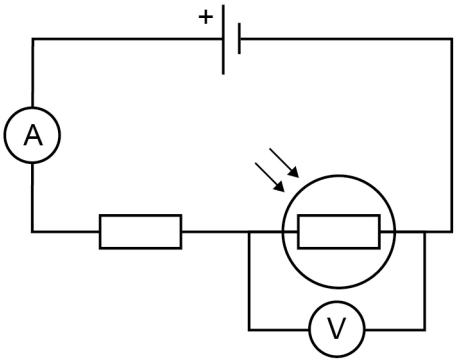
6.2.4.1 Power

Question 01 · continued

0 6 . 4 The student builds a different circuit.

Figure 11 shows the circuit.

Figure 11



Explain how the readings on both meters change when the environmental conditions change.

[6 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 02

June 2019 | 8464/P/1H | Original Q3

0 3 A hybrid car has an electric motor and a petrol engine.

0 3 . 1 Petrol is a non-renewable energy resource.

What is meant by a non-renewable energy resource?

[1 mark]

0 3 . 2 The electric motor in the car is powered by a battery.

To charge the battery, the car is plugged into the mains supply at 230 V

The power used to charge the battery is 6.9 kW

Calculate the current used to charge the battery.

[4 marks]

Current = _____ A

0 3 . 3 Mains electricity is an ac supply.

Explain the difference between direct and alternating potential difference.

[2 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 02 · continued

0 3 . 4 The cable used to connect the car to the mains electricity supply has a low resistance.

Explain why it is better to use a cable with a low resistance than to use a cable with a high resistance.

[2 marks]

9

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 03

0 1 **Figure 1** shows a mobile phone with its battery removed.

Figure 1



A student measured the potential difference across the battery and then put the battery into the phone.

0 1 . 1 What is the equation linking current (I), potential difference (V) and resistance (R)?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$I = V R$ ☐

$R = I V$ ☐

$V = I R$ ☐

$V = I^2 R$ ☐

Question 1 continues on the next page

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 03 · continued

0 1 . 2 The current in the electronic circuit in the mobile phone was 0.12 A.

The potential difference across the battery was 3.9 V.

Calculate the resistance of the electronic circuit in the mobile phone.

[3 marks]

Resistance = _____ Ω

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 03 · continued

0 1 . 3 Write down the equation which links energy (E), power (P) and time (t).

[1 mark]

0 1 . 4 The battery was fully charged when it was put into the mobile phone.

The battery discharged when the mobile phone was switched on.

The average power output of the battery as it discharged was 0.46 watts.

The time taken to fully discharge the battery was 2500 minutes.

Calculate the energy transferred by the battery.

[3 marks]

Energy transferred = _____ J

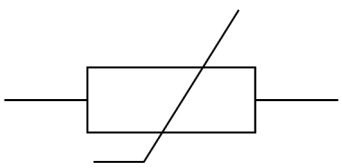
Question 1 continues on the next page

Question 03 · continued

The mobile phone includes a sensor to monitor the temperature of the battery.

Figure 2 shows the circuit symbol for a component used in the sensor.

Figure 2



0 1 . 5 What component does the circuit symbol shown in **Figure 2** represent?

[1 mark]

0 1 . 6 The temperature of the component in **Figure 2** increases.

The potential difference across the component remains constant.

Explain what happens to the current in the component.

[2 marks]

11

6.2.4.1 Power

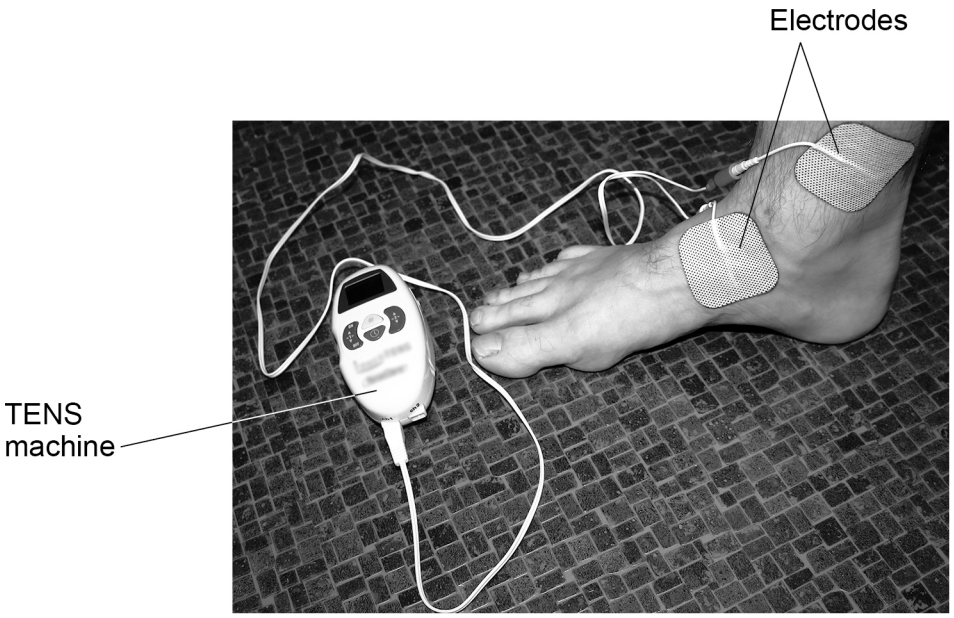
Question 04

November 2021 | 8464/P/1H | Original Q5

0 5 A TENS machine uses an electrical current to relieve pain.

Figure 8 shows the electrodes of a TENS machine connected across an ankle.

Figure 8



0 5 . 1 The maximum power of the TENS machine is 240 mW.

The potential difference across the battery in the TENS machine is 2.5 V.

Calculate the maximum current from the battery.

[4 marks]

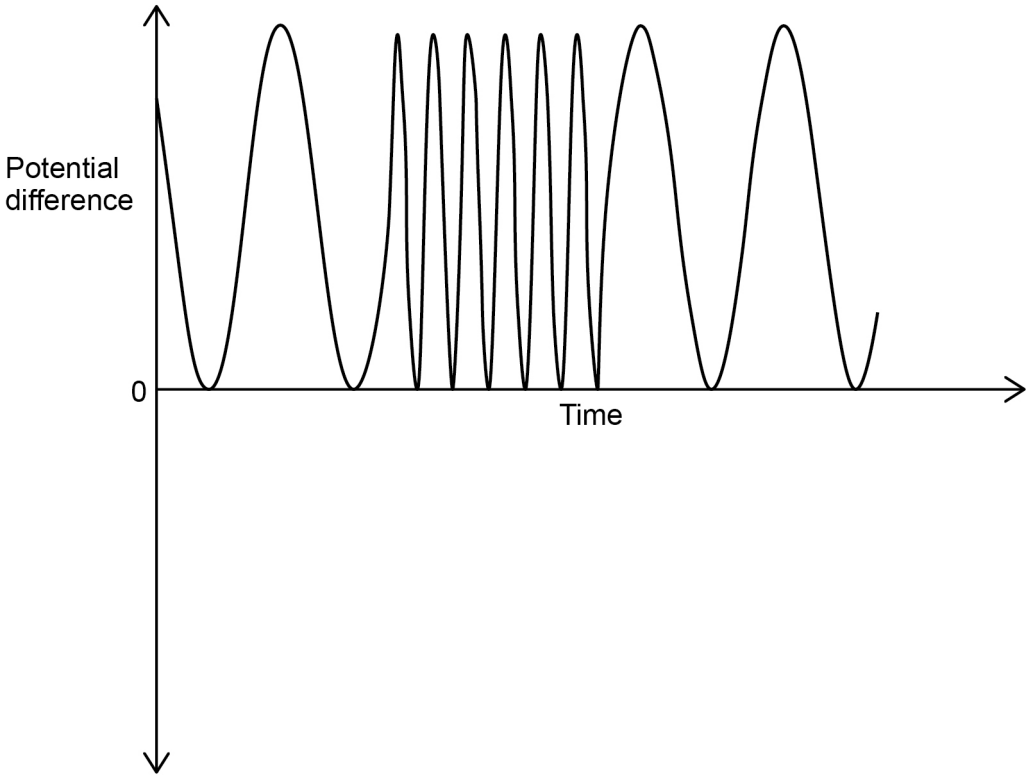
Maximum current = _____ A

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 04 · continued

0 5 . 2 **Figure 9** is a sketch graph showing how the potential difference across the electrodes varies with time.

Figure 9



A student concluded that there was an alternating potential difference across the electrodes.

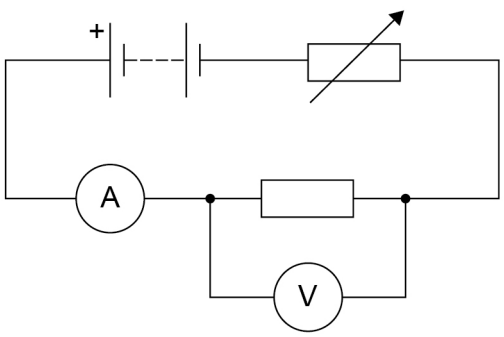
How does **Figure 9** show that the student was **not** correct?

[1 mark]

Question 5 continues on the next page

Figure 10 shows a circuit the student built using the battery from the TENS machine.

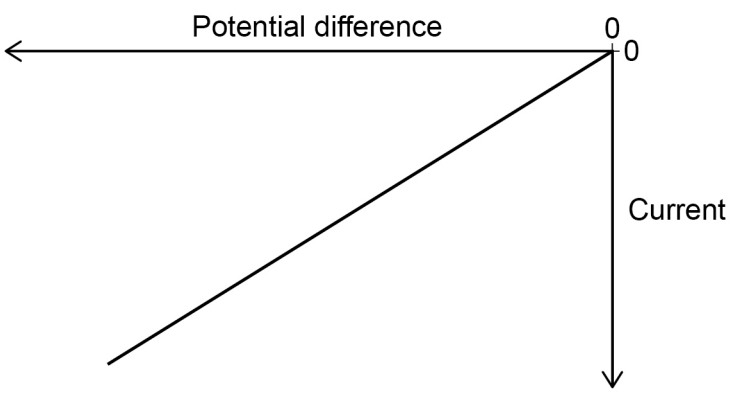
Figure 10



The student recorded how the current in the resistor varied with the potential difference across the resistor.

Figure 11 shows a sketch graph of the results.

Figure 11



0 5 . 3 What relationship does **Figure 11** show?

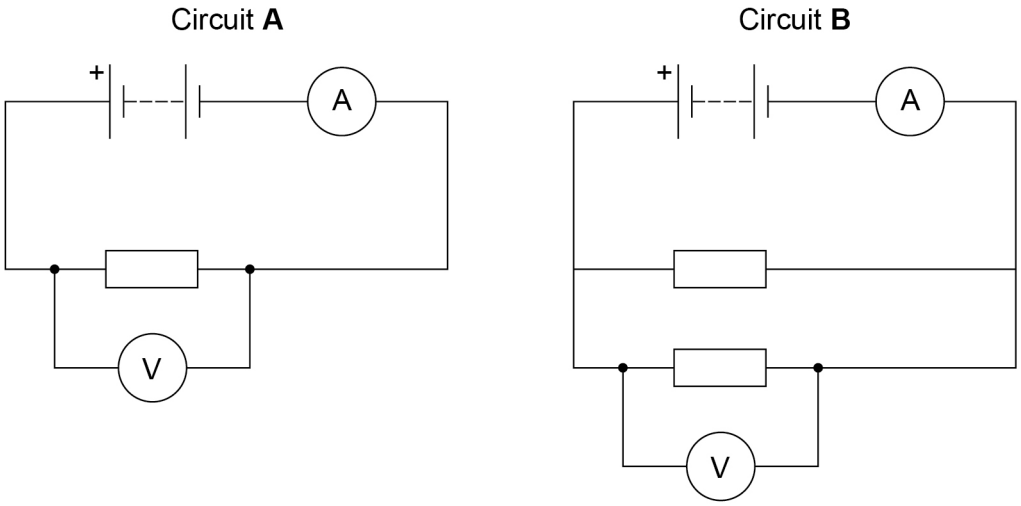
[1 mark]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 04 · continued

0 5 . 4 **Figure 12** shows two more circuits that the student built using the battery from the TENS machine.

Figure 12



The resistors all have the same resistance.

Compare the readings on the voltmeter and ammeter in circuit **A** and circuit **B**.

[3 marks]

Voltmeter _____

_____

_____

Ammeter _____

_____

_____

9

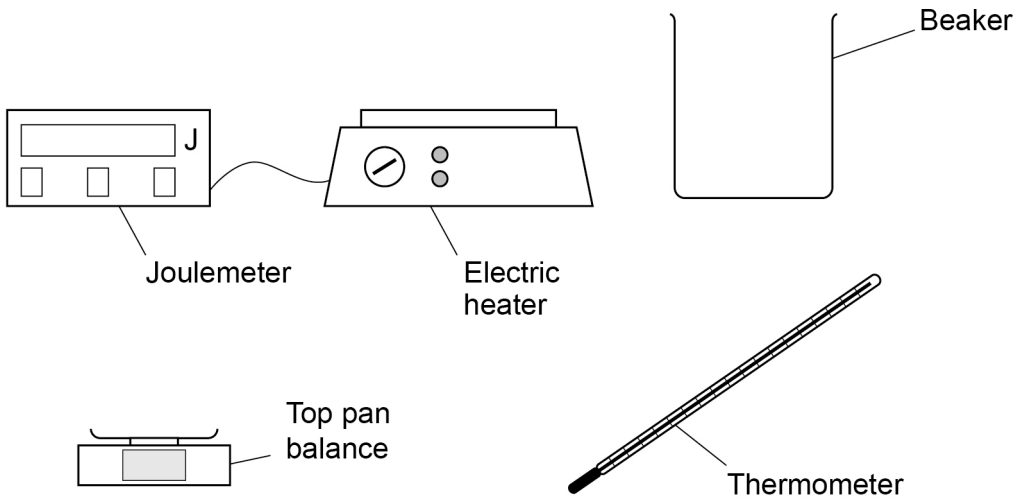
6.2.4.1 Power

Question 05

0 2 A student made measurements to determine the specific heat capacity of vegetable oil.

Figure 2 shows the equipment used.

Figure 2



0 2 . 1 Describe how the student could use the equipment shown in **Figure 2** to determine the specific heat capacity of vegetable oil.

[6 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 05 · continued

0 2 . 2 Give **one** risk when using the equipment in **Figure 2**.

[1 mark]

A different student did not have a joulemeter and calculated the energy transferred by the electric heater.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet to answer questions **02.3** and **02.4**.

0 2 . 3 Write down the equation linking energy transferred (*E*), power (*P*) and time (*t*).

[1 mark]

0 2 . 4 The electric heater had a power output of 50 watts.

Calculate the time taken for the electric element to transfer 4750 joules of energy to the vegetable oil.

[3 marks]

Time taken = _____ s

Question 2 continues on the next page

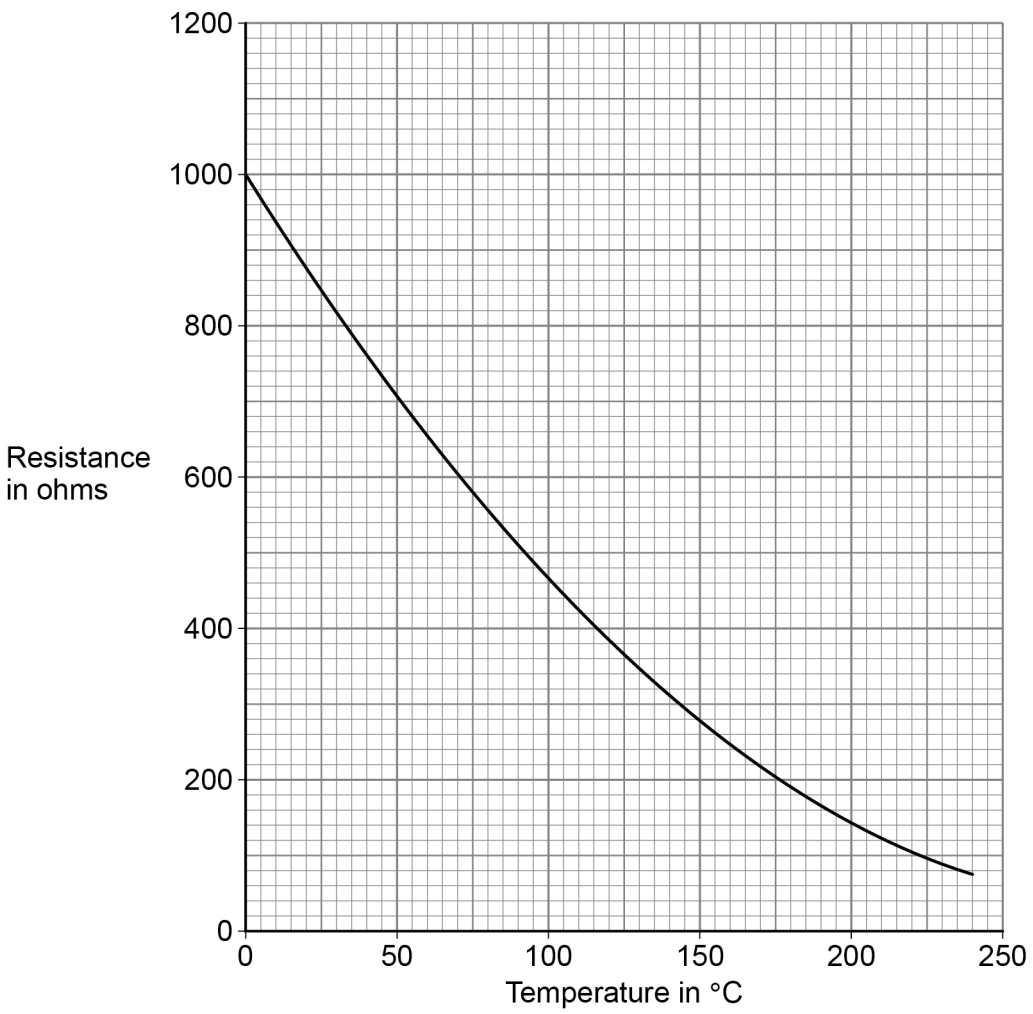
Question 05 · continued

In a deep fryer, vegetable oil is heated by an electric heating element. Food is then cooked in the hot vegetable oil.

The deep fryer contains an electrical component to monitor the temperature of the vegetable oil.

Figure 3 shows how the resistance of this electrical component changes with temperature.

Figure 3



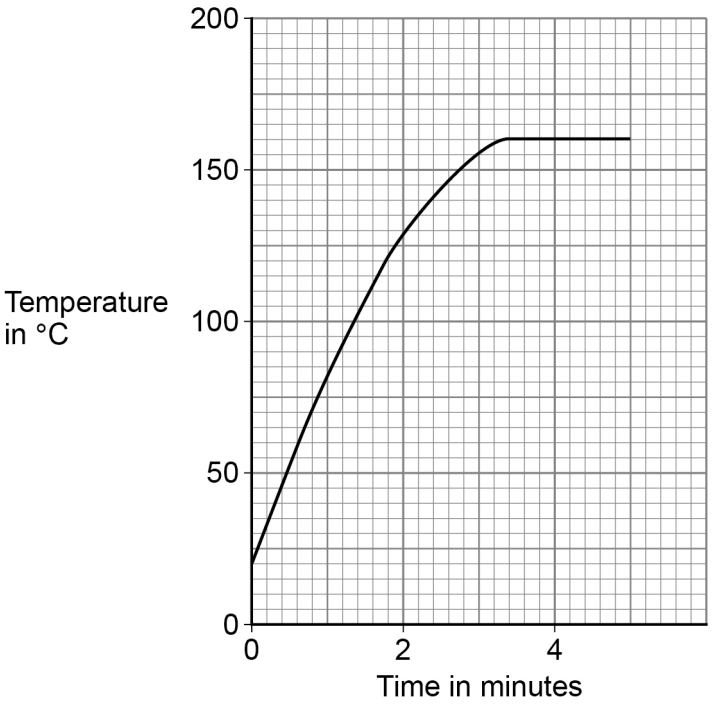
0 2 . 5 What electrical component is used to monitor the temperature of the vegetable oil?

[1 mark]

0 2 . 6 The electric heating element in the deep fryer automatically switches off when the vegetable oil reaches a certain temperature.

Figure 4 shows how the temperature of the vegetable oil changed after the deep fryer was switched on.

Figure 4



Determine the resistance of the electrical component when the electric heating element automatically switched off.

Use **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**.

[2 marks]

Resistance = _____ Ω

Question 2 continues on the next page

Question 05 · continued

0 2 . 7 Some chips were put in the deep fryer.

In the deep fryer, water in the chips underwent a physical change and became steam.

Why is this a physical change?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

All water can change to steam. ☐

No chemicals are involved when water changes to steam. ☐

The change from water to steam can be detected visually. ☐

The water will recover its original properties if the steam is cooled ☐

15

6.2.4.1 Power

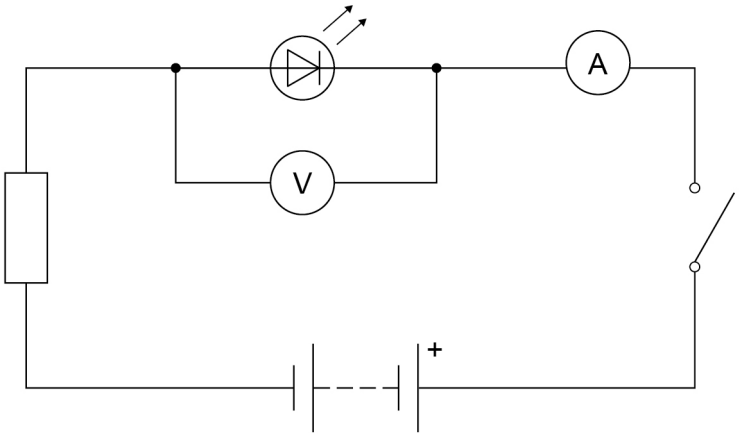
Question 06

0 5 The camera in a mobile phone uses an LED to provide light when taking a photograph.

A student investigated how the potential difference across an LED varies with the current in it.

Figure 9 shows the circuit used.

Figure 9



0 5 . 1 The student closed the switch. The voltmeter gave a reading of 5.0 V

The ammeter gave a reading of 0 mA

The LED did not emit any light.

Explain how the student should have changed the circuit to make the LED emit light.

[2 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 06 · continued

0 5 . 2 The student changed the circuit so that the LED emitted light.

The current in the circuit was 290 mA

The power of the LED was 0.98 W

Calculate the potential difference across the LED.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

Give your answer to 2 significant figures.

[5 marks]

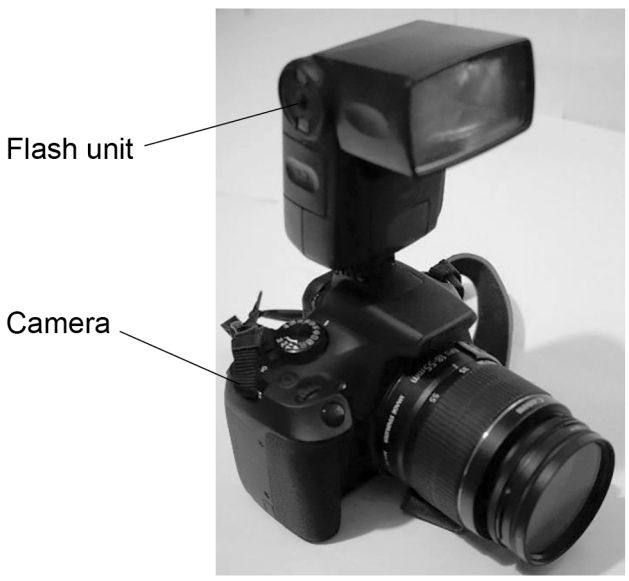
Potential difference (2 significant figures) = _____ V

Question 5 continues on the next page

A traditional camera uses a flash unit to provide light.

Figure 10 shows a flash unit on a traditional camera.

Figure 10



0 5 . 3 The flash unit emits light from xenon gas in a fluorescent tube.

What happens when a xenon atom emits light?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Electrons in the atom fall to a lower energy level. ☐
- Electrons in the atom move to a higher energy level. ☐
- Electrons leave the atom, causing ionisation. ☐
- Electrons transfer to the atom from the electrical circuit. ☐

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 06 · continued

0 5 . 4 When the flash unit is used there is a mean potential difference of 200 V across the fluorescent tube.

The flash of light lasts for 2.8×10^{-4} s

1.4 J of energy is transferred.

Calculate the mean current.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[6 marks]

Mean current = _____ A

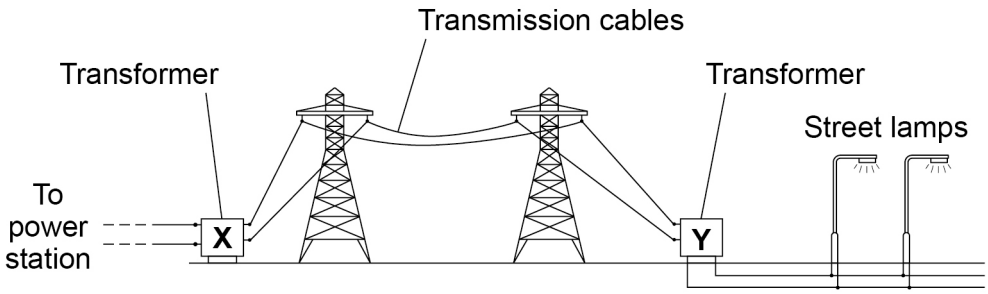
14

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 07

0 3 **Figure 7** shows how the National Grid transfers energy from a power station to some street lamps.

Figure 7



0 3 . 1 Explain how transformer **X** increases the efficiency of the National Grid.

[3 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 07 · continued

0 3 . 2 The potential difference across the primary coil in transformer **Y** is 400 000 V.

The potential difference across the secondary coil is 11 000 V.

The current in the primary coil is 660 A.

Calculate the current in the secondary coil of transformer **Y**.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[3 marks]

Current in the secondary coil = _____ A

0 3 . 3 Why is the current in each street lamp less than the current in the secondary coil in transformer **Y**?

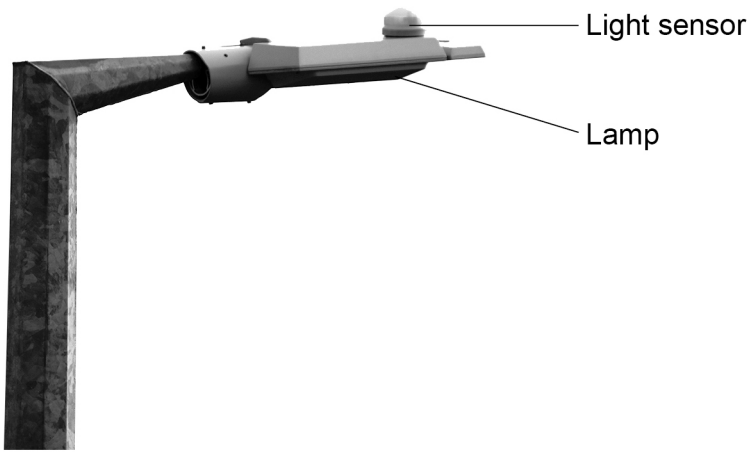
[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Current is used up in the cables between **Y** and each street lamp. ☐
- Some of the current is dissipated to the surroundings. ☐
- The cables between **Y** and the street lamps have electrical resistance. ☐
- The street lamps are connected in parallel. ☐

0 3 . 4 **Figure 8** shows the top of a street lamp.

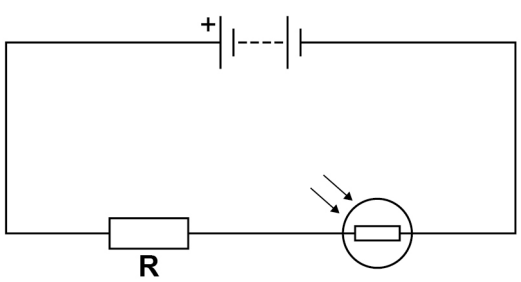
Figure 8



The light sensor detects if it is day or night.

Figure 9 shows part of the circuit in the light sensor.

Figure 9



Explain what happens to the potential difference across resistor **R** as the light intensity decreases.

[3 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 07 · continued

0 3 . 5 When the current in resistor **R** is 20 mA, the power transferred by resistor **R** is 6.0 W.

Calculate the resistance of resistor **R**.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[4 marks]

Resistance = _____ Ω

14

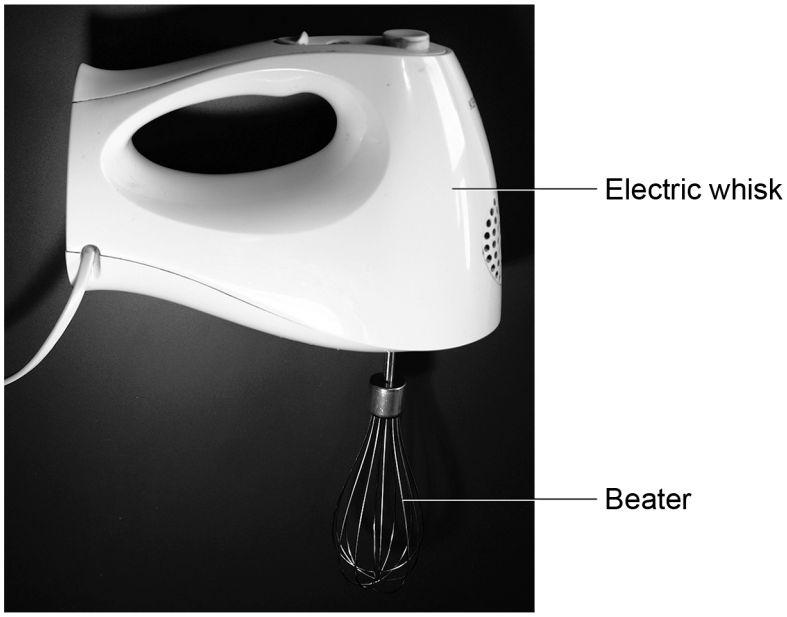
6.2.4.1 Power

Question 08

0 1 **Figure 1** shows an electric whisk that plugs into the mains electricity supply.

The whisk can mix food by spinning a beater.

Figure 1



0 1 . 1 Give **two** energy stores that increase when the whisk is switched on.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 08 · continued

Use the Physics Equations Sheet to answer questions **01.2** and **01.3**.

0 1 . 2 Work is done by the whisk when it is used to mix food.

Write down the equation that links power (P), time (t) and work done (W).

[1 mark]

0 1 . 3 The power output of the whisk is 92 W.

Calculate the time for the whisk to do 23 000 J of work.

[3 marks]

Time = _____ s

Question 1 continues on the next page

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 08 · continued

Use the Physics Equations Sheet to answer questions **01.4** and **01.5**.

0 1 . 4 Which equation links current (I), power (P) and resistance (R)?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

$P = \frac{I}{R^2}$ ☐

$P = I R^2$ ☐

$P = \frac{I^2}{R}$ ☐

$P = I^2 R$ ☐

0 1 . 5 The current in the whisk is 500 mA.

The resistance of the whisk is 640 Ω.

Calculate the power of the whisk.

[3 marks]

Power = _____ W

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 08 · continued

The whisk has several settings that allow the beater to spin at different speeds.

A faster beater speed needs a greater power input from the mains electricity supply.

0 1 . 6 What is the potential difference between the live wire and neutral wire in the mains electricity supply?

[1 mark]

_____ V

0 1 . 7 Changing the beater speed does **not** change the potential difference between the live wire and neutral wire.

The power input to the whisk changes because the current in the whisk changes.

Complete the sentence.

[1 mark]

When the beater speed increases, the current in the whisk increases because the resistance of the whisk _____.

12

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 09

June 2025 | 8464/P/1H | Original Q3

0 3 A student investigated the resistance of a resistor.

0 3 . 1 The student used:

- the resistor
- a cell
- a switch
- an ammeter
- a voltmeter.

Draw a circuit diagram for a circuit the student could use to measure the resistance of the resistor.

[3 marks]

Question 3 continues on the next page

6.2.4.1 Power

The student:

- added a variable resistor to the circuit
- used the variable resistor to change the readings on the ammeter and the voltmeter
- recorded several different pairs of readings from the ammeter and the voltmeter.

0 3 . 2 When the reading on the ammeter was 450 mA, the reading on the voltmeter was 2.7 V.

Calculate the resistance of the resistor.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[4 marks]

Resistance = _____ Ω

6.2.4.1 Power

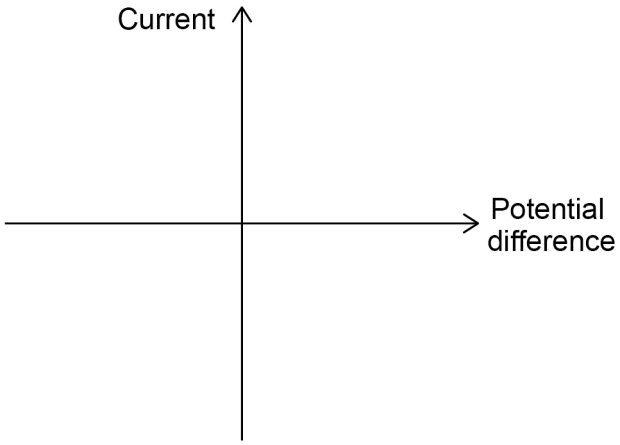
Question 09 · continued

0 3 . 3 The student plotted a graph of current against potential difference for the fixed resistor.

Complete **Figure 2** to show a sketch graph for a fixed resistor at a constant temperature.

[1 mark]

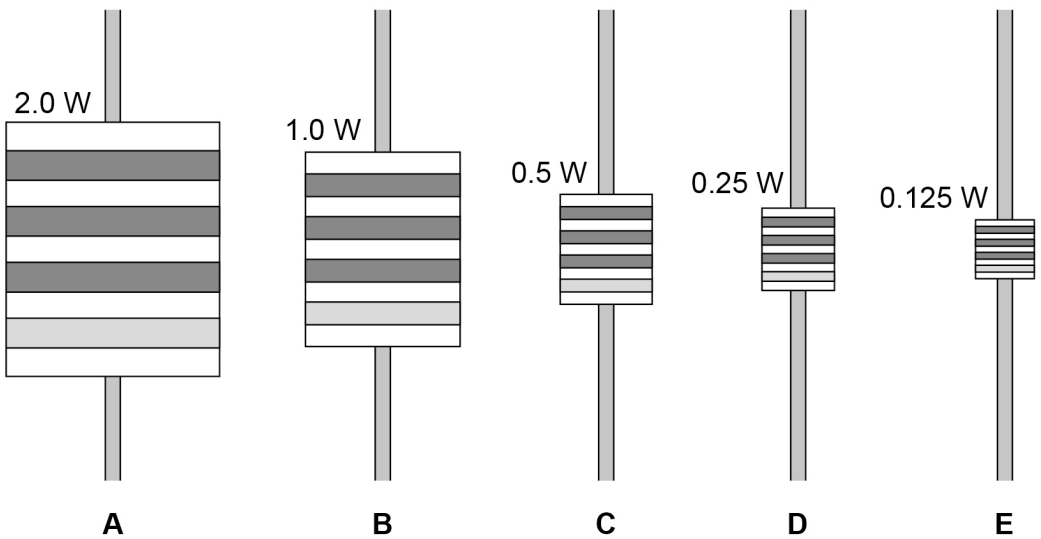
Figure 2



Question 3 continues on the next page

0 3 . 4 **Figure 3** shows five resistors with the same resistance but different power ratings.

Figure 3



The power rating of a resistor is the maximum energy the resistor can transfer each second without overheating.

Each resistor has a resistance of 2.2 kΩ.

Determine which resistors in **Figure 3** are suitable to be used in a circuit that has a maximum current of 0.012 A.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

[4 marks]

Suitable resistors _____

12

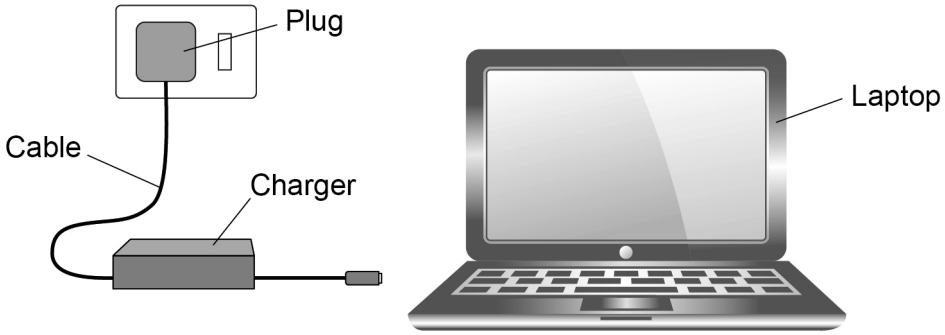
6.2.4.1 Power

Question 10

June 2025 | 8464/P/1H | Original Q5

0 5 **Figure 5** shows a laptop computer, and a charger plugged into the mains supply.

Figure 5



0 5 . 1 Give the potential difference and frequency of the UK mains electricity supply.

[2 marks]

Potential difference _____ V

Frequency _____ Hz

0 5 . 2 The cable that connects the charger to the plug contains **two** wires that have coloured insulation.

The cable does **not** contain an earth wire.

Name each wire in the cable.

Give the colour of the insulation covering each wire.

[2 marks]

Name of wire _____ Colour of insulation _____

Name of wire _____ Colour of insulation _____

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 10 · continued

0 5 . 3 The input to the charger is an alternating potential difference.

The output from the charger is a direct potential difference.

Describe the difference between an alternating potential difference and a direct potential difference.

[2 marks]

Question 5 continues on the next page

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 10 · continued

A student is using the laptop computer.

The student notices that the battery has no stored energy.

The student quickly plugs the charger into the laptop and continues to use the laptop.

0 5 . 4 The laptop charger provides a constant power to the laptop.

The laptop takes longer to charge when the student uses the laptop than when the laptop is not used.

Explain why.

[2 marks]

6.2.4.1 Power

Question 10 · continued

0 5 . 5 The potential difference across the laptop circuit is 15 V.

The average current in the laptop circuit when it is being used is 4.8 A.

The laptop charger provides a constant power of 97 W.

The maximum energy that the battery can store is 225 kJ.

Calculate the time taken to fully charge the battery from zero when the laptop is used continuously.

Use the Physics Equations Sheet.

Give your answer in hours.

[6 marks]

Time = _____ hours

14