

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE EDUCATION HONOURS DEGREE IN PHYSICS  
(HBScEdPh)/ BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
PHYSICS AND ENERGY SOURCES (HBScEPES)

PH103/HPH121: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 100

JAN 2025

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer ALL parts of Section A and any THREE questions from Section B.  
Section A carries 40 marks and Section B carries 60 marks.

Electronic charge,  $q = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$

Permittivity of free space,  $\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$

Permeability of free space,  $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$

Mass of electron,  $m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$

Mass of proton,  $m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$

Avogadro constant,  $N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$

Universal Gravitation Constant,  $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$

Acceleration due to gravity,  $g = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$

**SECTION A**

1. (a) Distinguish between conductors and insulators. Give two examples of each. [6]
- (b) If an electric field exists to the right, in which direction will a negative charge move if placed in the field? [2]
- (c) A wire carries a current of 10 A in a direction that makes an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the direction of the magnetic field of strength 0.3 T. Find the magnitude of the force on a 5 m length of the wire. [3]
- (d) Calculate the Coulomb force between two point charges  $q_1 = +12 \text{ nC}$  and  $q_2 = -18 \text{ nC}$  at a separation distance of 30 cm. State with a reason whether this force is attractive or repulsive? [5]
- (e) A 15 cm diameter circular loop of wire is placed in a 0.50 T magnetic field.
  - (i) When the plane of the loop is perpendicular to the field lines, what is the magnetic flux through the loop? [3]
  - (ii) The plane of the loop is rotated until it makes a  $35^\circ$  angle with the

field lines. What is the angle  $\theta$  in the equation  $\Phi_B = BA \cos \theta$  for this situation? [2]

(f) A series LCR circuit with  $L = 2 \text{ H}$ ,  $C = 2 \mu\text{F}$  and  $R = 20 \Omega$  is driven by an ac source of maximum emf,  $100 \text{ V}$  and of variable frequency. Find the resonance frequency  $\omega_0$ , the phase  $\phi$  and maximum current  $I_{\max}$  when the ac source angular frequency is  $400 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$ . [10]

(g) Three  $20 \mu\text{C}$  charges are placed on the corners of a square of side  $2 \text{ m}$ . Calculate:

(i) the potential  $V$  at the fourth, unoccupied corner of the square. [3]

(ii) the work needed to bring the fourth positive charge of  $20 \mu\text{C}$  from infinity and place it on the fourth corner of the square. [3]

(h) Given that  $1 \text{ kJ}$  is required to carry a  $10 \text{ C}$  charge from one point to the other, what is the potential difference between these two points? [3]

## SECTION B

2. (a) State Kirchhoff's junction and loop rules. [4]

(b) Use Kirchhoff's junction and loop rules to find the currents flowing through each resistor in Figure 2.1, indicating their directions on a diagram. [10]

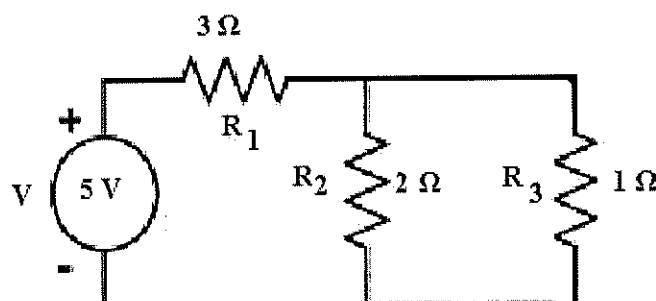


Figure 2.1. Electric circuit.

(c) Calculate the power delivered to each resistor in Figure 2.1. [6]

3. (a) Explain the similarities and differences between electric forces and gravitational forces. [6]

(b) A  $90 \text{ pF}$  capacitor is connected to a  $12 \text{ V}$  battery and charged to  $12 \text{ V}$ . How many electrons are transferred from one plate to another? [4]

(c) Four  $2 \mu\text{F}$  capacitors are connected as shown in Figure 3.1.

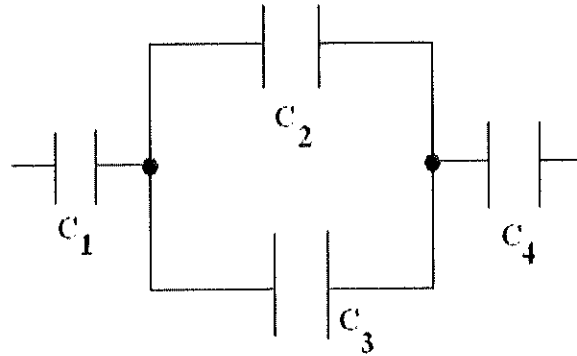


Figure 3.1. Electric circuit.

Calculate the total capacitance. [10]

4. (a) State *Faraday's law* of electromagnetic induction. [2]

(b) A flat circular coil has 200 turns of wire each of radius 10 cm. A uniform magnetic field  $B$  exists in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the coil. The magnetic field is decreasing at the rate of  $10^{-2} \text{ T s}^{-1}$ . Calculate the emf induced in the coil and the induced current if the resistance of the coil is  $0.1 \Omega$ . [5]

(c) A solenoid is 70 cm long with 1000 turns per metre and carries a current of 10 A. What is the magnitude of the *magnetic field* through the centre of this solenoid? [3]

(d) Use *Ampere's law* to derive a formula for the magnitude of the magnetic field set up by a current  $I$  in a long straight wire. [4]

(e) Briefly, describe the two basic principles which govern the operation of transformers. [6]

5. (a) Define electric flux. [2]

(b) State Gauss' law in words and in its mathematical form. [5]

(c) Consider a uniform electric field oriented in the x-direction. Find the electric flux through each surface of a cube with edges  $L$  oriented as shown in Fig. 5.1, and the net flux. [13]

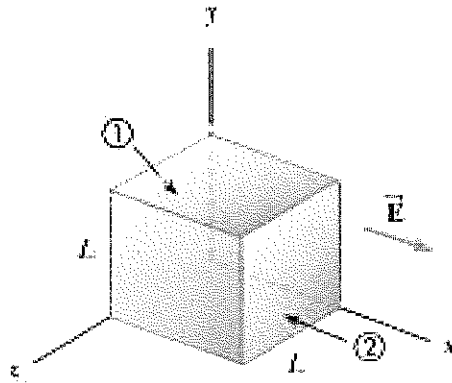


Figure 5.1. Electric flux through a cube.

6. Consider three point charges at the corners of a triangle, as shown in Figure 6.1, where  $q_1 = 6.00 \text{ nC}$ ,  $q_2 = -2.00 \text{ nC}$  and  $q_3 = 5.00 \text{ nC}$ .

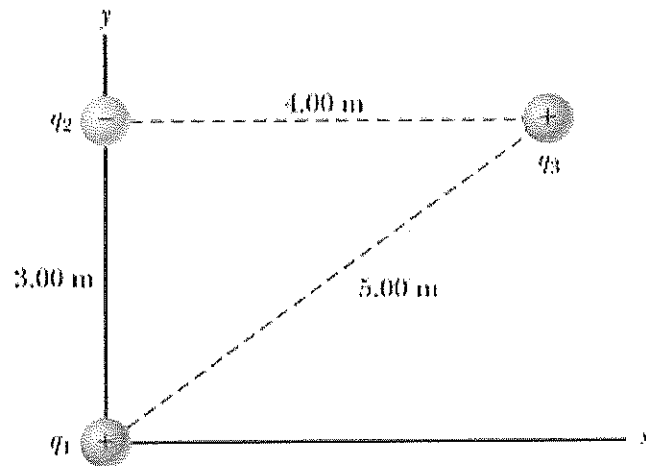


Figure 6.1. Three point charges.

- (a) Find the components of the force  $\vec{F}_{23}$  exerted by  $q_2$  on  $q_3$ . [5]
- (b) Find the components of the force  $\vec{F}_{13}$  exerted by  $q_1$  on  $q_3$ . [5]
- (c) Find the resultant force on  $q_3$ , in terms of components and also in terms of magnitude and direction. [10]

**END OF EXAMINATION**