



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2022/2023

SECOND YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICS, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS  
AND PHYSICS, BACHELOR OF EDUCATION SCIENCE

### SPH 3250: THERMAL PHYSICS I

DATE: APRIL 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

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**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.**

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- State the thermometric property for a liquid in glass and thermocouple thermometers. (2 Marks)
- Explain the importance of anomalous expansion of water to animals living in water. (3 Marks)
- A metal block of mass 400 g and specific heat capacity of  $720\text{J/kg/K}$  was immersed in pure boiling water. Given that the mass of water that vaporized was 12 g and the latent heat of vaporization of water  $=336000\text{J/kg}$ . Find the initial temperature of the block. (4 Marks)
- Briefly explain how a gas in a cylinder fitted with a frictionless piston can be taken through an adiabatic expansion giving reasons. (5 Marks)
- A gas contains  $1.24 \times 10^{22}$  atoms, if the pressure of the gas is 1280 mmHg and the temperature is  $27^\circ\text{C}$ , find the volume occupied by the gas. (5 Marks)

- f) A thermocouple thermometer has its temperature coefficients = 0.60 and  $\beta = 1.2$  the scale is calibrated in Volts. Find the temperature at which the emf is 24V. (4 Marks)
- g) A long pipe of 0.6m outside diameter is buried in earth with axis at a depth of 1.8m. the surface temperature of pipe and earth are 95<sup>0</sup>C and 25<sup>0</sup>C respectively. Calculate the heat loss from the pipe per unit length. The conductivity of earth is 0.51W/mk. (5 Marks)
- h) Explain why water heated at the top of a deep narrow cylinder will remain cold at the bottom. (2 Marks)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) In an experiment it was found that an electric heater could convert 2.4 kg of ice at -10<sup>0</sup>C to water at 20<sup>0</sup>C in 4 minutes. Find the power of the heater assuming heat losses accounted for 32% (SPC of water=4200J/Kg/K, Latent of ice 336000J/Kg, SHC of ice 2100J/kg/k). (8 Marks)
- b) Show that the average translational kinetic energy of a molecule is directly proportional to the absolute temperature of the gas. (6 Marks)
- c) A container of volume 11200 cm<sup>3</sup> is filled with oxygen gas at a pressure of 740 mmHg. Calculate the root mean square speed of the molecules given oxygen molecule is diatomic (molar mass of oxygen molecule=32,  $1\text{amu} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27}\text{kg}$ ) (6 Marks)

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Shown that the work done by an ideal gas during expansion is given by  $W = pdV$  where P is p is the pressure of the gas, and  $dV$  is the change in volume. (5 Marks)
- b) The molar heat capacity of an ideal gas at constant pressure is 28.12J/mol/K. 0.40 moles of the gas occupy a volume of 18000cm<sup>3</sup> at a temperature of 320 K. Find
- i. The pressure of the gas (4 Marks)
  - ii. If the gas is cooled to 120k at constant volume find the new pressure of the gas. (3 Marks)

- iii. Find the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of the gas from 120 K to 400 K at constant volume. (3 Marks)
- c) A gas containing  $1.2 \times 10^{23}$  molecules is contained in a cylinder of volume  $4000 \text{ cm}^3$  at a pressure of 960 mmHg. Find the absolute temperature of the gas. (5 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) A long pipe of 0.6 m outside diameter is buried in earth with axis at a depth of 1.8 m. The surface temperature of pipe and earth are  $950^\circ\text{C}$  and  $250^\circ\text{C}$  respectively. Calculate the heat loss from the pipe per unit length. The conductivity of earth is  $0.51 \text{ W/mk}$ . (6 Marks)
- b) A 12 cm diameter long bar initially at a uniform temperature of  $40^\circ\text{C}$  is placed in a medium at  $650^\circ\text{C}$  with a convective coefficient of  $22 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  calculate the time required for the bar to reach  $255^\circ\text{C}$ . Take  $k = 50 \text{ W/mk}$ ,  $\rho = 5800 \text{ kg/m}^3$  and  $c = 1050 \text{ J/kgK}$ . Given: Unsteady state. (6 Marks)
- c) Two large plates are maintained at a temperature of 900 K and 500 K respectively. Each plate has area of  $6 \text{ m}^2$ . Compare the net heat exchange between the plates for the following case
- i. Both plates are black (3 Marks)
- ii. The plate at 900 K is black while the plate at 500 K has a thermal emissivity of 0.5. (4 Marks)