

SURNAME:\_\_\_\_\_ INITIALS:\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY of JOHANNESBURG**  
**Physics 2Y (PHY00Y2/PHY002Y) November Exam**  
**Thermal Physics**

	Student's mark	Questions' mark
Q1		<b>19</b>
Q2		<b>22</b>
Q3		<b>16</b>
Total		<b>57</b>

**Date:** 26 November 2019

**Examiner:** Mr L. Nyadzani

**Moderator:** Prof. E. Carleschi

**Time:** 115 Minutes

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**Pencils and cell-phones are not allowed.**

**Answer all the questions.**

**This paper consists of 9 pages including the information sheet.**

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Leave any calculations in numbers if you don't have a calculator.

Where necessary, explain what you are doing in derivations.

**IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THE LANGUAGE USED, ASK!!!**

**IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE WRITE ON THE BACK OF THE PAGE**

**Question 1 [19]**

Do not write  
in the margins

**1.1** The temperature of one substance is 80 degrees F and another substance is 30 degrees F. If they are placed close together, what will happen ? [2]

**1.2** Suppose that a gas originally at standard temperature and pressure undergoes a change in which its pressure is quadrupled while its temperature is cut in half. What change in volume does the gas experience during this process?. [3]

**1.3** For an ideal gas of one molecule in a smooth cylinder of volume  $V$ , with a piston at one end, the average pressure is given by:  $\overline{P} = \frac{mv_x^2}{V}$ , where  $v_x$  is the horizontal component of the velocity, i.e., in the direction towards the piston. From this derive an expression for the average translational kinetic energy of a large number of identical molecules and show that the root mean square of the average speed is given by [7]

$$v_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{3kT}{m}}$$

**1.4** Show that the work done during quasistatic compression is given by,

$$W = - \int_{V_i}^{V_f} P(V) dV.$$

If necessary use a drawing

[5]

**1.5** Write down the expression for enthalpy. Explain what the various contributions to the enthalpy are due to.

[2]

**Question 2 [22]**

**2.1** Suppose that you flip 20 fair coins.

(i) How many possible outcomes (microstates) are there? [1]

(ii) What is the probability of getting the sequence HTHHTHHTTTHTHTTHTHHT (in exactly that order)? [1]

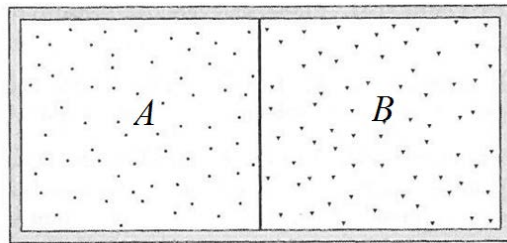
(iii) What is the probability of getting 12 heads and 8 tails (in any order)? [2]

**2.2** An Einstein solid has four oscillators and two units of energy. Draw all the possible microstates. You must represent each microstate by a series of dots and vertical lines. Note: this is similar to what one does when proving the formula for the multiplicity of an Einstein solid. [3]

**2.3** Derive a formula for the multiplicity of an Einstein solid containing a large number of oscillators and energy units, in the **low-temperature limit** ( $q \ll N$ ). [8]

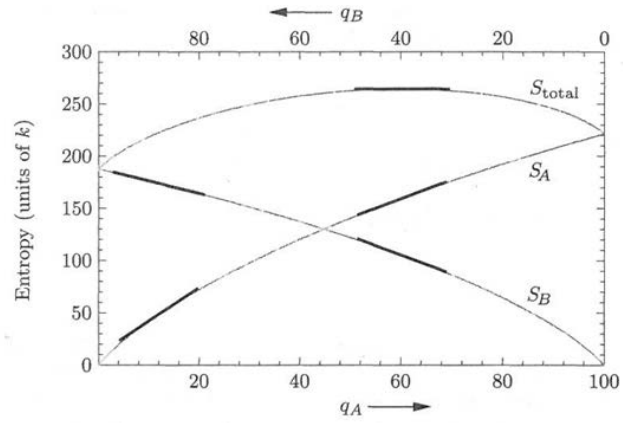
**2.4** Explain, in your own words, why energy flows spontaneously from a hot object to a cold object. [3]

**2.5** Suppose that we have two different monoatomic ideal gases, A and B, each with the same energy, volume and number of particles. They occupy the two halves of a chamber, separated by a partition, as shown in the below figure. Calculate the entropy increase if the partition is removed. [4]



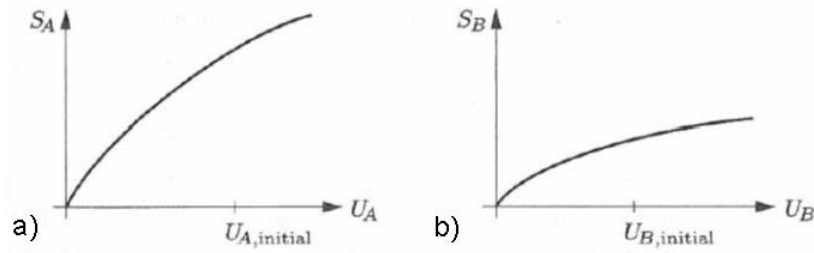
**Question 3 [16]**

**3.1** Using the figure below (describing two weakly coupled Einstein oscillators  $A$  and  $B$ ), give three arguments that lead to the definition of temperature as  $T \equiv \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial U} \right)^{-1}$  [6]





**3.2** The two figures below show graphs of energy vs. entropy for two objects,  $A$  and  $B$ . Both graphs are on the same scale. The energies of these two objects initially have the values indicated.



- (i) The objects are then brought into thermal contact with each other. Explain what happens and why, without using the word "temperature". [3]

- (ii) Draw both graphs a) and b) on your script and indicate where you think the values of the energies will be once equilibrium is reached. [1]

**3.3** Use the expression for the entropy of a monatomic ideal gas to calculate its temperature. Then show that this verifies the equipartition theorem. [6]

**END of QUESTIONS**

# INFORMATION SHEET

$$R = 8.31 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{mol.K}} \quad ; \quad N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1} \quad ; \quad \text{Atmospheric pressure} = 1.03 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$$

$$\text{Boltzmann's constant: } k = \frac{R}{N_A} = 1.381 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$$

$$\text{Equipartition theorem: } U_{\text{per molecule}} = \frac{f}{2} kT$$

$$C_V = \left( \frac{\partial U}{\partial T} \right)_V$$

$$C_P = \left( \frac{\partial U}{\partial T} \right)_P + P \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial T} \right)_P$$

$$\text{Adiabatic compression: } VT^{f/2} = \text{constant} \quad \text{and} \quad V^\gamma P = \text{constant} \quad \text{where } \gamma = (f+2)/f$$

$$\text{Fourier heat conduction law: } \frac{Q}{\Delta t} = -k_t A \frac{dT}{dx}$$

$$\text{Two-state system multiplicity: } \Omega(N, n) = \frac{N!}{n! \cdot (N-n)!} = \binom{N}{n}$$

$$\text{Multiplicity of an Einstein solid: } \Omega(N, q) = \frac{(q+N-1)!}{q! \cdot (N-1)!} = \binom{q+N-1}{q}$$

$$\text{Stirling's approximation: } N! \approx N^N e^{-N} \sqrt{2\pi N} \quad \text{and} \quad \ln N! \approx N \ln N - N$$

$$\text{Approximate form of the Heisenberg uncertainty principle: } (\Delta x)(\Delta p_x) \gtrsim h$$

$$\text{Sackur-Tetrode equation: } S = Nk \left[ \ln \left( \frac{V}{N} \left( \frac{4\pi m U}{3N h^2} \right)^{3/2} \right) + \frac{5}{2} \right]$$

$$c_V(\text{water}) = 4186 \text{ J/kg.K}$$

$$\frac{1}{T} \equiv \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial U} \right)_{N,V}$$

$$\sinh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x - e^{-x}) \quad ; \quad \cosh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x + e^{-x}) \quad ; \quad \tanh x = (\sinh x)/(\cosh x)$$