



CSIR-NET, GATE, SET, JEST, IIT-JAM, BARC, TIFR

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Question Paper With

Answer Key

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

- A circular loop of radius R carries a uniform line charge density λ . The electric field, calculated at a distance z directly above the center of the loop, is maximum if z is equal to,
 - $\frac{R}{\sqrt{3}}$
 - $\frac{R}{\sqrt{2}}$
 - $\frac{R}{2}$
 - $2R$
- Consider two point charges q and q located at the points, $x = a$ and xa , respectively. Assuming that the sum of the two charges is constant, what is the value of λ for which the magnitude of the electrostatic force is maximum?
 - μ
 - 1
 - $\frac{1}{\mu}$
 - $1 + \mu$
- Consider a harmonic oscillator in the state $|\psi\rangle = e^{\frac{|a|^2}{2}} e^{aa^\dagger} |0\rangle$, where $|0\rangle$ is the ground state $a^\dagger$ is the raising operator and a is a complex number, what is the probability that the harmonic oscillator is then the eigenstate $|n\rangle$?
 - $e^{-|a|^2} \frac{|a|^{2n}}{n!}$
 - $e^{\frac{|-a|^2 |2\pi}{2} \sqrt{n}}$
 - $e^{-|a|^2} \frac{|a|^{2n}}{n!}$
 - $e^{\frac{-|n|^2}{2}} \frac{|a|^{2n}}{\sqrt{n!}}$
- The distance of a star from the Earth is 4.25 light years, as measured from the Earth. A space ship travels from Earth to the star at a constant velocity in 4.25 years, according to the clock on the ship. The speed of the space ship in units of the speed of light is,
 - $\frac{1}{2}$
 - $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$
 - $\frac{2}{3}$
 - $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$
- Given an analytic function $f(z) = \phi(x, y) + i\psi(x, y)$, where $\phi(x, y) = x^2 + 4x - y^2 + 2y$. if C is a constant, which of the following relations is true?
 - $\psi(x, y) = x^2y + 4y + C$
 - $\psi(x, y) = 2xy - 2x + C$
 - $\psi(x, y) = 2xy + 4y - 2x + C$
 - $\psi(x, y) = x^2y - 2x + C$
- For a system in thermal equilibrium with a heat bath at temperature T , which one of the following equalities is correct? ($\beta = \frac{1}{k_B T}$)
 - $\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \langle E \rangle = \langle E \rangle^2 - \langle E^2 \rangle$
 - $\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \langle E \rangle = \langle E^2 \rangle - \langle E \rangle^2$
 - $\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \langle E \rangle = \langle E \rangle^2 + \langle E^2 \rangle$
 - $\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \langle E \rangle = -\langle E^2 \rangle + \langle E \rangle^2$
- A classical particle with total energy E moves under the influence of a potential $V(x, y) = 3x^3 + 2x^2y + 2xy^2 + y^3$. The average potential energy, calculated over a long time is equal to,
 - $\frac{2E}{3}$
 - $\frac{E}{3}$
 - $\frac{E}{5}$
 - $\frac{2E}{5}$
- If two ideal dice are rolled once, what is the probability of getting at least one '6'?
 - $\frac{11}{36}$
 - $\frac{1}{36}$
 - $\frac{10}{36}$
 - $\frac{5}{36}$
- What is the maximum number of extrema of the function $f(x) = P_k(x)e^{\left(\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{x^2}{2}\right)}$ where $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ and $P_k(x)$ is an arbitrary polynomial of degree k ?
 - $k + 2$
 - $k + 6$
 - $k + 3$
 - k
- A chain of mass M and length L is suspended vertically with its lower end touching a weighing scale. The chain is released and falls freely onto the scale. Neglecting the size of the individual links, what is the reading of the scale when a length x of the chain has fallen?

(a) $\frac{Mgx}{L}$
(c) $\frac{3Mgx}{L}$

(b) $\frac{2Mgx}{L}$
(d) $\frac{4Mgx}{L}$

11. For non-interacting Fermions in d -dimensions, the density of states $D(E)$ varies as $E^{(d/2)-1}$. The Fermi Energy E_F of an N particle system in 3-, 2- and 1-dimensions will scale respectively as,
(a) $N^2, N^{2/3}, N$ (b) $N, N^{2/3}, N^2$
(c) $N, N^2, N^{2/3}$ (d) $N^{2/3}, N, N^2$

12. A particle of mass m moves in 1-dimensional potential $V(x)$, which vanishes at infinity. The exact ground state Eigen function is $\psi(x) = A \sec h(\lambda x)$ and λ are constants. The ground state energy eigenvalue of this system is,
(a) $E = \frac{\hbar^2 \lambda^2}{m}$ (b) $E = -\frac{\hbar^2 \lambda^2}{m}$
(c) $E = -\frac{\hbar^2 \lambda^2}{2m}$ (d) $E = \frac{\hbar^2 \lambda^2}{2m}$

13. Consider a spin 1/2 particle characterized by the Hamiltonian $H = \omega S_z$. under a perturbation $H' = g S_x$, the second order correction to the ground state energy is given by
(a) $-\frac{g^2}{4\omega}$ (b) $\frac{g^2}{4\omega}$
(c) $-\frac{g^2}{2\omega}$ (d) $\frac{g^2}{2\omega}$

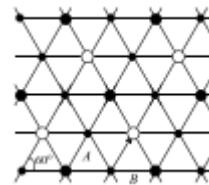
14. Given that ψ_1 and ψ_2 are eigenstate of a Hamiltonian with eigenvalues E_1 and E_2 respectively, what is the energy uncertainty in the state $(\psi_1 + \psi_2)$?
(a) $-\sqrt{E_1 E_2}$ (b) $\frac{1}{2} |E_1 - E_2|$
(c) $\frac{1}{2} (E_1 + E_2)$ (d) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |E_2 - E_1|$

15. An ideal gas is compressed adiabatically from an initial volume V to a final volume αV and a work W is done on the system in doing so. The final pressure of the gas will be $(\gamma = \frac{C_p}{C_v})$

(a) $\frac{W}{V^\gamma} \frac{1-\gamma}{\alpha-\alpha^\gamma}$
(c) $\frac{W}{V} \frac{1-\gamma}{\alpha-\alpha^\gamma}$

(b) $\frac{W}{V^\gamma} \frac{\gamma-1}{\alpha-\alpha^\gamma}$
(d) $\frac{W}{V} \frac{\gamma-1}{\alpha-\alpha^\gamma}$

16. What is the area of the irreducible Brillouin zone of the crystal structure as given in the figure? [see Figure]

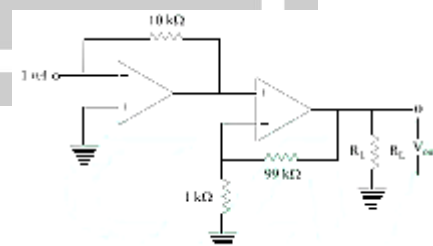


(a) $\frac{2\pi^2}{\sqrt{3}A^2}$ (b) $\frac{\sqrt{3}\pi^2}{2A^2}$
(c) $\frac{2\pi^2}{A^2}$ (d) $\frac{\pi^2}{\sqrt{3}A^2}$

17. A particle in thermal equilibrium has only 3 possible states with energies $-\epsilon, 0, \epsilon$. If the system is maintained at a temperature $T \gg \frac{\epsilon}{k_B}$, then the average energy of the particle can be approximated to,

(a) $\frac{2\epsilon}{2k_B T}$ (b) $\frac{-2\epsilon^2}{3k_B T}$
(c) $\frac{-\epsilon^2}{k_B T}$ (d) 0

18. What is the voltage at the output of the following operational amplifier circuit [see figure 1]?

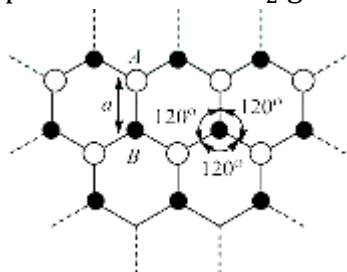


(a) 1 V (b) 1 mV
(c) 1 μV (d) 1 nV

19. The energy difference between the 3p and 3s levels in Na is 2.1 eV. Spin-orbit coupling splits the 3p level, resulting in two emission lines differing by 6 Å. The splitting of the 3p level is approximately,

- (a) 2eV (b) 0.2eV
(c) 0.02eV (d) 2meV

20. For a 2-dimensional honeycomb lattice as shown in the figure 3, the first Bragg spot occurs for the grazing angle θ_1 while sweeping the angle from 0° . The next Bragg spot is obtained at θ_2 given by



- (a) $\sin^{-1}(3\sin\theta_1)$
(b) $\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{2}\sin\theta_1\right)$
(c) $\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\sin\theta_1\right)$
(d) $\sin^{-1}(\sqrt{3}\sin\theta_1)$

21. A spherical shell of inner and outer radii a and b , respectively, is made of a dielectric material with frozen polarization $\vec{P}(r) = \frac{k}{r} \hat{r}$, where k is a constant and r is the distance from the its centre. The electric field in the region $a < r < b$ is,

- (a) $\vec{E} = \frac{k}{\epsilon_0 r} \hat{r}$ (b) $\vec{E} = -\frac{k}{\epsilon_0 r} \hat{r}$
(c) $\vec{E} = 0$ (d) $\vec{E} = \frac{k}{\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{r}$

22. The electrostatic potential due to a charge distribution is given by $V(r) = A \frac{e^{-\lambda r}}{r}$ where A and λ are constants. The total charge enclosed within a sphere of radius $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ with its origin at $r = 0$ is given by,

- (a) $\frac{8\pi\epsilon_0 A}{e}$ (b) $\frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 A}{e}$
(c) $\frac{\pi\epsilon_0 A}{e}$ (d) 0

23. A bike stuntman rides inside a well of frictionless surface given by $z = a(x^2 + y^2)$, under the action of gravity acting in the negative z -direction. $\vec{g} = -g\hat{z}$. What speed

should he maintain to be able to ride at a constant height z_0 without failing down?

- (a) $\sqrt{gz_0}$
(b) $\sqrt{3gz_0}$
(c) $\sqrt{2gz_0}$
(d) The biker will not be able to maintain a constant height, irrespective of speed.

24. A particle of mass m is confined in a potential well given by $V(x) = 0$ for $-\frac{L}{2} < x < \frac{L}{2}$ and $V(x) = \infty$ elsewhere. A perturbing potential $H'(x) = ax$ has been applied to the system. Let the first and second order corrections to the ground state be $E_0^{(1)}$ and $E_0^{(2)}$, respectively. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) $E_0^{(1)} < 0$ and $E_0^{(2)} > 0$
(b) $E_0^{(1)} > 0$ and $E_0^{(2)} > 0$
(c) $E_0^{(1)} = 0$ and $E_0^{(2)} > 0$
(d) $E_0^{(1)} = 0$ and $E_0^{(2)} < 0$

25. The Bernoulli polynomials $B_n(s)$ are defined by, $\frac{xe^{xs}}{e^x - 1} = \sum B_n(s) \frac{x^n}{n!}$. which one of the following relations is true?

- (a) $\frac{xe^{x(1-s)}}{e^x - 1} = \sum B_n(s) \frac{x^n}{(n+1)!}$
(b) $\frac{xe^{x(1-s)}}{e^x - 1} = \sum B_n(s) (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{(n+1)!}$
(c) $\frac{xe^{x(1-s)}}{e^x - 1} = \sum B_n(-s) (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{n!}$
(d) $\frac{xe^{x(1-s)}}{e^x - 1} = \sum B_n(s) (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{n!}$

26. The skin depth of a metal is dependent on the conductivity (σ) of the metal and the angular frequency ω of the incident field. For a metal of high conductivity, which of the following relations is correct? (Assume that $\sigma \gg \epsilon \omega$, where ϵ is the electrical permittivity of the medium)

- (a) $d \propto \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{\omega}}$ (b) $d \propto \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sigma\omega}}$
(c) $d \propto \sqrt{\sigma\omega}$ (d) $d \propto \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{\sigma}}$

27. The blackbody at a temperature of 6000 K emits a radiation whose intensity spectrum peaks at 600 nm. If the temperature is reduced to 300 K, the spectrum will peak at,
 (a) $120\mu\text{m}$ (b) $12\mu\text{m}$
 (c) 12 mm (d) 120 mm

28. The wavelength of red helium-neon laser in air is 6328 Å. What happens to its frequency in glass that has a refractive index of 1.50 ?
 (a) Increases by a factor of 3
 (b) Decreases by a factor of 1.5
 (c) Remains the same
 (d) Decreases by a factor of 0.5

29. Which of the following excited states of a hydrogen atom has the highest lifetime?
 (a) $2p$ (b) $2s$
 (c) $3s$ (d) $3p$

30. The Lagrangian of a particle is given by $L = \dot{q}^2 - q\dot{q}$. which of the following statements is true?
 (a) This is a free particle
 (b) The particle is experiencing velocity dependent damping
 (c) The particle is executing simple harmonic motion
 (d) The particle is under constant acceleration

31. A particle moving under the influence of a potential $V(r) = \frac{kr^2}{2}$ has a wave function $\psi(r, t)$. If the wave function changes to $\psi(\alpha, r, t)$, the ratio of the average final kinetic energy to the initial kinetic energy will be,
 (a) $\frac{1}{\alpha^2}$ (b) α
 (c) $\frac{1}{\alpha}$ (d) α^2

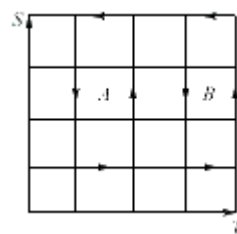
32. How is your weight affected if the Earth suddenly doubles in radius, mass remaining the same?

(a) Increases by a factor of 4
 (b) Increases by a factor of 2
 (c) Decreases by a factor of 4
 (d) Decreases by a factor of 2

33. The approximate force exerted on a perfectly reflecting mirror by an incident laser beam of power 10 mW at normal incidence is
 (a) 10^{-13} N (b) 10^{-11} N
 (c) 10^{-9} N (d) 10^{-15} N

34. Which of the following statements is true for the energies of the terms of the carbon atom in the ground state electronic configuration $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$?
 (a) ${}^3P < {}^1D < {}^1S$ (b) ${}^3P < 1$
 (c) ${}^3P < {}^1F < {}^1S$ (d) ${}^3P < {}^1F < {}^1D$

35. The entropy temperature diagram of two Carnot engines, A and B, are shown in the figure 5. The efficiencies of the engines are η_A and η_B respectively. Which one of the following equalities is correct?



(a) $\eta_A = \frac{\eta_B}{2}$ (b) $\eta_A = \eta_B$
 (c) $\eta_A = 3\eta_B$ (d) $\eta_A = 2\eta_B$

36. The reference voltage of an analog to digital converter is 1 V. The smallest voltage step that the converter can record using a 12-bit converter is,
 (a) 0.24 V (b) 0.24mV
 (c) 0.24μV (d) 0.24nV

37. A spring of force constant k is stretched by x . It takes twice as much work to stretch a second spring by $\frac{x}{2}$. The force constant of the second spring is,

- (a) k (b) $2k$
(c) $4k$ (d) $8k$

- (a) ${}^7\text{Li}$ (b) ${}^{16}\text{O}$
(c) ${}^4\text{He}$ (d) ${}^{14}\text{N}$

38. Which of the following expressions represents an electric field due to a time varying magnetic field?

- (a) $K(xx + yy + zz)$
(b) $K(xx + yy - zz)$
(c) $K(xx - yy)$
(d) $K(yy + xy - 2zz)$

39. In Millikan's oil drop experiment the electronic charge e could be written as $k\eta^{1.5}$, where k a function of all experimental parameters with negligible error. If the viscosity of air η is taken to be 0.4% lower than the actual value, what would be the error in the calculated in the calculated value of e ?

- (a) 1.5% (b) 0.7%
(c) 0.6% (d) 0.4%

40. Given that tight binding dispersion relation $E(k) = E_0 + A\sin^2\left(\frac{ka}{2}\right)$, where E_0 and A are constants and a is the lattice parameter. What is the group velocity of an electron at the second Brillion zone boundary?

- (a) 0 (b) $\frac{a}{h}$
(c) $\frac{2a}{h}$ (d) $\frac{a}{2h}$

41. The total number of Na + and Cl-ions per unit cell of NaCl is,

- (a) 2 (b) 4
(c) 6 (d) 8

42. If a Hamiltonian H is given as $H = |0\rangle\langle 0| - |1\rangle\langle 1| + i(|0\rangle\langle 1| - |1\rangle\langle 0|)$, where $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$ are orthonormal states, the eigenvalues of H are

- (a) ± 1 (b) $\pm i$
(c) $\pm\sqrt{2}$ (d) $\pm i\sqrt{2}$

43. The stable nucleus that has $\frac{1}{3}$ the radius of ${}^{189}\text{Os}$ nucleus is,

44. A charged particle is released at time $t = 0$, from the origin in the presence of uniform static electric and magnetic fields given by $E = E_0\hat{y}$ and $B = B_0\hat{z}$, respectively. Which of the following statements is true for $t > 0$?

- (a) The particle moves along the x -axis
(b) The particle moves in a circular orbit
(c) The particle moves in the (x, y) plane
(d) the particle moves in the (y, z) plane

45. Consider the differential equation $G'(x) + kG(x) + \delta(x)$; where k is a constant. Which following statements are true?

- (a) Both $G(x)$ and $G'(x)$ are continuous at $x = 0$.
(b) $G(x)$ is continuous at $x = 0$ but $G'(x)$ is not
(c) $G(x)$ is discontinuous at $x = 0$.
(d) The continuity properties of $G(x)$ and $G'(x)$ at $x = 0$ depends on the value of k .

46. The sum $\sum_{m=1}^{99} \frac{1}{\sqrt{m+1} + \sqrt{m}}$ is equal to

- (a) 9 (b) $\sqrt{99} - 1$
(c) $\frac{1}{(\sqrt{99}-1)}$ (d) 11

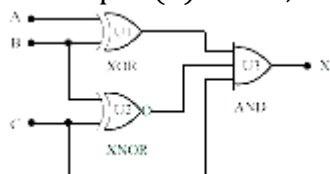
47. Let λ be the wavelength of incident light.

The diffraction pattern of a circular aperture of dimension r_0 will transform from Fresnel to Fraunhofer regime if the screen distance z is,

- (a) $z \gg \frac{r_0^2}{\lambda}$ (b) $z \gg \frac{\lambda^2}{r}$
(c) $z \ll \frac{\lambda^2}{r_0}$ (d) $z < \frac{r_0^2}{\lambda}$

48. For the logic circuit shown in figure 4, the required input condition (A, B, C) to make

the output (X) = 1 is,



- (a) 1,0,1 (b) 0,0,1
(c) 1,1,1 (d) 0,1,1

49. The reaction $e^+ - e^- \rightarrow \gamma$ is forbidden because,
(a) lepton number is not conserved
(b) linear momentum is not conserved
(c) angular momentum is not conserved
(d) charge is not conserved

50. Electrons of mass m in a thin, long wire at a temperature T follow a one-dimensional Maxwellian velocity distribution. The most probable speed of these electrons is,

- (a) $\sqrt{\left(\frac{kT}{2\pi m}\right)}$ (b) $\sqrt{\left(\frac{kT}{m}\right)}$
(c) 0 (d) $\sqrt{\left(\frac{8kT}{\pi m}\right)}$

Answer Key

1. b	2. b	3. a	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. a	9. c	10. c
11. d	12. c	13. a	14. b	15. c
16. a	17. d	18. b	19. d	20. d
21. b	22. a	23. c	24. d	25. d
26. b	27. b	28. c	29.	30. a
31. d	32. c	33. b	34. a	35. d
36. b	37. d	38. d	39. c	40. a
41. d	42. c	43. a	44. c	45. a
46. a	47. a	48. d	49. b	50. c