



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

SPS 3111: GENERAL PHYSICS

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define electric current (1 Mark)
- b) i. Describe Ohm's law (1 Mark)
- ii. Calculate the current in a lamp given its resistance is 20Ω and a potential difference across its end is 5.0 V. (4 Marks)
- c) Define the following;
- i. Electromotive force (EMF) (1 Mark)
- ii. Capacitance (1 Mark)
- d) A 4Ω , 8Ω and 12Ω resistors are connected in series with a 240V battery;
Calculate;
- i. The total resistance (2 Marks)
- ii. Current following through the circuit. (2 Marks)
- e) i. State the three law of magnetism (3 Marks)
- ii. Differentiate between magnetic and non-magnetic materials. (4 Marks)



MUST is ISO 9001:2015 and

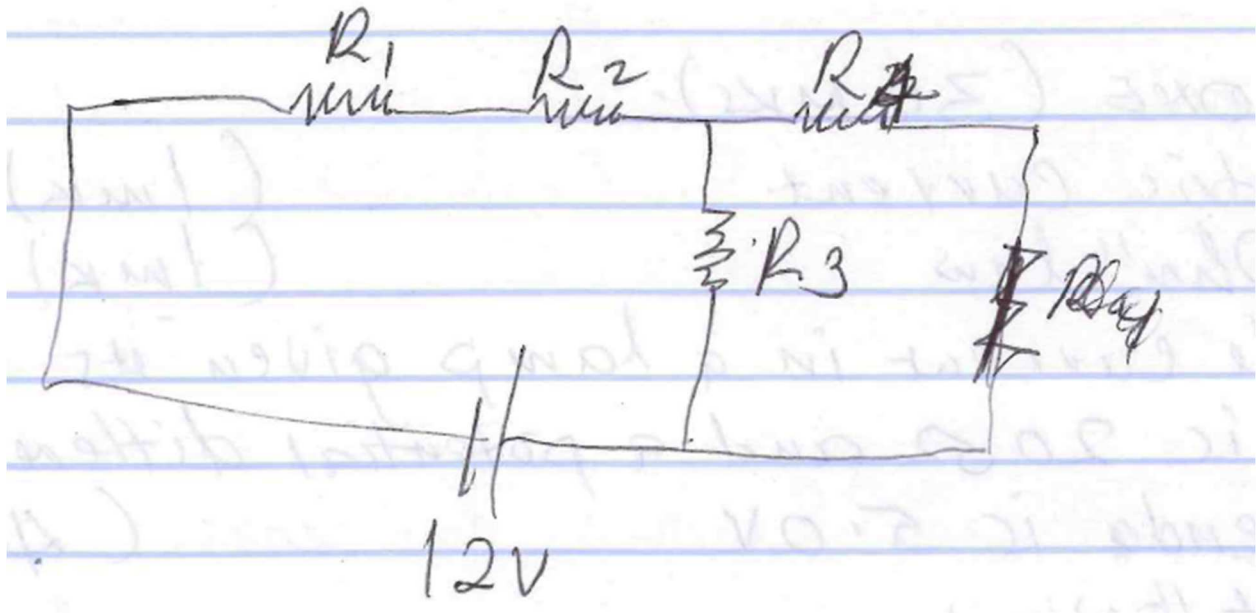


ISO/IEC 27001:2013 CERTIFIED

- f) State the three Newton's law of motion. (3 Marks)
- g) i. State Coulomb's law and write in mathematical form. (3 Marks)
- ii. A point charge $q_1 = 2\mu C$ located at the origin and another point charge $q_2 = -5\mu C$ is on the coordinate $(x = 3, y = 4)m$. Given that the constant $k = 9.0 \times 10^9 N \cdot m^2 / C^2$, find the electric force on charge q_1 . (5 Marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) i. Define resistance (1 Mark)
- ii. Calculate the total resistance and current in the following circuit given that $R_1 = 5\Omega, R_2 = 3\Omega, R_3 = 2\Omega$ and $R_4 = 10\Omega$. (4 Marks)



- iii. Hence find the total current. (3 Marks)
- b) i. State Kirchoff's law. (2 Marks)
- ii. A long loop of area $200cm^2$ is positioned perpendicular to a uniform magnetic field, without changing the direction of the magnetic field, its magnitude is reduced by $0.8 T$ in the time interval of 0.025 seconds. Find the average induced e.m.f of the loop. (6 Marks)
- c) Give two difference between ferromagnetic materials and diamagnetic material. (4 Marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) distinguish between units and dimensions. (2 Marks)
- b) Three capacitors $2mF$, $4mF$ and $6mF$ respectively are connected in series to a 240 v a.c supply;

Find

- i. The total capacitance (6 Marks)
- ii. The charge on each capacitor (6 Marks)
- iii. The p.d across each capacitor. (6 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Three resistors are connected in O series circuit. Suppose the output voltage of the battery is Rv and the resistances are $R_1 = 1.0\Omega$, $R_2 = 6.0\Omega$ and $R_3 = 13.0\Omega$.
- i. What is the total resistance? (3 Marks)
- ii. Find the current (3 Marks)
- iii. Calculate the voltage drop in each resistor. (3 Marks)
- iv. Calculate power dispatched by each resistor. (3 Marks)
- b) Calculate the resistance of a piece of aluminum that is 10 cm long and has cross-sectional area of $10^{-4}m^2$ (take $p = 2.83 \times 10^{-8}\Omega m$) (4 Marks)
- c) A car headlight filament is made of tungsten and has Coh's resistance of 0.35Ω . if the filament is a cylinder 4.0 cm long, find the diameter. (4 Marks)