8 **(a)** State what is meant by a photon.

....

....

.... [2]

(b) A stationary nucleus of uranium-238 ($^{238}_{92}U$) undergoes alpha decay to produce a nucleus of thorium-234 ($^{234}_{90}Th$). The kinetic energy of the emitted alpha particle is 4.200 MeV. A gamma-ray photon is also emitted during the decay.

Assume that the rebound kinetic energy of the thorium nucleus is negligible.

Table 8.1 shows the masses of the nuclides involved in the decay reaction. The mass of the uranium-238 nuclide is missing.

Table 8.1

nuclide	nuclide mass / u
$^{4}_{2}\alpha$	4.000 407
$^{234}_{90}Th$	233.915 174
$^{238}_{92}U$	

The total energy released in the decay of the nucleus of uranium-238 is 4.274 MeV.

(i) Calculate the mass, in u, of the uranium-238 nuclide. Give your answer to five decimal places.

mass = ... u [3]

(ii) Determine a value for the wavelength of the gamma radiation emitted during the decay of the uranium-238 nucleus.

wavelength = ... m [3]

(iii) In practice, the rebound kinetic energy of the thorium nucleus is **not** negligible.

Explain, without further calculation, how your answer in **(b)(ii)** compares with the true wavelength of gamma radiation emitted during the decay of the uranium-238 nucleus.

....

....

.... [1]

(c) Gamma radiation emitted during the decay of a sample of uranium-238 has a single wavelength.

Nuclei of cobalt-60 ($^{60}_{27}Co$) decay by beta emission, and also emit gamma radiation in the process.

Suggest why there is **not** a single wavelength for the gamma radiation emitted during the decay of a sample of cobalt-60.

....

....

.... [2]

[Total: 11]

8 **(a)** State what is meant by a photon.

....

....

.... [2]

(b) A laser emits red light of a single wavelength. The light is produced when electrons move from a higher energy level to a lower energy level. The difference in energy between the two levels is 1.96 eV.

(i) Calculate the wavelength of the light.

wavelength = ... m [3]

(ii) The power of the beam emitted by the laser is 1.0×10^{-2} W.

Calculate the number of photons emitted per unit time by the laser.

number per unit time = ... s^{-1} [1]

(iii) The photons are incident normally on a surface. Half of the number of photons are absorbed by the surface, and half are reflected.

Determine the average force exerted by the beam of photons on the surface.

average force = ... N [4]

[Total: 10]

8 **(a)** **(i)** Show that the momentum p of a photon of electromagnetic radiation with wavelength λ is given by

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

where h is the Planck constant.

[2]

(ii) Use the expression in **(a)(i)** to show that a photon in free space that has a momentum of 9.5×10^{-28} N s is a photon of red light.

[1]

(b) A beam of red light of intensity 160 W m^{-2} is incident normally on a plane mirror, as shown in Fig. 8.1. The momentum of each photon in the beam is 9.5×10^{-28} N s.

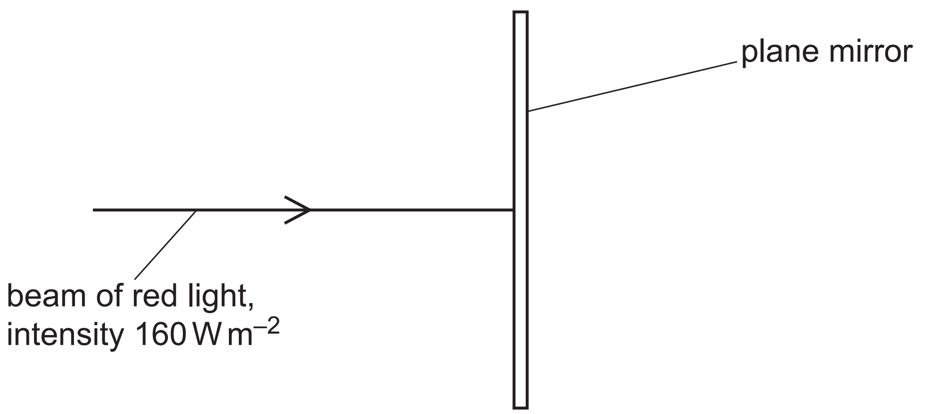

Fig. 8.1

All of the light is reflected by the mirror in the opposite direction to its original path. The cross-sectional area of the beam is 2.5×10^{-6} m^2.

(i) Show that the number of photons incident on the mirror per unit time is $1.4 \times 10^{15}\,s^{-1}$.

[2]

(ii) Use the information in **(b)(i)** to determine the pressure exerted by the light beam on the mirror.

pressure = ... Pa [3]

(c) The beam of red light in **(b)** is now replaced with a beam of blue light of the same intensity.

Suggest and explain whether the pressure exerted on the mirror by the beam of blue light is less than, the same as, or greater than the pressure exerted by the beam of red light.

....

....

....

.... [2]

[Total: 10]