Ultrasound

Question Paper

Level	IGCSE
Subject	Physics (4403)
Exam Board	AQA
Unit	P3
Topic	Medical Applications of Physics
Sub-Topic	Ultrasound
Booklet	Question Paper

Time Allowed: **40 minutes**

Score: **/40**

Percentage: **/100**

Grade Boundaries:

Q1. Ultrasound waves can be passed through the body to produce medical images.

When ultrasound waves are directed at human skin most of the waves are reflected.

If a material called a 'coupling agent □ is placed on the skin it allows most of the ultrasound waves to pass through the skin and into the body.

(a) What is 'ultrasound'?

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(2)

(b) Two ultrasound frequencies that are used are 1.1 MHz and 3.0 MHz.

The speed of ultrasound in water is 1500 m / s.

Calculate the wavelength of the 3.0 MHz waves in water.

Use the correct equation from of the Physics Equations Sheet.

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Wavelength = ... m

(3)

(c) The coupling agent used with ultrasound is usually a gel.

Water would be a good coupling agent.

Suggest why water is **not** used.

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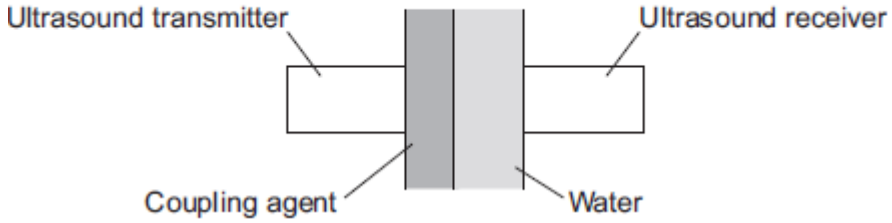
(1)

(d) **Figure 1** shows a coupling agent being tested.

- An ultrasound transmitter emits waves.
- The waves pass through the coupling agent and then through the water.
- The waves are detected by the ultrasound receiver.

Figure 1



A scientist tests different coupling agents.

Suggest which variables she must control.

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

	Tick (✓)
The amount of light in the room	
The colour of the coupling agent	
The width of the coupling agent	
The width of the water	

(2)

(e) The table shows the results for coupling agents **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**, **E**, **F** and **G**.

They were tested using the two frequencies, 1.1 MHz and 3.0 MHz.

The results show how well the waves pass through the coupling agent compared with how they pass through water. The results are shown as a percentage.

100% means that the coupling agent behaves the same as water.

Coupling agent	**Coupling agent percentage using 1.1 MHz**	**Coupling agent percentage using 3.0 MHz**

A	108	100
B	105	100
C	104	98
D	100	98
E	98	98
F	95	99
G	89	88

(i) Which coupling agent allows most ultrasound to pass through at both frequencies? ☐

(1)

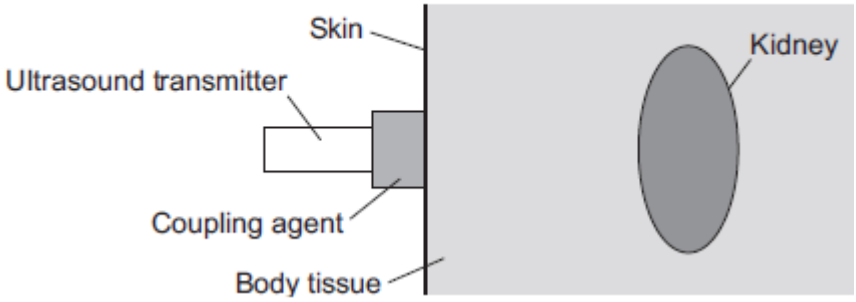
(ii) Which coupling agent performs the same for both frequencies? ☐

(1)

(f) **Figure 2** shows an ultrasound transmitter sending waves into a patient's body.

The waves enter the body and move towards a kidney.

Figure 2



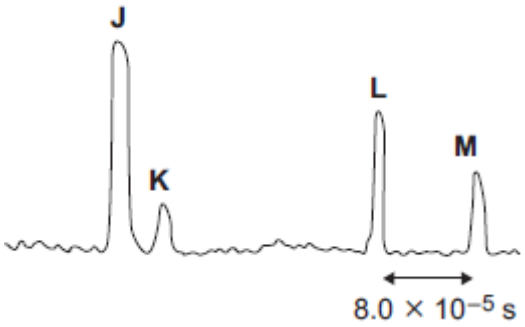
The transmitter also detects the ultrasound waves.

The transmitter is connected to an oscilloscope.

Figure 3 shows the trace on the screen of the oscilloscope.

J represents the intensity of the waves emitted by the transmitter.

Figure 3



(i) Explain the intensities at **K**, **L** and **M**.

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(6)

(ii) The speed of ultrasound waves in the body is 1500 m / s.

Use information from **Figure 3** to calculate the maximum width of the kidney.

Use the correct equation from the Physics Equations Sheet.

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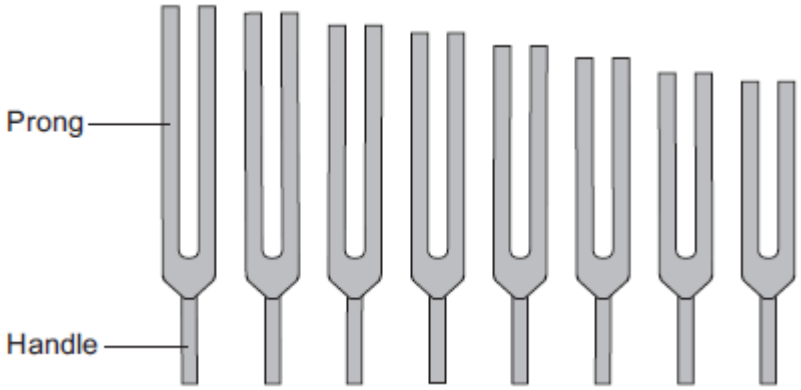
.....

Maximum width of kidney = ... m

(3)
(Total 19 marks)

Q2.Figure 1 shows a set of tuning forks.

Figure 1



A tuning fork has a handle and two prongs. It is made from metal.

When the prongs are struck on a hard object, the tuning fork makes a sound wave with a single frequency. The frequency depends on the length of the prongs.

(a) Use the correct answer from the box to complete each sentence.

direction	**loudness**	**pitch**	**speed**

The frequency of a sound wave determines its ..... .

The amplitude of a sound wave determines its ..... .

(2)

(b) Each tuning fork has its frequency engraved on it. A student measured the length of the prongs for each tuning fork.

Some of her data is shown in the table.

Frequency in hertz	**Length of prongs in cm**
320	9.5

384	8.7
480	7.8
512	7.5

(i) Describe the pattern shown in the table.

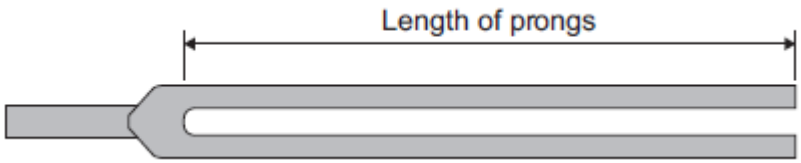
.....

.....

(1)

(ii) **Figure 2** shows a full-size drawing of a tuning fork.

Figure 2



Measure and record the length of the prongs.

Length of prongs = ... cm

(1)

Use the data in the table above to estimate the frequency of the tuning fork in **Figure 2**.

Explain your answer.

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.....

.....

Estimated frequency = ... Hz

(3)

(c) Ultrasound waves are used in hospitals.

(i) Use the correct answer from the box to complete the sentence.

electronic	**hydraulic**	**radioactive**

Ultrasound waves can be produced by ..... systems.

(1)

(ii) The frequency of an ultrasound wave used in a hospital is 2×10^6 Hz.

It is **not** possible to produce ultrasound waves of this frequency using a tuning fork.

Explain why.

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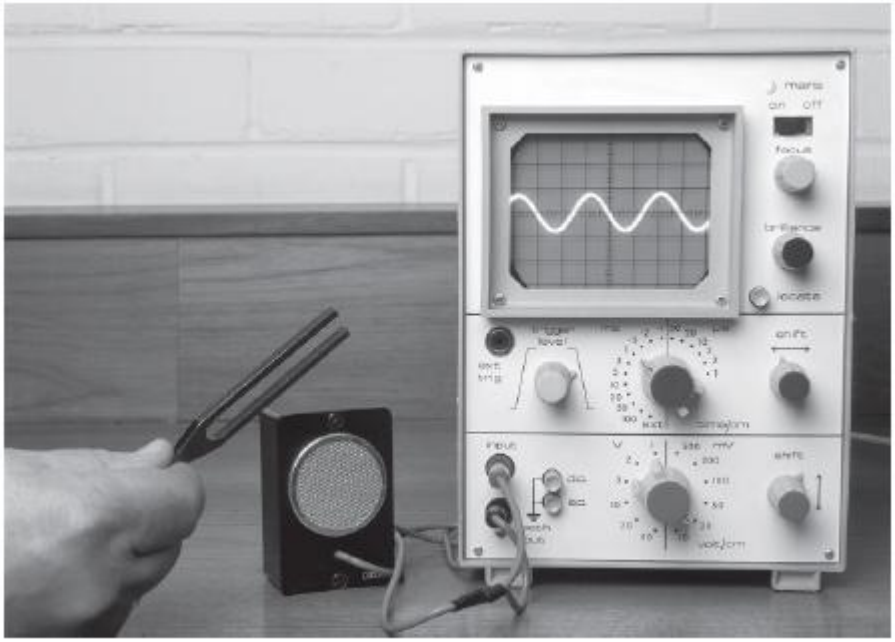
(2)

(d) **Figure 3** shows a tuning fork and a microphone. The microphone is connected to an oscilloscope.

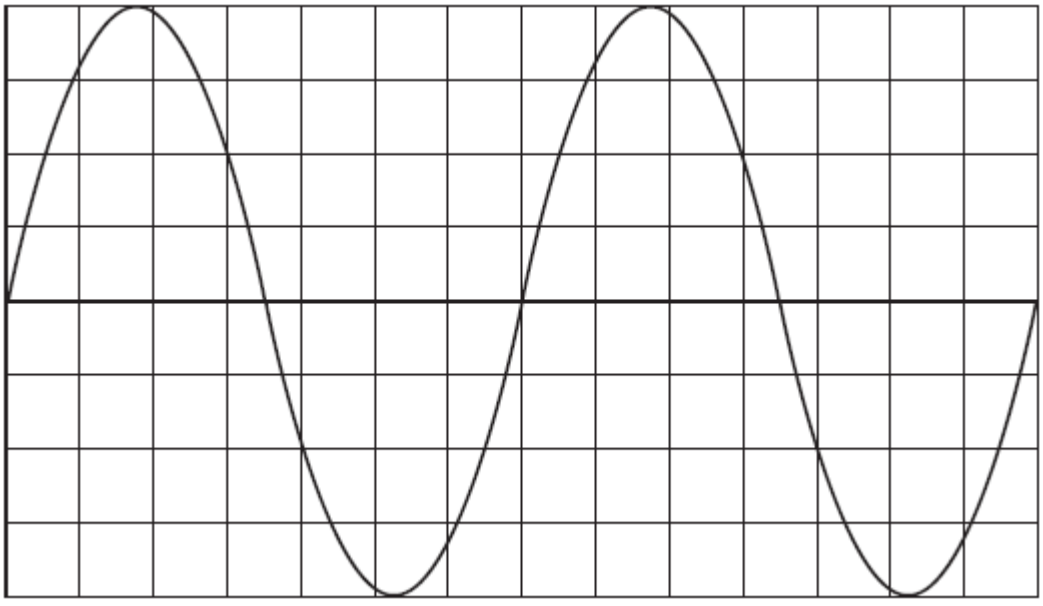
Figure 3



When the tuning fork is struck and then placed in front of the microphone, a trace appears on the oscilloscope screen.

Figure 4 shows part of the trace on the screen.

Figure 4



Each horizontal division in **Figure 4** represents a time of 0.0005 s.

What is the frequency of the tuning fork?

Use the correct equation from **Section A** of the Physics Equations Sheet.

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.....

Frequency = ... Hz

(3)
(Total 13 marks)

Q3.(a) Human ears can detect a range of sound frequencies.

(i) Use the correct answers from the box to complete the sentence.

2	**20**	**200**	**2000**	**20 000**

The range of human hearing is from about ..... Hz to ..... Hz.

(2)

(ii) What is ultrasound?

.....

.....

(1)

(iii) Ultrasound can be used to find the speed of blood flow in an artery.

State **one** other medical use of ultrasound.

.....

(1)

(b) The speed of an ultrasound wave in soft tissue in the human body is 1.5×10^3 m / s and the frequency of the wave is 2.0×10^6 Hz.

Calculate the wavelength of the ultrasound wave.

Use the correct equation from **Section B** of the Physics Equations Sheet.

.....

.....

Wavelength = ... m

(2)

(c) When ultrasound is used to find the speed of blood flow in an artery:

- an ultrasound transducer is placed on a person's arm
- ultrasound is emitted by the transducer
- the ultrasound is reflected from blood cells moving **away** from the transducer
- the reflected ultrasound is detected at the transducer.

Describe the differences between the ultrasound waves emitted by the transducer and the reflected waves detected at the transducer.

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(2)
(Total 8 marks)