

A level Physics A

H556/03 Unified physics

Question Set 13

1 A toy rocket is made from a 1.5 litre plastic bottle with fins attached for stability.

The bottle initially contains 0.30 litres of water, leaving 1.2 litres of trapped air at a temperature of 17 °C.

A pump is used to increase the pressure of the air within the plastic bottle to 2.4×10^5 Pa at the start of lift-off.

Fig. 1.1 shows the rocket at the start of lift-off.

1 litre = 10^{-3} m³



Fig. 1.1

(a) Calculate, in moles, the amount of trapped air in the bottle at the start of lift-off.

amount of air = mol [2]

(b) The trapped air pushes the water downwards out of the hole, causing the rocket to rise. The temperature of this air remains constant.

Calculate the final pressure of the trapped air just before all the water has been released.

final pressure =Pa [3]

(c) Here is some data on the toy rocket.

mass of empty bottle and fins = 0.050 kgarea of cross-section of hole = $1.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$ initial pressure of trapped air = $2.4 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ atmospheric pressure = $1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ density of water = $1.0 \times 10^3 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$

(i) Use the data above to show that the **upwards** force on the rocket at the start of lift-off is about 15 N.

(ii) Hence calculate the initial vertical acceleration of the rocket.

(d) Discuss whether adding more water initially would enable the rocket to reach a greater height. [3]

Total Marks for Question Set 13: 13



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