

3.1 Wave properties and the EM spectrum

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 21 marks

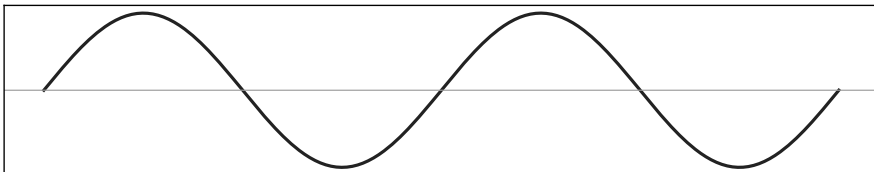
Objective

Cover wave properties and the electromagnetic spectrum (3.1–3.13): transverse and longitudinal waves, definitions, $v = f\lambda$, the Doppler effect, the spectrum's order, uses and dangers. Original IGCSE-level practice.

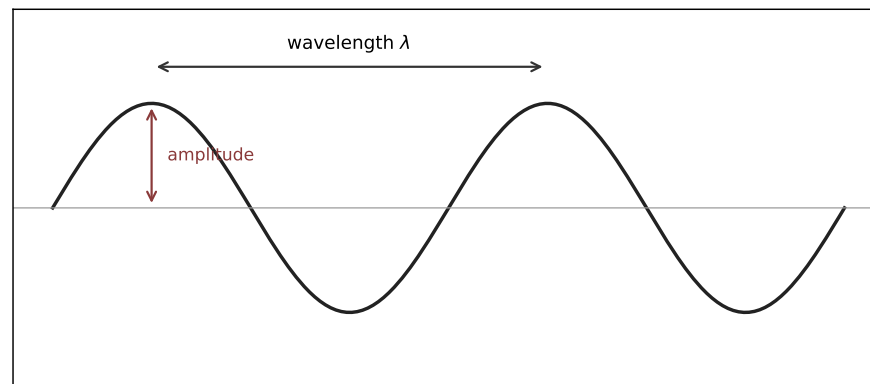
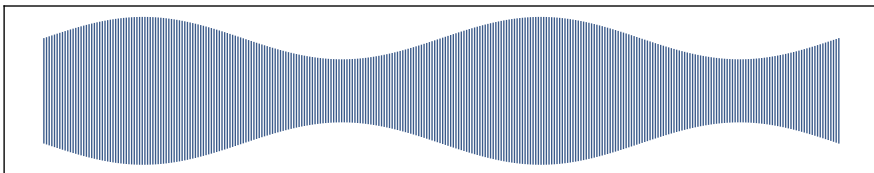
1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ The vocabulary and the equation

transverse: oscillations perpendicular to travel (light, water)



longitudinal: oscillations parallel to travel (sound)



Worked check. Water waves of wavelength 2.0 m pass a post at 3 waves each second:
 $v = 3.0 \times 2.0 = 6.0 \text{ m/s}$.

■ The spectrum in order

Radio → microwave → infrared → visible (red → violet) → ultraviolet → X-ray → gamma: wavelength falls, frequency rises, speed in free space the same for all.

2 Practice

2.1 State one difference between transverse and longitudinal waves, naming one example of each. [2]

2.2 Define frequency and period. [2]

2.3 A wave has frequency 250 Hz and wavelength 1.2 m. Calculate its speed. [2]

2.4 Calculate the period of a 50 Hz wave. [2]

2.5 List the electromagnetic spectrum in order of increasing frequency. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Explain why a moving ambulance siren sounds higher-pitched as it approaches and lower as it recedes. [3]

3.2 Give one use and one danger for each of: microwaves, ultraviolet, gamma rays. [6]

3.3 A radio station broadcasts at 200 MHz. Calculate the wavelength (speed of radio waves 3×10^8 m/s). [3]
