



*(University of Choice)*

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(MMUST)**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER MAIN EXAMINATIONS**

**FOR THE DEGREE  
OF**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICS**

**COURSE CODE:   SPH 842 E**

**COURSE TITLE:   ELECTRICAL, MAGNETIC AND OPTICAL  
PROPERTIES OF SOLIDS**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2022 TIME: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

TIME: 3 Hours

Answer any five questions.

Symbols used bear the usual meanings.

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

This Paper Consists of 4 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over.

**YOU MAY USE THE FOLLOWING CONSTANTS**Atomic mass unit ( $u$ ) =  $1.6605 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$ Boltzmann constant  $K = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/k}$ Gravitational acceleration of the earth =  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ .Planck's constant  $h = 6.625 \times 10^{-34} \text{ JS}$ Avogadro number  $N_A = 6.023 \times 10^{23} \text{ mole}^{-1}$ Molar gas constant  $R = 8.3144 \text{ J/mole}$ Mass of electron  $m = 9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$ Speed of light  $c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ Charge of electron  $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ Permittivity in free space  $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ Wb/A-m}$ **QUESTION ONE (14 MARKS)**

- a) Distinguish between Frenkel exciton and Mott-wannier excitons (2 marks)
- b) What is anisotropy energy? hence explain the term magnetostriction (2 marks)
- c) Explain different ways in which crystals may be coloured, hence define colour centre. (2 marks)
- d) Explain the term dielectric function  $\epsilon(\omega, k)$ . Hence for long wavelengths region obtain an

expression 
$$\epsilon(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}$$

Where symbols carry usual meaning. Plot this equation graphically and hence explain attenuation of the wave. (8 marks)

**QUESTION TWO (14 MARKS)**

- a) The magnetic moment of an electron in the ground state of the hydrogen atom is 1 Bohr magneton. Calculate the induced magnetic moment in a field of  $1 \text{ Wb/m}^2$ . (3 marks)
- b) What are ferrites? Give their applications. (2 marks)
- c) Explain why it is desirable to use hard ferromagnetic materials to make permanent magnets (2 marks)
- d) With the aid of suitable diagrams, describe the temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility for paramagnet, ferromagnet and antiferromagnet. (6 marks)
- e) explain why alkali metals are transparent to ultraviolet light. (2 marks)
- f) Discuss the properties of Bloch functions (3marks)

**QUESTION THREE (14 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the formation of forbidden gap and band structure by nearly free electron model (8 marks)
- b) With the aid of relevant diagrams, explain the extended states in a single crystal of silicon and show how extended states gradually change into localized states in amorphous silicon. (4 marks)
- c) Write short notes on normal and inverse spinels. Hence explain why ferrites are used in high frequency transformers (2 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (14 MARKS)**

- a) Obtain Langevin theory of diamagnetic material and hence show that susceptibility is negative. (8 marks)
- b) Show that Curie -Weiss law for magnetic susceptibility of ferromagnetic materials is given by

$$x = \frac{C}{T - T_C}$$

Symbols bear their usual meanings.

(6 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (14 MARKS)**

- a) Describe hysteresis in a magnetic material with the aid of suitable diagram (4 marks)
- b) Discuss the domain structure in a ferromagnetic material (4 marks)
- c) Distinguish between ferromagnetic, ferrimagnetic and antiferromagnetic using suitable diagrams (3 marks)
- d) Describe the term coercivity in magnetic materials, hence explain why low coercivity is desired in transformer cores and high coercivity is desired in permanent magnets? (3 marks)

**QUESTION SIX (14 MARKS)**

- a) Deduce Kramers-Kronig relations. (8 marks)
- b) Describe the origin of energy gap (2 marks)
- c) A paramagnetic substance has  $10^{28}$  atoms /m<sup>3</sup>. The magnetic moment of each atom is  $1.79 \times 10^{-23}$  A-m<sup>2</sup>. Calculate the paramagnetic susceptibility of the material at temperature of 320 K. What would be the dipole moment of the rod of this material 0.1 m long and 1 cm<sup>2</sup> cross-sectional area placed in a field of  $7 \times 10^4$  A/m? (4 marks)