



- 1 A student is investigating the stability of a wooden block resting on a bench.

A strip is attached by a nail to the centre of the top of the block and is able to rotate, as shown in Fig. 1.1 and Fig. 1.2.

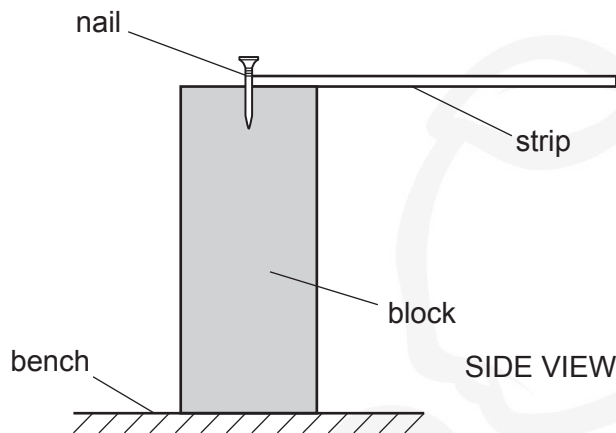


Fig. 1.1

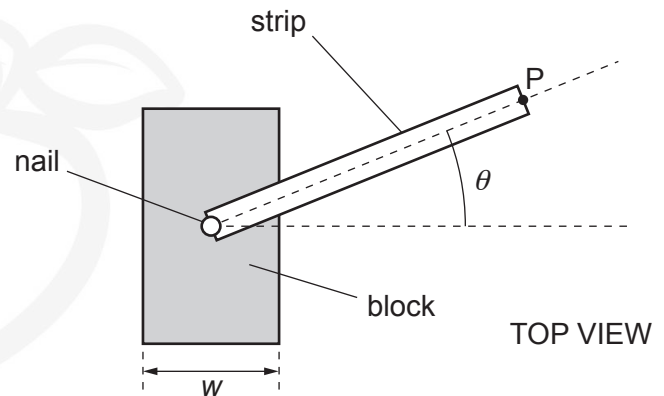


Fig. 1.2

A load of mass  $m$  is attached to the free end of the strip at point P. The student is investigating the position of the strip indicated by angle  $\theta$ , as shown in Fig. 1.2, at which the block just topples.

It is suggested that the relationship between  $m$  and  $\theta$  is

$$\alpha Vw = 2mL \cos \theta - mw$$

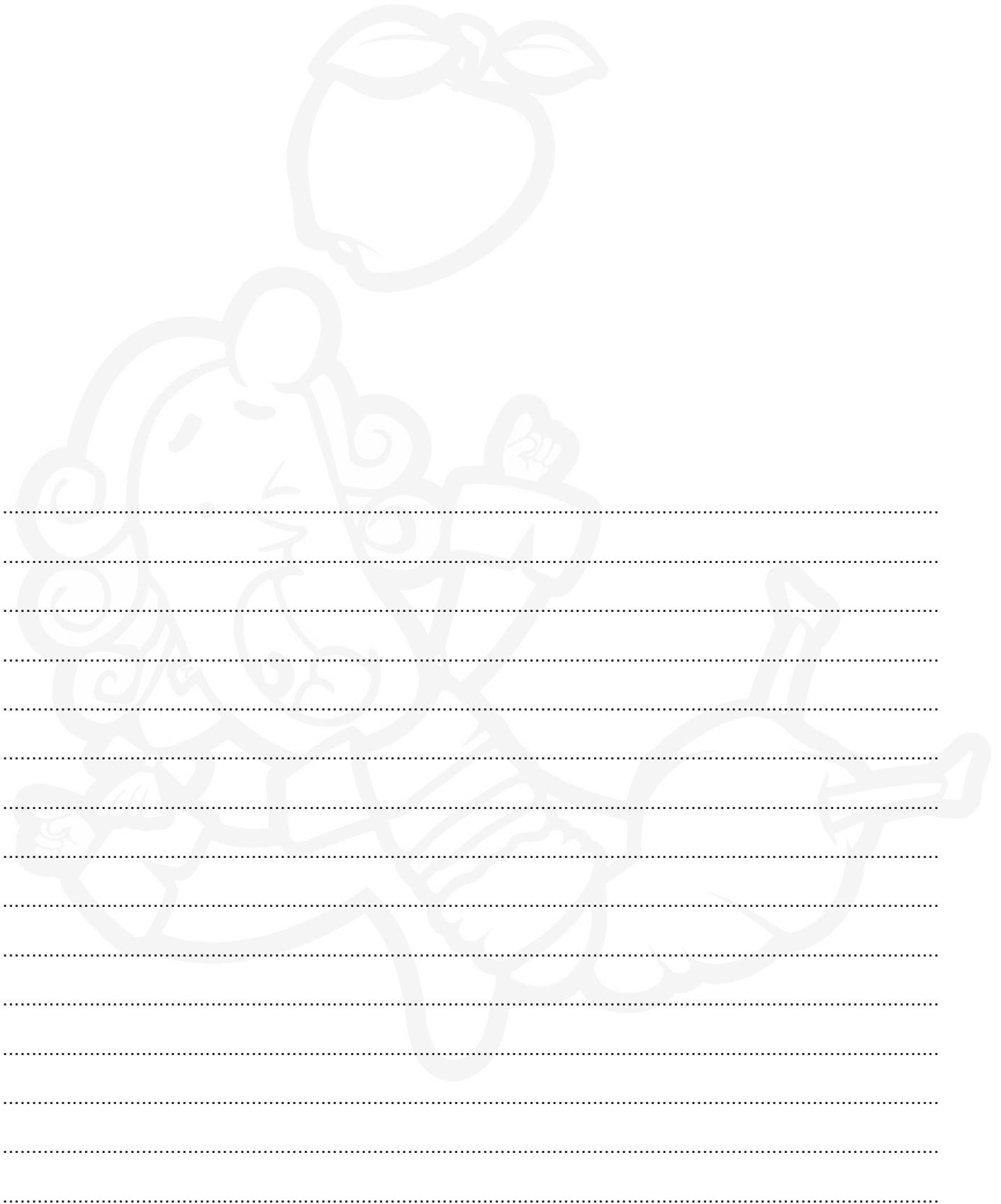
where  $\alpha$  is a constant,  $V$  is the volume of the block,  $w$  is the width of the block and  $L$  is the distance between the centre of the nail and the centre of the load.

Design a laboratory experiment to test the relationship between  $m$  and  $\theta$ . Explain how your results could be used to determine a value for  $\alpha$ .

You should draw a diagram, on page 3, showing the arrangement of your equipment. In your account you should pay particular attention to:

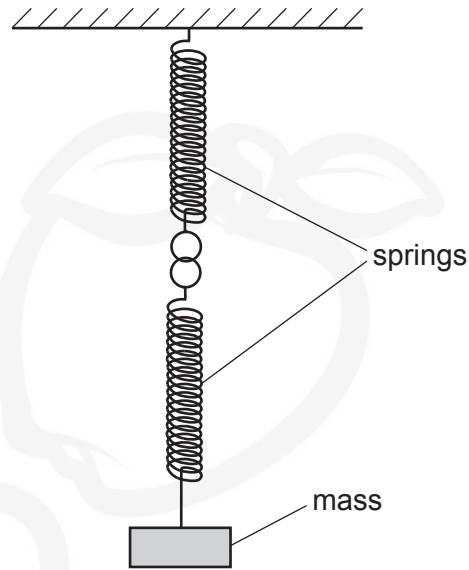
- the procedure to be followed
- the measurements to be taken
- the control of variables
- the analysis of the data
- any safety precautions to be taken.

Diagram



Handwriting practice lines with a faint watermark illustration of a woman and a child.

- 2 A student is investigating the oscillations of a mass attached to an arrangement of springs. Fig. 2.1 shows a mass attached to two springs connected in series.



**Fig. 2.1**

The student determines the spring constant  $k$  for the arrangement of the springs. A stopwatch is used to measure the time  $t$  for 20 oscillations. The measurement of  $t$  is repeated and the average period  $T$  is determined.

The experiment is repeated for different arrangements and different numbers of springs.

It is suggested that  $T$  and  $k$  are related by the equation

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{M}{k}}$$

where  $M$  is the mass.

- (a) A graph is plotted of  $T^2$  on the  $y$ -axis against  $\frac{1}{k}$  on the  $x$ -axis.

Determine an expression for the gradient.

gradient = ..... [1]

(b) Values of  $k$ ,  $\frac{1}{k}$  and the measurements of  $t$  are given in Fig. 2.2.

$k/\text{Nm}^{-1}$	$\frac{1}{k}/\text{mN}^{-1}$	$t/\text{s}$	$t/\text{s}$	$T/\text{s}$	$T^2/\text{s}^2$
7.9	0.13	22.2	22.6		
11	0.091	19.2	18.8		
15	0.067	16.6	16.0		
24	0.042	12.8	13.4		
32	0.031	11.0	11.8		
49	0.020	9.8	9.0		

**Fig. 2.2**

Calculate and record values of  $T/\text{s}$  and  $T^2/\text{s}^2$  in Fig. 2.2.  
Include the absolute uncertainties in  $T$  and  $T^2$ .

[4]

(c) (i) Plot a graph of  $T^2/\text{s}^2$  against  $\frac{1}{k}/\text{mN}^{-1}$ .

Include error bars for  $T^2$ .

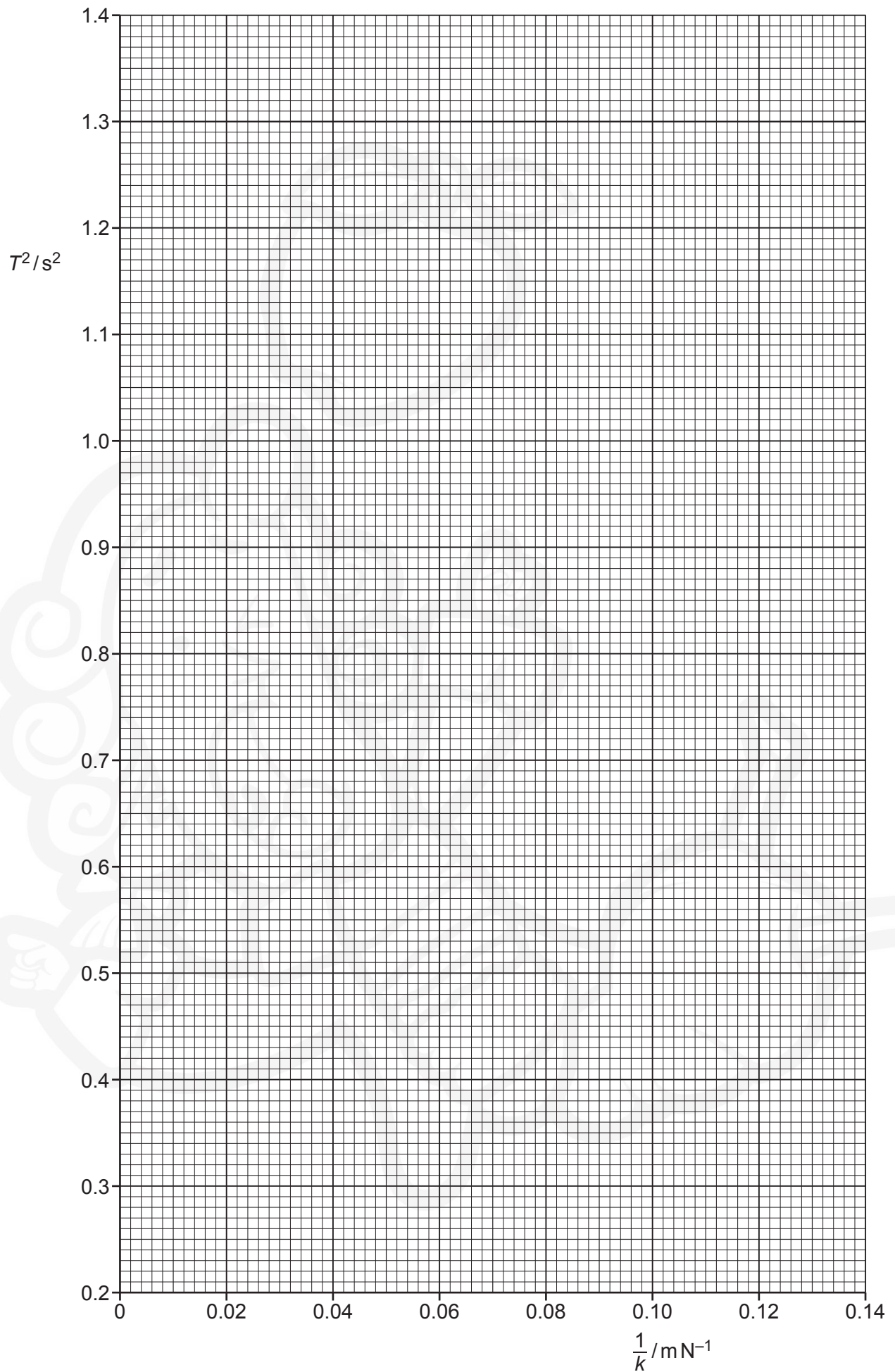
[2]

(ii) Draw the straight line of best fit and a worst acceptable straight line on your graph. Both lines should be clearly labelled.

[2]

(iii) Determine the gradient of the line of best fit. Include the absolute uncertainty in your answer.

gradient = ..... [2]



- (d) (i) Using your answers to (a) and (c)(iii), determine the value of  $M$ . Include an appropriate unit.

$M = \dots\dots\dots$  [1]

- (ii) Determine the percentage uncertainty in  $M$ .

percentage uncertainty =  $\dots\dots\dots$  % [1]

- (e) Determine the spring constant  $k$  for an arrangement of springs using the same mass that would have a period of  $2.50 \pm 0.01$  s. Include the absolute uncertainty in your answer.

$k = \dots\dots\dots$   $\text{N m}^{-1}$  [2]

[Total: 15]

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