1 In this experiment, you will investigate the phase difference between the oscillations of two mass–spring systems.

(a) • Assemble the apparatus as shown in Fig. 1.1.

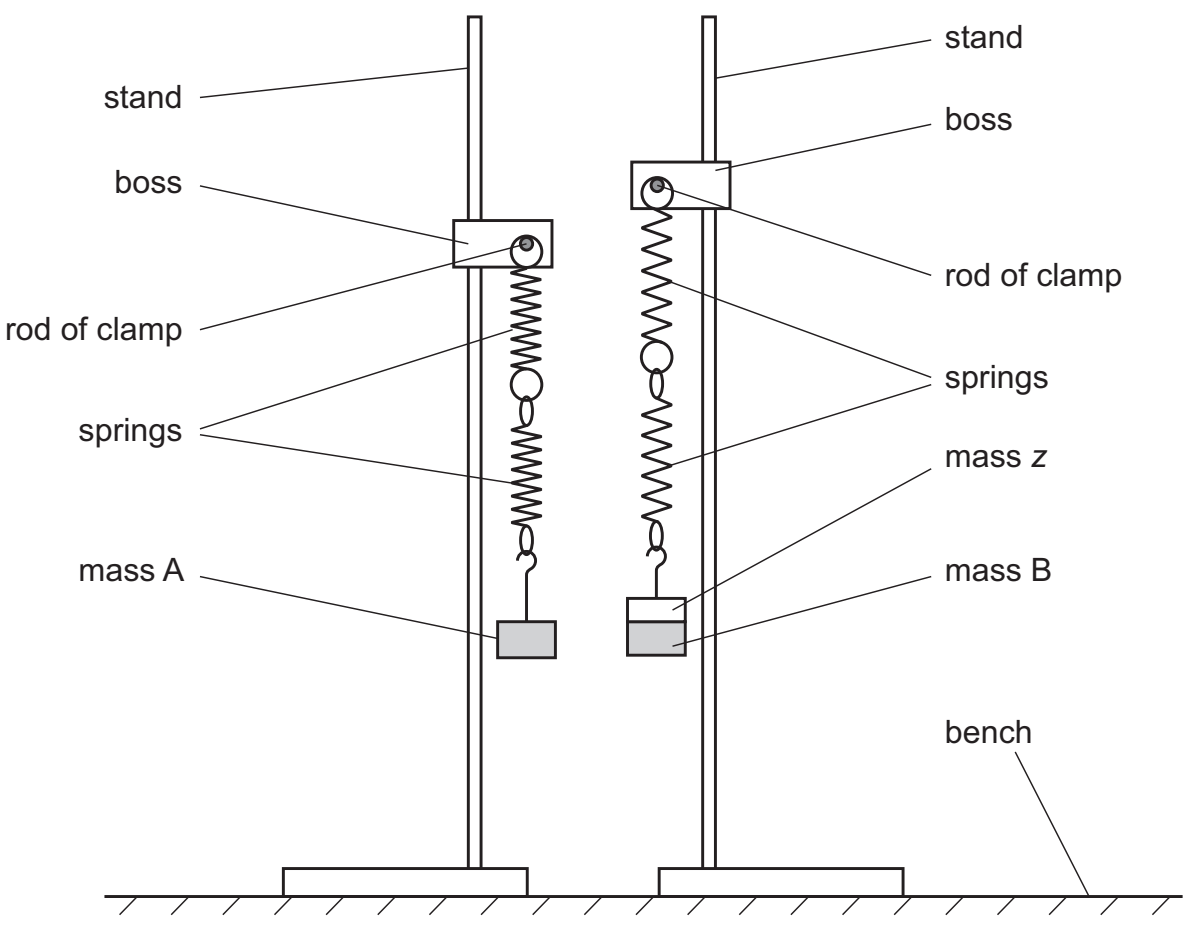

Fig. 1.1

- Mass A and mass B are each 200 g.
- Add a mass z of 40 g to mass B.

  Record the value of z.

  z = ... g

- M is given by $M = 200\,\text{g} + z$.

  Calculate M.

  M = ... g

- Pull both A and B down a short distance and release them together. Observe the oscillations. A and B initially oscillate in phase (both moving up and down together), then their oscillations go out of phase and then become in phase again.
- The time from A and B oscillating in phase to the next time they oscillate in phase is P.

  Measure and record P.

  P = ...

[2]

(b) Change z and determine P. Repeat until you have six sets of values of z and P.

Record your results in a table. Include values of M, $\frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$ and $\frac{1}{P}$ in your table.

[10]

(c) (i) Plot a graph of $\frac{1}{P}$ on the y-axis against $\frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$ on the x-axis. [3]

(ii) Draw the straight line of best fit. [1]

(iii) Determine the gradient and y-intercept of this line.

gradient = ...

y-intercept = ...

[2]

(d) It is suggested that the quantities P and M are related by the equation

$$\frac{1}{P} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{M}} + b$$

where a and b are constants.

Use your answers in **(c)(iii)** to determine the values of a and b.
Give appropriate units.

a = ...

b = ...

[2]

[Total: 20]

You may not need to use all of the materials provided.