



2020 Sec 4 Physics Assignment AS15.2  
Thermistors & LDR - Answers

AS 15.2

- 1 (a) The **I/V ratio** of the graph is the **reciprocal** of the resistance of the thermistor. The graph shows that the voltage across the thermistor increases, the current is increasing at a greater rate. Hence, the resistance of the thermistor is decreasing.
- (b) (i)  $I = 45 \text{ mA} = \mathbf{0.045 \text{ A}}$  To show on graph with a dashed line!  
(ii)  $R = V/I = 2.0 / 0.045 = 44.4 = \mathbf{44 \Omega}$  (2 sf)  
(iii)  $P = I^2 R = (0.045)^2 \times 44 = \mathbf{0.090 \text{ W}}$  (2 sf)
- 2 (a) (i)  $\mathbf{600 \Omega}$   
(ii)  $\mathbf{25 \Omega}$
- (b) At ice point,  $V_T = 600/(600+25) \times 12 = \mathbf{11.5 \text{ V}}$   
At steam point,  $V_T = 25/(25+25) \times 12 = \mathbf{6.0 \text{ V}}$   
Hence the difference in voltage is  $\mathbf{5.5 \text{ V}}$ .
- (c) The resistance  $R$  of the thermistor changes more rapidly in the **range  $0^\circ\text{C}$  to  $10^\circ\text{C}$**  as the graph shows a **steeper gradient** in that temperature range.

OR compare actual change in values in each range!

- 3 (a)  $V_{LDR} = 5 - 0.21 = 4.79 \text{ V}$  and  $V_{\text{resistor}} = 0.21 \text{ V}$

Apply potential divider method:  $\frac{R_{LDR}}{R_{LDR}+10} = \frac{4.79}{5}$

$$5 \cdot R_{LDR} - 4.79 \cdot R_{LDR} = 47.9$$

$$R_{LDR} = \frac{47.9}{0.21}$$

$$R_{LDR} = 228.095 \text{ k}\Omega \approx \mathbf{230 \text{ k}\Omega}$$

- (b)  $V_{LDR} = 5 - 4.2 = 0.8 \text{ V}$  and  $V_{\text{resistor}} = 4.2 \text{ V}$

Apply potential divider method:  $\frac{10}{R_{LDR}+10} = \frac{4.2}{5}$

$$4.2 \cdot R_{LDR} = 50 - 42$$

$$R_{LDR} = \frac{8}{4.2}$$

$$R_{LDR} = 1.905 \text{ k}\Omega = \mathbf{1.9 \text{ k}\Omega}$$