Mark schemes

1 (a) c is the same, regardless of the speed of the light source or the observer **(1)**

1

(b) distance between detectors in rest frame of particles
(= 25 × $(1 - 0.98^2)^{1/2}$) = 5.0 m **(1)**

time taken in rest frame of particles $\left(= \frac{distance}{speed} = \frac{5.0}{0.98c}\right)$ = 1.7 × 10^{-8} s **(1)**

time taken to decrease by ¼ = 2 half lives **(1)**

half life (= 1.7 × 10^{-8}/2) = 8.5 × 10^{-9} s **(1)**

[**alternatively**

time taken in rest frame of detectors $\left(= \frac{distance}{speed} = \frac{25.0}{0.98c}\right)$ = 8.5 × 10^{-8} s
time taken in rest frame of particles
(= 8.5 × 10^{-8} × $(1 - 0.98^2)^{1/2}$) =1.7 × 10^{-8} s)]

4

[5]

2 (a) (A frame of reference) that has a constant velocity ✓

Accept no acceleration

1

(b) (i) Distance = 4.3 *c* light years (or 4.1 × 10^{16} m)

Correct answer only gets the mark

Speed (= $\frac{4.3\ c}{5.0}$) = 2.6 × 10^8 m s^{-1} (or 0.86 *c*)

Accept 2.58

1

(ii) $t = \dfrac{t_o}{(1 - v^2/c^2)^{1/2}}$ where t = 5.0 years (or 1.58×10^8 s)

and $v = 0.86\,c$ (or 2.58×10^8 m s^{-1})

CF from bi to bii provided answer to bi < c

1st mark for correct substitution of either t or v into the above eqn ✓

$t_o = 5.0 \times (1 - (0.86c)^2 / c^2)^{1/2}$ ✓ = 2.6 years ✓

Accept t or v in alternative units

Accept 1.58 (or 1.6) × 10⁸ s in place of 5.0 yr in 3rd mark point

Alt scheme

$l = l_o (1 - v^2 / c^2)^{1/2}$ where t = 5.0 years (or 1.58×10^8 s) and

$v = 0.86\,c$ (or 2.58×10^8 m s^{-1})

Accept 2.5 to 2.6 to any number of sfs

1st mark for correct substitution of either t or v into the above eqn ✓

($l_o = 4.3 \times 365 \times 24 \times 3600 \times 3.0 \times 10^8 = 4.07 \times 10^{16}$ m)

$l = 4.07 \times 10^{16} (1 - (0.86c)^2/ c^2)^{1/2}$ or 2.08×10^{16} m✓

$t_o = \dfrac{l}{v}$ $\left(= \dfrac{2.08 \times 10^{16}\text{ m}}{2.6 \times 10^8\text{ m/s}} = 8.05 \times 10^7\text{s}\right)$ = 2.6 years ✓

Alternative for last 2 marks in Alt scheme (l_o = 4.3 l yr)

$l = 4.3 (1 - (0.86c)^2/ c^2)^{1/2}$ = 2.2 l yr✓

$t_o = \dfrac{l}{v}$ $\left(= \dfrac{2.2}{0.86}\right)$ = 2.6 years ✓

3

[5]

3

(a) $10m_0 = m_0\left(1 - \dfrac{v_2}{c^2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **(1)**

gives $\dfrac{v^2}{c^2}$ = 1 – 0.01 = 0.99 **(1)**

v (= 0.995c) = 2.98(5) × 10^8 m s^{-1} **(1)**

3

(b) $m = m_0\left(1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **(1)**

$m \to$ infinity as $v \to c$ **(1)**

[or m increases as v increases]

$E_k(= mc^2 - m_0c^2) \to$ infinity as $v \to c$ **(1)**

$v = c$ would require infinite E_k (or mass) which is (physically)

impossible **(1)**

Max 3

[6]

4 (a) (i) two beams (or rays) reach the observer **(1)**
interference takes place between the two beams **(1)**
bright fringe formed if/where (optical) path difference = whole number of wavelengths
(or two beams in phase)
[or dark fringe formed if/where (optical) path difference = whole number + 0.5 wavelengths]
(or two beams out of phase by 180 °C/ π/2 /½ cycle) **(1)**

(ii) rotation by 90° realigns beams relative to direction of Earth's motion **(1)**
no shift means no change in optical path difference between the two beams **(1)**
(∴) time taken by light to travel to each mirror unchanged by rotation **(1)**
distance to mirrors is unchanged by rotation **(1)**
(∴) no shift means that the speed of light is unaffected
[or disproves other theory] **(1)**

max 5

(b) the speed of light does not depend on the motion of the light source **(1)** or that of the observer **(1)**

2

[7]

5 (a) (i) Distance travelled in muons' frame of reference

$= 10700(1-0.996^2)^{1/2} = 956$ m ✓

Time taken in muons' frame of reference = 3.2 μs ✓

This is 2 half-lives so number reaching Earth = 250 ✓

OR

Time in Earth frame of reference

$= 10700 / (0.996 \times 3 \times 10^8) = 3.581 \times 10^{-5}$ s ✓

Time taken in muons' frame of reference = 3.2 μs ✓

This is 2 half-lives so number reaching Earth = 250 ✓

OR

Half-life in Earth frame of reference

$= 1.6 \times 10^{-6} / (1-0.996^2)^{1/2} = 17.9 \times 10^{-6}$ s ✓

Time taken = 35.8×10^{-6} s ✓

This is 2 half lives so number reaching Earth = 250 ✓

OR

Distance travelled in muons' frame of reference

$= 10700(1-0.996^2)^{1/2} = 956$ m ✓

Distance the muon travels in one half-life in muons reference frame

$= 0.996 \times 3 \times 10^8 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-6} = 478$ m ✓

Therefore 2 half-lives elapse to travel 956 m so number = 250 ✓

OR

Decay constant in muon frame of reference

Or decay constant in the Earth frame of reference ✓

Uses the corresponding elapsed time and decay constant in

$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ ✓

Arrives at 250 ✓

All steps in the working must be seen

Award marks according to which route they appear to be taking

The number left must be deduced from the correct time that has elapsed in the frame of reference they are using

3

(ii)

	✓ if correct
For an observer in a laboratory on Earth the distance travelled by a muon is greater than the distance travelled by the muon in its frame of reference	✓
For an observer in a laboratory on Earth time passes more slowly than for a muon in its frame of reference	
For an observer in a laboratory on Earth, the probability of a muon decaying each second is lower than it is for a muon in its frame of reference	

1

(b) (i) Total energy = $9.11 \times 10^{-31} \times (3 \times 10^8)^2 / (1\text{-}0.98^2)^{1/2}$ ✓

4.12×10^{-13} J seen to 2 or more sf ✓

Show that so working must be seen

2

(ii) Change = 7.5×10^{-14} J

V = 469 (470) kV allow ecf using their answer to (i) ✓

ecf is their ((i) −3.37) × 10^{-13}) / 1.6 × 10^{-19}

Using 4 × 10^{-13} gives 394 (390) kV

Using 3.9 × 10^{-13} gives 331(330) kV

Do not allow 1 sf answer

1

[7]

6 (a) (i) $l = (vt = 1.00 \times 10^8 \times 15 \times 10^{-9}) = 1.50\text{m}$ **(1)**

(ii) $\left(l = l_0\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}\right)$

$1.50 = l_0\sqrt{1-\frac{(1.00 \times 10^8)^2}{(3.00 \times 10^8)^2}}$ **(1)**

$l_0\left(=\frac{1.50}{0.943}\right) = 1.59$ m **(1)**

3

(b) (i) $m = \dfrac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-\dfrac{v^2}{c^2}}}$ **(1)** $\left[\text{or } \dfrac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-\dfrac{(1.00 \times 10^8)^2}{(3.00 \times 10^8)^2}}}\right]$

$m \left(\text{or } \dfrac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-\dfrac{(1.00 \times 10^8)^2}{(3.00 \times 10^8)^2}}} \right) = 1.06m_0$

[or = $1.06 \times 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ or 1.77×10^{-27} kg] **(1)**
kinetic energy = $(m - m_0)c^2$ **(1)**
[or = $0.06m_0c^2$ or $0.06 \times 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \times (3 \times 10^8)^2$]
= 9.1×10^{-12} (J) **(1)**

(ii) total k.e. = $(10^7 \times 9.1 \times 10^{-12}) = 9.1 \times 10^{-5}$ (J) **(1)**

k.e. per second $\left(= \dfrac{9.1 \times 10^{-5}}{1.5 \times 10^{-9}} \right)$ = 6080W

max 5

[8]

7 (a) speed of light in free space independent of motion of source and / or the observer✓
and of motion of observer

1

(b) laws of physics have the same form in all inertial frames
laws of physics unchanged from one inertial frame to another ✓

1

(c) time taken$\left(= \dfrac{\text{distance}}{\text{speed}} = \dfrac{34 \text{ m}}{0.95 \times 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}}\right) = 1.2 \times 10^{-7}$ s✓

1

(d) $t = \dfrac{18 \text{ ns}}{(1 - 0.95^2 c^2 / c^2)^{1/2}}$ ✓
Allow substitution for this mark

1

time taken for π meson to pass from one detector to the other = 58 ns ✓

1

2 half-lives (approximately) in the detectors' frame of reference. ✓

1

two half-lives corresponds to a reduction to 25 % so 75% of the π mesons passing the first detector do not reach the second detector. ✓
OR
Appreciation that in the lab frame of reference the time is about 6 half-lives had passed✓

1

In 6 half-lives 1 / 64 left so about 90% should have decayed✓

Clear conclusion made
Either Using special relativity gives agreement with experiment
or Failure to use relativity gives too many decaying (WTTE)

1

[8]

8 (a) (i) the same or constant **(1)**
regardless of the speed of the observer or source **(1)**

(ii) physical laws have the same form in all frames **(1)**

(3)

(b) (i) $T_{\frac{1}{2}}$ or beams of mesons $= 8.6 \text{ ns} \times \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ **(1)**

$= 8.6 \times (1 - 0.95^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = 27.5$ ns **(1)**

(ii) beam reduces to 25% in 2 half-lives **(1)**
$v(= 0.95\,c) = 2.85 \times 10^8$ m s^{-1} **(1)**
distance = 2×27.5 ns $\times 2.85 \times 10^8$ m s^{-1} **(1)**
= 15.6 m **(1)**

(6)

[9]