3.

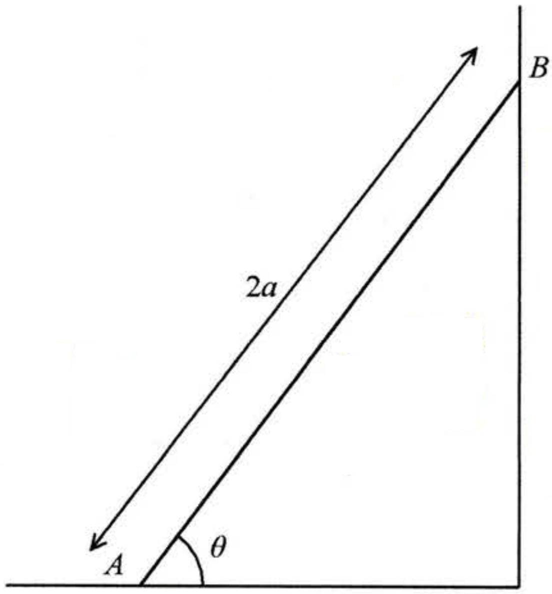

Figure 2

A beam AB has mass m and length $2a$.

The beam rests in equilibrium with A on rough horizontal ground and with B against a smooth vertical wall.

The beam is inclined to the horizontal at an angle θ, as shown in Figure 2.

The coefficient of friction between the beam and the ground is μ

The beam is modelled as a uniform rod resting in a vertical plane that is perpendicular to the wall.

Using the model,

(a) show that $\mu \geqslant \frac{1}{2}\cot\theta$

(5)

A horizontal force of magnitude kmg, where k is a constant, is now applied to the beam at A.

This force acts in a direction that is perpendicular to the wall and towards the wall.

Given that $\tan\theta = \frac{5}{4}$, $\mu = \frac{1}{2}$ and the beam is now in limiting equilibrium,

(b) use the model to find the value of k.

(5)