

Theoretical 2007

1 (c) (ii)

**What the question is about**

The question states that  $\psi_2(x)$  and  $\psi_3(x)$  are eigenfunctions of the Hamiltonian operator, and the corresponding eigenvalues are  $\frac{4h^2}{8mL^2}$  and  $\frac{9h^2}{8mL^2}$ .

This means that:

$$\hat{H}\psi_2(x) = E_2\psi_2(x), \text{ where } E_2 = \frac{4h^2}{8mL^2}$$

and

$$\hat{H}\psi_3(x) = E_3\psi_3(x), \text{ where } E_3 = \frac{9h^2}{8mL^2}.$$

The question wants you to apply the Hamiltonian operator to  $\Psi(x)$ . Here's what happens:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H}\Psi(x) &= \hat{H}(\psi_2(x) + 2\psi_3(x)) \\ &= \hat{H}\psi_2(x) + 2\hat{H}\psi_3(x) \\ &= E_2\psi_2(x) + 2E_3\psi_3(x) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{8mL^2}\psi_2(x) + 2\frac{9h^2}{8mL^2}\psi_3(x) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{8mL^2}\psi_2(x) + \frac{18h^2}{8mL^2}\psi_3(x) \\ &= \frac{h^2}{8mL^2}(4\psi_2(x) + 18\psi_3(x)) \\ &= \frac{2h^2}{8mL^2}(2\psi_2(x) + 9\psi_3(x))\end{aligned}$$