Question 7

The ratio between the root mean square speed of H_2 at 50 K and that of O_2 at 800 K is, (1996 - 1 Mark)

- (a) 4 (b) 2
- (c) 1 (d) 1/4
- (c) The expression of root mean square speed is

$$U_{\rm rms} = \sqrt{\frac{3RT}{M}}$$

Hence,

$$\frac{U_{\rm rms}({\rm H}_2)}{U_{\rm rms}({\rm O}_2)} = \left[\frac{3R(50K)/(2\,{\rm g\,mol}^{-1})}{3R(800K)/(32\,{\rm g\,mol}^{-1})}\right]^{1/2} = 1$$