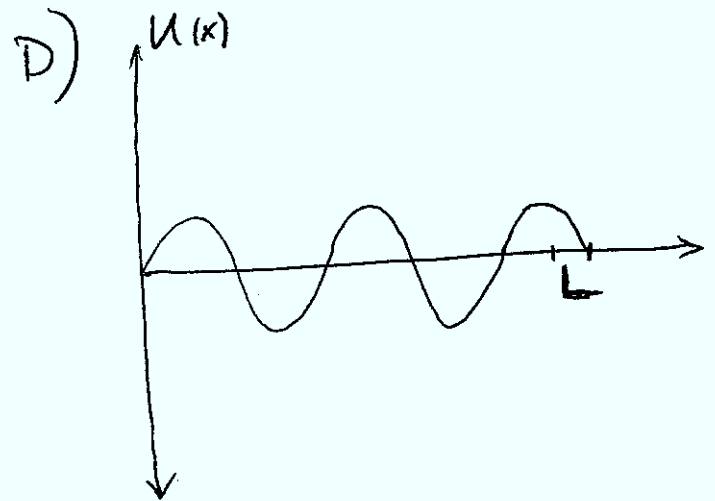
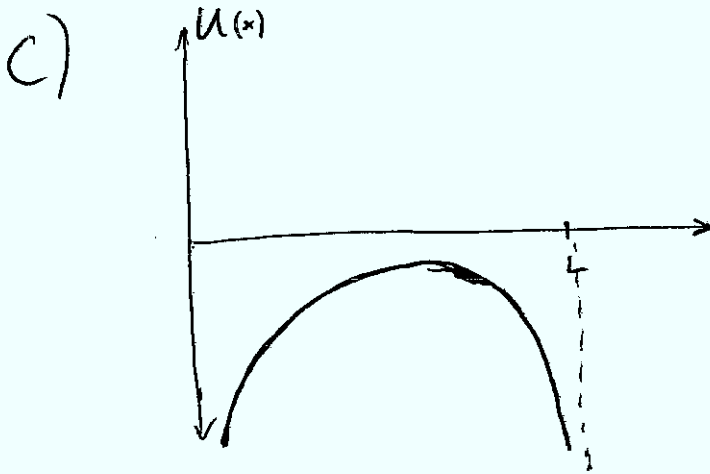
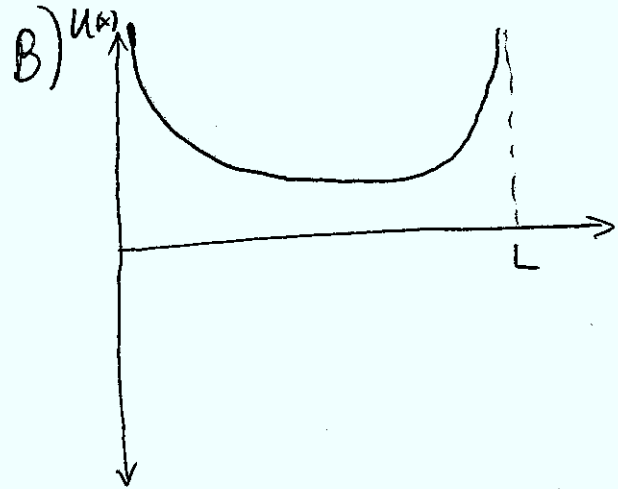
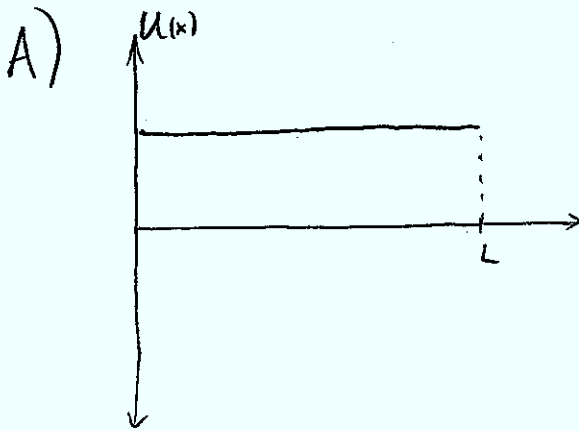
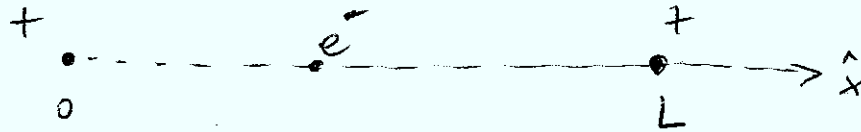
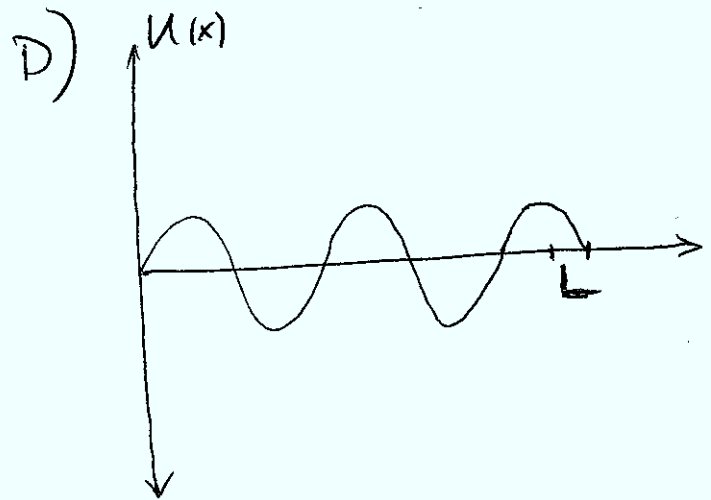
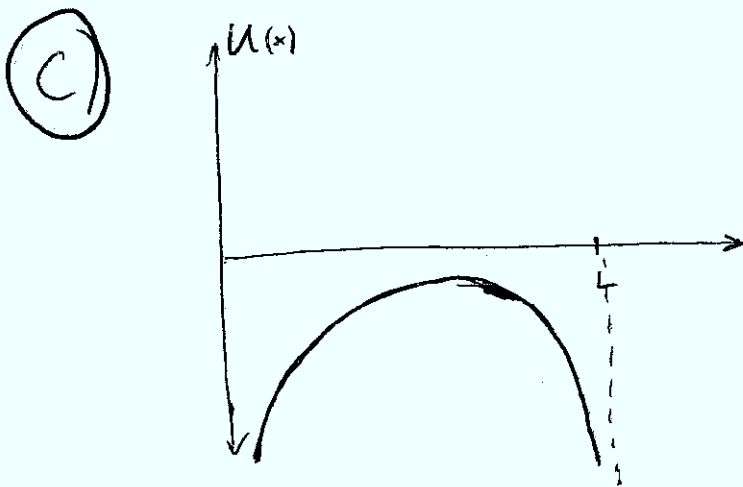
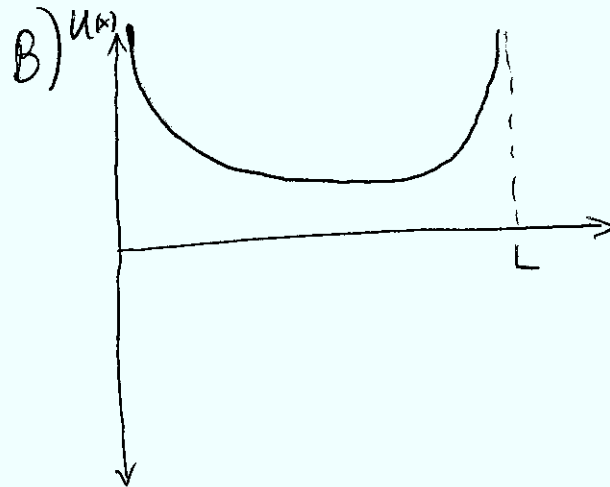
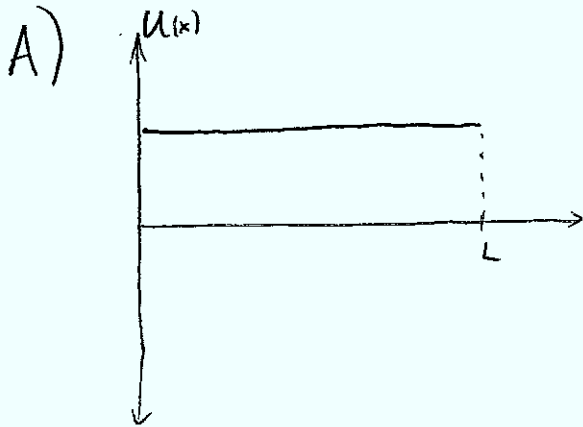


Which of the following diagrams best represents the potential energy function for an electron moving along the x -axis between two positive charges?





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Each charge has Coulomb potential:

$$U_1(x) = -\frac{e}{r_1} \quad U_2(x) = -\frac{e}{r_2}$$

$$U(x) = U_1(x) + U_2(x)$$

A diagram showing two positive charges (+) on a horizontal line. A point x is between them. The distance from the left charge to x is r₁, and the distance from x to the right charge is r₂.

The quantum picture explains the stability of atoms because:

(choose the best answer)

A) The energy levels are discrete.

B) There is a finite minimum energy that the electron can have

C) There is no definite value for the electron's position.

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(choose the best answer)

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B) There is a finite minimum energy that the electron can have \rightarrow no other state for electron to go to.
ground state completely stable

C) There is no definite value for the electron's position.

$\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$ energy-eigenstate wavefunctions for an electron corresponding to two different energies. If we have an electron with initial wavefunction

$$\psi(x,t=0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\psi_1(x) + \psi_2(x))$$

we can say that:

- A) The probability density for this electron will be constant in time.
- B) The probability density for this electron will change with time.

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$$\psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\psi_1(x) e^{-i\frac{E_1}{\hbar}t} + \psi_2(x) e^{-i\frac{E_2}{\hbar}t} \right)$$

$$|\psi(x, t)|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left| \psi_1(x) + \psi_2(x) e^{i\frac{(E_1 - E_2)}{\hbar}t} \right|^2$$

↖ phase doesn't cancel out \Rightarrow $p(x, t)$ will depend on time

For the electron state in the previous question, a measurement of energy is performed. The result we will find is:

A) $E_1 + E_2$

B) something between E_1 and E_2 , but the result is not predetermined

C) either E_1 or E_2 , with equal probability

D) most likely the lowest energy value, E_1