39. We use the parallel axis theorem: $I = I_{\text{com}} + Mh^2$, where I_{com} is the rotational inertia about the center of mass (see Table 11-2(d)), M is the mass, and h is the distance between the center of mass and the chosen rotation axis. The center of mass is at the center of the meter stick, which implies $h = 0.50\,\text{m} - 0.20\,\text{m} = 0.30\,\text{m}$. We find

$$I_{\text{com}} = \frac{1}{12}ML^2 = \frac{1}{12}(0.56\,\text{kg})(1.0\,\text{m})^2 = 4.67 \times 10^{-2}\ \text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2\ .$$

Consequently, the parallel axis theorem yields

$$I = 4.67 \times 10^{-2}\,\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2 + (0.56\,\text{kg})(0.30\,\text{m})^2 = 9.7 \times 10^{-2}\ \text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2\ .$$