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O Level Physics (5054)
IGCSE Physics (0625)


## Authored by

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## PREFACE

I am truly grateful to my Creator, who has given me some wonderful mentors at certain Islamic schools, thus enabling me to achieve feats such as this. I am also thankful to those of my students, whose feedback helped me improve these notes.

You will find these notes pretty mark-oriented. These notes can be a replacement for a textbook if you have a teacher.

My advice to students is that once you have covered some topics in class, then adopt this workflow:

- use these notes to revise
- practice related past paper questions
- discuss difficulties with your teacher


## EXCLUDED TOPICS

Physics syllabus is revised by CAIE from time to time. Therefore, you may come across questions related to certain topics in past-papers that are no longer relevant. Here is a list of topics that have been excluded:

- Use of vernier scale
(However, students still need to know other details related to vernier calipers, e.g., their ability to measure accurately to one-tenth of a millimeter, their ability to measure internal diameter, etc.)
- Transmission of pressure in hydraulic systems
- Use of manometer
- Principles of thermometry
- Practical thermometers
- Specific latent heat
(However, latent heat has not been excluded.)
- Experiments related to refraction of sound waves
- Internal structure of a cathode-ray oscilloscope (CRO) (However, use of CRO has not been excluded.)
- Capacitors
- Applications of electrostatic charging
- Wiring a mains plug
- Methods of magnetization and demagnetization
- Magnetic screening
- Truth tables, transistors, logic gates, bistable and astable circuits
- Thermionic emission
- Power rating of resistors and other components
- Use of the formula: $E=m c^{2}$


## UNIT 1: MEASUREMENT

- Physical quantities are either scalars or vectors.
- Scalars don't have a direction, e.g., distance, speed or time.
- Vectors have a direction, e.g., displacement, velocity or force.
- SI base units include:
- m
- kg

○ S

- A
- K
- Derived units are based on base units, e.g.,
- Speed: m/s
- Density: kg/m ${ }^{3}$
- Prefixes can be used if a unit is too big or too small for a purpose:
- mega (M) means 1,000,000
- kilo (k) means 1,000
- centi (c) means $\frac{1}{100}$
- milli (m) means $\frac{1}{1000}$
- micro $(\mu)$ means $\frac{1}{1000000}$
- Measurement of Length:

| NAME | LEAST COUNT | SUITABILITY | RANGE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ruler | 1 mm or 0.1 cm |  | 1 m |
| Measuring tape | 1 mm or 0.1 cm | can measure curved <br> distance | 10 m |
| Vernier calipers | 0.1 mm or 0.01 cm | can also measure internal <br> diameter | 15 cm |
| Micrometer | 0.01 mm or 0.001 cm | most accurate | 2 cm |

- Measurement using micrometer screwgauge:

Length $=$ FixedScaleReading + RotatingScaleReading $x$ LeastCount $\pm$ ZeroError

- Zero error is the non-zero measurement (when vernier calipers or micrometer is) closed.
o Zero error needs to be added or subtracted from the measurement for correction.
- Measurement of time:

| NAME | LEAST COUNT | REMARK |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Watch / Clock | 1 s |  |
| Stopwatch | 0.01 s |  |
| Ticker-tape timer | $\frac{1}{50} \operatorname{sor} \frac{1}{60} s$ | It has a vibrating arm which puts <br> dots on a paper strip. Each gap <br> (not dot) represents an interval. |

- Measurement of temperature

- Conversion between Kelvin temperature $(T)$ and Celsius temperature $(\theta)$ :

$$
T=\theta+273
$$

- Temperature of a substance depends on average speed of its molecules.
- Absolute zero temperature: It is the lowest possible temperature of 0 K or $-273^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, because molecules have least speed (or kinetic energy).


## UNIT 2: MOTION

- Displacement: It is distance in a particular direction.
- Speed: It is distance covered per unit time.

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
s=\frac{d}{t} \\
\text { nit time. } & \begin{array}{l}
\text { Use this formula } \\
\text { for velocity too }
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$

- Velocity: It is displacement covered per unit time.
- Acceleration: It is change in velocity per unit time.

$$
a=\frac{v-u}{t}
$$

- Acceleration happens when
- speed changes
- or direction changes
- d-t graph
- Gradient represents speed
- Example:

- s-t graph
- Gradient represents acceleration
- Area under graph represents distance
- Example:


- Uniform acceleration: It is when there are equal increases in velocity per unit time.
- Non-uniform acceleration: It is when there are unequal increases in velocity per unit time.
- Uniform deceleration: It is when there are equal decreases in velocity per unit time.
- Non-uniform deceleration: It is when there are unequal decreases in velocity per unit time.
- Uniform speed: It is when equal distances are covered per unit time.
- Non-uniform speed: It is when unequal distances are covered per unit time.
- While driving,
stopping distance $=$ thinking distance + braking distance
- Thinking distance is affected by tiredness and alcohol
- Braking distance is affected by load, tyre surface, etc.


## UNIT 3: FORCES

- Force: It is a push or pull.
- Unit: N
- These are also forces: weight; tension; friction; magnetic force; electric force; air resistance; thrust; upthrust;
- Addition of vectors

- Law of Parallelogram:

- Head-to-tail Rule:

- Laws of Motion
- First Law: An object either remains at rest, or continues to move in a straight line at constant speed unless acted on by a resultant force.
- Second Law: Acceleration of a mass is directly proportional to the resultant force.

$$
\begin{gathered}
F \propto a \\
F=m a
\end{gathered}
$$

- Acceleration has the same direction as the resultant force.
- For an object going in a circle at constant speed, the resultant force (and hence acceleration) is towards the center of the circle.
- Third Law: When object $A$ exerts a force on object $B$, then object $B$ exerts an equal and opposite force on object A.
- When forces are balanced
- resultant force is zero
- acceleration is zero
- velocity is uniform
- With forces are unbalanced
- resultant force is non-zero
- acceleration is not zero
- velocity is not uniform
- Friction: It is a force that opposes motion.
- It produces heat.
- Free-fall
- Without air
- Constant acceleration (like that on moon).
- Objects of different weights fall together.
- With air
- Acceleration decreases (from initial $9.8 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$ on Earth).
- Resultant force is weight minus air-resistance.
- When the resultant force becomes zero, there is no acceleration and the body is said to be falling with terminal velocity.


## UNIT 4: DEFORMATION

- Force produces extension (or compression).
- Extension: It is the difference between new length and original length.
- Hooke's Law: Force is directly proportional to extension up to limit of proportionality.

$$
\begin{gathered}
F \propto x \\
F=k x
\end{gathered}
$$

- where $k$ is spring's constant
- Spring's constant: It is force per unit extension.
- Unit: N/m
- spring's constant $k$ reflects stiffness of a spring
- Two possible graphs:

- Point $P$ is called limit of proportionality.
- Beyond limit of proportionality, spring becomes easier to extend.
- This means that same increase in force will now produce a greater extension than before.


## UNIT 5: MASS, WEIGHT AND DENSITY

- Mass: It is the amount of matter (substance) in a body.
- Weight: It is force on a mass in a gravitational field.
- It is equal to product of mass and gravitational field strength.

$$
W=m g
$$

- Comparison:

| WEIGHT | It is amount of matter |
| :--- | :--- |
| It is a force | Unit is kilogram |
| Unit is newton | Scalar |
| Vector | Same on earth and moon |
| Different on earth and moon | Measured using balance |
| Measured using newton meter | Me |

- Inertia: The inertia of an object is its resistance to changes in motion.
- Mass is a measure of an object's inertia.
- For example, a truck has more mass and hence more inertia than a car. So a truck is harder to move and harder to stop.
- Gravitational field strength of Earth is $9.8 \mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{kg}$.
- Acceleration due to gravity on Earth is $9.8 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$.
- Measuring instruments:
- Newton-meter: More the weight, more the spring stretches.
- Using the formula $W=m g$, it can have a scale for mass too. The value of ' $g$ ' is assumed in such a case.
- Beam balance: Measures mass by comparing the weight of an unknown mass with the weight of known mass (e.g., disc).
- Density: It is the mass per unit volume.

$$
\rho=\frac{m}{V}
$$

- Unit: $\frac{\mathrm{kg}}{\mathrm{m}^{3}}$
- Measurement of volume: Volume can be found by
- Displacing a liquid
- For regular shaped objects a formula may be used, for example:
- Block: $V=l \times w \times h$
- Cylinder: $V=\pi r^{2} \times l$
- Less dense liquids and gases rise above more dense liquids and gases respectively.


## UNIT 6: TURNING EFFECT OF FORCES

- Moment of a force: It is product of force and perpendicular distance (between pivot and line of force).

$$
\text { Moment of force }=F \times d
$$

- Moments can be clockwise or anticlockwise.
- The Principle of Moments: For a body in equilibrium, the sum of clockwise moments is equal to the sum of anticlockwise moments.
- Example:

sum of anticlockwise moments $=$ sum of clockwise moments

$$
\left(F_{1} \times d_{1}\right)+\left(F_{2} \times d_{2}\right)+\cdots=\left(F_{a} \times d_{a}\right)+\left(F_{b} \times d_{b}\right)+\cdots
$$

- Centre of mass: It is the point through which the whole weight of an object seems to act for any orientation of the object.
- Centre of mass of an object (such as ring) can lie outside the object.
- Experiment to determine centre of mass of a plane lamina:
- set lamina swinging (to ensure minimal friction at pivot)
- allow to come to rest
- use of plumb line from hole
- mark line along plumb line (on lamina)
- hang from another hole and repeat
- hang from 3rd hole and repeat
- point of intersection of lines is centre of mass
- Stability: It is the ability of an object to regain its original position after it has been tilted slightly.
- Stable objects have
- low centre of mass
- broad base


## UNIT 7: WORK, ENERGY AND POWER

- Energy: It is the ability to do work.

$$
E=W
$$

- Work: It is the product of force and the distance moved parallel to the direction of force.

○ Unit: J Joule actually means Nm

- Forms of energy:
- nuclear
- radiant (e.g., light, X-rays, etc.)
- electrical
- thermal
- chemical (potential) energy
- Elastic (potential) energy: It is the energy due to condition of being stretched or compressed.
- Gravitational potential energy: It is the energy due to position (in a gravitational field).

$$
\begin{gathered}
E=W h \\
E=(m g) h
\end{gathered}
$$

- Kinetic energy: It is the energy due to motion of a mass.

$$
E=\frac{1}{2} m v^{2}
$$

- Principle of conservation of energy: Energy can be converted from one form to another but the total amount remains constant.
- Power: It is work done per unit time.

$$
P=\frac{W}{t}
$$

(OR) It is energy converted per unit time.

$$
P=\frac{E}{t}
$$

o Unit: W

- A relationship:

$$
\text { input energy }=\text { useful output energy }+ \text { wasted energy }
$$

- Efficiency

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { efficiency }=\frac{\text { useful output energy }}{\text { input energy }} \\
& \text { efficiency }=\frac{\text { useful power output }}{\text { power input }}
\end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned}
& \text { Multiply by } \\
& \begin{array}{l}
100 \text { to get a } \\
\text { percentage }
\end{array} \\
& \hline
\end{aligned}
$$

Renewable energy: Energy source that will not run out.

- Examples: solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, etc.
- Nonrenewable energy: Energy source that will run out.
- Examples: coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear,etc.


## UNIT 8: PRESSURE

- Pressure: It is the force per unit area.

$$
p=\frac{F}{A}
$$

- Unit: Pa

Pascal actually means $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$

- Examples
- Swords exert high pressure because they concentrate the force on a small area.
- Skis exert low pressure on the snow because the weight is spread over a large area.
- Pressure of gases
- Pressure of gases is due to molecular collisions.
- Pressure of a gas can be increased by
- decreasing volume
* molecules closer $\rightarrow$ more frequent collisions
- increasing mass
* molecules closer $\rightarrow$ more frequent collisions
- increasing temperature
* molecules faster $\rightarrow$ more forceful and more frequent collisions
- Atmospheric pressure
- At sea level it is:

1 atmosphere $=1.0 \times 10^{5} \mathrm{~Pa}=76 \mathrm{~cm}$ of $\mathrm{Hg}=760 \mathrm{~mm}$ of Hg

- On a mountain top it is less.
- In a deep mine it is more.
- Pressure of liquids

$$
p=\rho g h
$$

- Pressure of a liquid is due to weight of the liquid.
- Total pressure beneath the surface of a liquid is the sum of atmospheric pressure and the liquid's pressure.
- When something is immersed in a liquid, the liquid pushes it up. This upthrust is because the pressure near the top of the object is less and the pressure near the bottom of the object is more.
- Simple Mercury Barometer

- Purpose: To measure atmospheric pressure.
- Working: Pressure of atmosphere is equal to the pressure of liquid marked h .

$$
\begin{gathered}
p_{a}=p_{l} \\
p_{a}=\rho g h
\end{gathered}
$$

- Boyle's Law:

$$
\begin{gathered}
p \propto \frac{1}{V} \\
p_{1} V_{1}=p_{2} V_{2}
\end{gathered}
$$

- This formula assumes that
- temperature remains same
- mass remains same


## UNIT 9: SIMPLE KINETIC THEORY OF MATTER

- Kinetic theory of matter: According to this theory, molecules of solids, liquids and gases are in continuous motion. This helps us understand and explain a range of phenomenon including:
- diffusion
- evaporation and other changes of state
- pressure of a gas
- why solids have a fixed shape
- expansion
- Comparison of states of matter:

| SOLID | LIQUID | GAS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fixed shape | No fixed shape | No fixed shape |
| Fixed volume | Fixed volume | Fills all of available space |
| Most dense | Intermediately dense | Least dense |
| Incompressible | Incompressible | Compressible |
| Molecules vibrate about fixed positions | Molecules vibrate inside clusters, and can change position | Molecules move freely |
| Strong intermolecular forces | Fairly strong intermolecular forces | Weak intermolecular forces |
| Least speed (or kinetic energy) | Intermediate speed (or kinetic energy) | Most speed (or kinetic energy) |
| Least average separation between molecules | Intermediate average separation between molecules | Most average separation between molecules |

- Evidence of molecular motion
- Diffusion
- Reflections from smoke particles in a glass cell are observed using a microscope. The smoke particles show random motion because of the air molecules hitting them.
- Observing pollen on the surface of water


## UNIT 10: MOMENTUM

- Momentum: It is product of mass and velocity.

$$
p=m v
$$

- It is a vector quantity.
- Unit: $\frac{\mathrm{kg} \mathrm{m}}{\mathrm{s}}$
- Impulse: It is the change in momentum when force $F$ acts on an object for time $t$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { impulse }=F \times t \\
& F \times t=p_{2}-p_{1}
\end{aligned}
$$

- Resultant force: It is change in momentum per unit time.

$$
F=\frac{p_{2}-p_{1}}{t}
$$

- Principle of conservation of momentum: In absence of external forces, total momentum before collision equals total momentum after collision.

$$
m_{1} u_{1}+m_{2} u_{2}=m_{1} v_{1}+m_{2} v_{2}
$$

When substituting values for velocities, signs are important. Therefore, assume one direction to be positive, and the opposite direction to be negative.

- Example:


BEFORE COLLISION


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