

WE CAN DO IT

Version 2.0

Definitions in Physics 6091 O-Level Syllabus

Topics	Definition		
Measurements	A physical quantity is one that can be measured and consists of a numerical <u>magnitude</u> and a <u>unit</u> .		
	Each complete to-and-fro motion of an object is one oscillation .		
	The Period T of a pendulum is the time taken for a complete oscillation.		
Kinematics	Scalar quantities are physical quantities that have <u>magnitude</u> only.		
	Vector quantities are physical quantities that possess both <u>magnitude</u> and <u>direction</u> .		
	Speed is the distance moved per unit time.		
	Displacement is distance travelled in a specified direction.		
	Average speed is total distance travelled over total time.		
	Velocity is the <i>rate of change of displacement</i> .		
	Acceleration is the rate of change of velocity.		
	Uniform Acceleration is the constant rate of change of velocity.		
	Free fall is when an object falls and experiences only the gravitational force.		
Dynamics	A force is a push or a pull that one object exerts on another.		
	Newton's 1st Law of motion states that every object will continue in its state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line unless a resultant force acts on it. {note : This is also known as Law of Inertia }		
	Newton's 2nd Law of motion states that when a resultant force acts on an object of constant mass, the object will accelerate and move in the direction of the resultant force. The product of the mass and acceleration of the object is equal to the resultant force.		
	One Newton (1 N) is defined as the force that will produce an acceleration of 1 m s ⁻² on a mass of 1 kg.		
	Newton's 3rd Law of Motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.		
	Friction is a force that opposes sliding motion between two surfaces in contact.		
Mass, Weight,	Mass is a measure of the amount of matter or substance in an object.		
Density	Density is the mass per unit volume of a substance.		
	Weight is the gravitational force acting on a mass.		
	Gravitational field is a <u><i>region</i></u> in which a mass experiences a force due to gravitational attraction.		
	Gravitational field strength is defined as the gravitational force acting per unit mass on an object. {eg. g =10N/kg}		

Topics	Definition		
	Inertia of an object refers to the reluctance of the object to change its state of rest or motion due to its mass.		
Turning effect of Force	Moment of a force is the product of force and the perpendicular distance from the pivot to the line of action of the force.		
	Principle of moments states that when a body is in equilibrium, the sum of clockwise moments about a pivot is equal to the sum of anticlockwise moments about the <u>same pivot</u> .		
	The centre of gravity of an object is defined as the point through which its whole weight appears to act.		
	Stability refers to the ability of an object to return to its original position after it is slightly displaced.		
Energy, Work and	Energy is the capacity to do work.		
Power	Principle of conservation of energy states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. It can be converted from one form to another or transferred from one body to another. Total energy in an isolated system remains constant.		
	Work done by a constant force on an object is given by the product of the force and the distance moved by the object in the direction of the force.		
	One Joule is the amount of work done by a force of 1 N which moves an object through a distance of 1 m in the direction of the force.		
	Gravitational potential energy is the energy which a body possesses because of its position relative to the ground.		
	Kinetic energy is the energy a body possessed due to its motion.		
	Power is the rate of work done or rate of energy converted.		
	Efficiency is the ratio of useful energy (or power) output over the total energy (or power) input and is usually expressed as a percentage.		
	One watt is defined as the rate of work done or energy conversion of one joule per second.		
	Renewable Energy is defined as energy from sources that can be <u>replenished naturally</u> .		
Pressure	Pressure is defined as force per unit area.		
	Atmospheric pressure is the weight of a layer of air that acts on the Earth per unit area.		
Temperature	When two bodies are in thermal contact and there is <u>no net flow</u> of heat between them, they are said to be in thermal equilibrium .		
	Temperature is a measure of the degree of hotness or coldness of a body.		
	Heat refers to the amount of thermal energy that is being transferred from a hotter to a colder region.		

Topics	Definition		
	Thermometric property is a measurable physical property that varies continuously and linearly with temperature.		
	Ice point is the temperature of pure melting ice at one atmospheric pressure and is assigned a value of 0°C. Steam point is the temperature of steam from water boiling at one atmospheric pressure assigned a value of 100°C.		
Kinetic Model of Matter	Tiny particles in continuous motion is known as the kinetic model of matter .		
	Brownian motion is the random motion of particles suspended in a fluid.		
Heat Transfer	Heat refers to the amount of thermal energy that is transferred from a hotter to a colder region.		
	Conduction is the process of thermal energy being transferred through a medium from one particle to another without any flow of the medium.		
	Convection is the transfer of thermal energy by <u>means of convection</u> <u>currents</u> in a fluid (liquid or gas), due to a difference in density.		
	Radiation is the transfer of thermal energy in the form of electromagnetic waves such as infrared radiation without the aid of a medium.		
Thermal Properties of Matter	Internal Energy consists of kinetic energy (due to the motion of particles) and potential energy (due to the intermolecular forces) present in the molecules of a substance.		
	Heat capacity C , is the amount of thermal energy required to raise the temperature of a body by 1 K or 1°C. (unit : J/K)		
	Specific heat capacity, c, is the amount of thermal energy required to raise the temperature of unit mass of a material by 1 K or $1^{\circ}C$ (J/kg $^{\circ}$ C)		
	Latent heat is the energy released or absorbed during a change of state, without a change in temperature. (unit : J)		
	Latent heat of fusion , L _f of a solid is the amount of thermal energy required to change it from solid to liquid state, or vice versa, <u>without</u> <u>any change in temperature</u> . (unit : J)		
	Specific latent heat of fusion l_f of a solid is the amount of thermal energy required to change a <u>unit mass</u> of the solid to liquid, or vice versa, without a change in temperature. (unit : J/kg)		
	Latent heat of vaporization , Lv , of a substance is the thermal energy required to change it from liquid to vapour state, or vice versa, without any change in temperature. (unit : J)		
	Specific latent heat of vaporization , lv of a substance is the thermal energy required to change unit mass of a substance from liquid to vapour state, or vice versa, without any change in temperature (unit : J/kg)		

Topics	Definition		
	Condensation is a change of state of a substance from gas to liquid and energy is released.		
	Boiling is a process whereby a liquid changes to gas at constant temperature (its boiling point)		
	Evaporation is a change of state of a substance from liquid to gas below boiling point.		
	Freezing is a change of state when a substance changes from liquid to soild without any change in temperature.		
	Melting is a change of state when a solid changes to a liquid upon heating at a constant temperature.		
Light	First law of reflection states that the incident ray, the reflected ray and the normal at the point of incidence all lie in the <u>same plane</u> .		
	Second law of reflection states that the <i>angle of incidence</i> is equal to the <i>angle of reflection</i> .		
	Angle of incidence is the angle between an incident ray and the normal at the point of incidence.		
	Angle of reflection is the angle between a reflected ray and the normal at the point of incidence.		
	Angle of refraction is the angle between a refracted ray and the normal at the point of incidence.		
	Refractive Index is the <i>ratio of speed of light</i> in vacuum or air to the speed of light in the denser medium.		
	An optically denser medium slows down the speed of light when it enters from a less optically dense medium.		
	The first Law of refraction states that the incident ray, the refracted ray and the normal all lie in the same plane at the point of incidence.		
	The second law of refraction states that, for two given media, the ratio of the sine of the <i>angle of incidence i</i> to the <i>sine of the angle of refraction r</i> is a <u>constant</u> .		
	Critical Angle, c is defined as the angle of incidence in the optically denser medium for which the angle of refraction in the less dense medium is 90°.		
	Total Internal Reflection takes place only when a ray of light travels from an optically denser to optically less dense medium with an angle of incidence greater than the critical angle. The light is totally and internally reflected.		
	Focal length is the distance between the optical centre and the principal focus of a lens.		
	Focal plane is a flat surface perpendicular to the principal axis which passes through the principal focus.		
	Optical centre is the point midway between the lens' surfaces on its principal axis. (light rays passing through the optical centre are not		

Topics	Definition		
	refracted)		
	Principal axis is the horizontal line passing symmetrically through the optical centre of the lens.		
	Principal focus is the point at which all rays parallel to the principal axis converge to (or diverge) after refraction by the lens.		
	Real image is an image formed by a lens that can be captured on a screen. It is formed by the actual intersection of light rays.		
	Virtual image is an image formed by a lens/mirror that cannot be captured on a screen. It is NOT formed by the actual intersection of light rays.		
	Normal is a line that is perpendicular to the reflecting or refracting surface at the point of incidence.		
General Wave	The source of a wave is a vibration or oscillation.		
Properties	A wave is a disturbance in a medium that carries energy without a net movement of particles.		
	Transverse waves are waves that travel in a direction <u>perpendicular</u> to the direction of vibration.		
	Longitudinal waves are waves that travel in a direction <u>parallel</u> to the direction of vibration.		
	Crests and troughs are the highest and lowest points of a transverse wave.		
	Any two points in a wave are said to be in phase if they move in the <u>same direction</u> and have the <u>same speed</u> and the <u>same displacement</u> from the rest position.		
	Wavelength is the shortest distance between any two points in a wave that are in phase, e.g. two successive crests or troughs or compression or rarefaction.		
	Amplitude is the <i>maximum displacement</i> of a point of a wave from rest position.		
	Frequency of a wave is the number of complete waves produced per second.		
	Period is the time taken for one point on the wave to complete one oscillation. This is also the time taken to produce one complete wave.		
	Wavefront is an imaginary line on a wave that joins all points that are in the <i>same phase</i> .		
Sound	Sound is produced by vibrating sources placed in a medium which produce regions of compression and rarefaction.		
	Longitudinal waves show areas of compression and rarefaction : Compressions are regions of high pressure due to particles being close together.		

Topics	Definition
	Rarefactions are regions of low pressure due to particles being spread further apart.
	Echo is the reflected sound from a surface heard after an interval of silence.
	The maximum pressure change gives the amplitude of the sound wave.
	Sound with frequencies above the upper limit of the human range of audibility (20 000 Hz) is known as ultrasound .
Static Electricity	Sound with higher frequency will have a higher pitch . Louder sounds have higher amplitude. Electrostatics is the study of static electric charges.
y	Laws of charges states that like charges repel and unlike charges attract.
	Electrostatic induction is the process of charging a <u>conductor</u> without any contact with the charging body.
	An electric field is a <u>region</u> where an electric charge experiences an electric force.
	The direction of the field is defined as the direction of the force on a <i>small positive charge</i> .
	The strength of an electric field is indicated by how close the field lines are to each other.
Current of	An electric current is a measure of the rate of flow of electric charge.
Electricity	1 Amphere is the flow of 1 coulomb of charge per second.
	Electromotive force (EMF) of an electrical source is defined as the work done by the source in driving <u>a unit charge</u> around a <u>complete</u> <u>circuit.</u>
	The potential difference (p.d.) across a component in an electric circuit is defined as the work done by the source to drive a <u>unit charge</u> through <u>the component.</u>
	Resistance of a metallic component is defined as the ratio of the potential difference V across it to the current I flowing through it.
	Ohm's Law states that current passing through a metallic conductor is directly proportional to the potential difference across its ends, provided the physical conditions (e.g. temperature) are constant.
D.C. Circuits	A series circuit is a connection where the components are connected one after another in a single loop and there is only one path through which electric current can flow.
	A parallel circuit is a connection where there is more than one path through which current can flow.

Topics	Definition		
	A potential divider is a line of resistors connected in series. It is used to provide a fraction of the voltage of a source to another part of the circuit.		
	Transducers are electrical or electronic devices that convert energy from one form to another.		
	Input transducers convert non-electrical energy to electrical energy. Eg. microphone, Thermocouple, <i>Thermistor and LDRs</i> Output transducers convert electrical energy to other forms of energy. Eg. microphone, loudspeaker, LED, voltmeter and ammeter.		
	Thermistor is a device whose resistance varies with temperature.		
	Light-dependent resistor is a device whose resistance varies with amount of light shining on it.		
Practical Electricity	Alternating current is an electric current that periodically reverses its <u>direction</u> and changes its <u>magnitude</u> in a circuit.		
	Live wire (brown) is usually at a <u>high voltage</u> like 240 V in Singapore.		
	Neutral wire (blue) is usually at <u>zero voltage</u> .		
	The earth wire (green and yellow) is a low-resistance wire which is connected to the metal casing of the appliance. The other end of the earth wire is connected to the earth so that any leakage of large current will be directed to the ground.		
	Circuit breakers are safety devices that can switch off the electrical supply in a circuit when there is an overflow of current.		
	A fuse is a safety device included in an electrical circuit to prevent excessive current flow by breaking the circuit.		
	Double insulation is a safety feature in electrical appliances. They normally use two-pin plug (only live and neutral wire). The electric cable is insulated from the internal components of the appliance and the internal components are also insulated from the external casing (normally plastic).		
Magnetism	Law of magnetism states that:		
	Like poles repel, unlike poles attract.		
	Magnetic Induction is the process whereby an object made of a magnetic material becomes a magnet when it is near or in contact with a magnet.		
	A group of atomic magnets pointing in the same direction is called a magnetic domain .		
	A magnetic field is a region in which a magnetic object, placed within the influence of the field, experiences a magnetic force.		
	Magnetic materials (e.g. iron) which are easily magnetized but do not retain their magnetism are called soft magnetic materials .		

Topics	Definition	
	Magnetic materials (e.g. steel) which are harder to magnetize but retain their magnetism are called hard magnetic materials .	
Electromagnetism	Motor Effect is produced when a current carrying conductor is placed in a magnetic field.	
	A D.C. Motor is a device that converts electrical energy to mechanical energy.	

PHYSICS FORMULA

Topics	Formula	Symbols /
		Units /
Maaguramanta	Deviced of a conduction	Remarks
measurements	Period of pendulum	
	T: Period of pendulum (s)	
	$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{t}{a}}$ l: length of pendulum (m)	
	g: gravitational field strength (N/kg)	
Kinematics	Average Speed	Unit: m/s
	, total distance	0
	average speea =	
	Δx	
	• Average Velocity, $v = \frac{1}{\Delta t}$	
	Ar: total displacement	
	Δt : total time	
	• Acceleration, $a = \frac{v-u}{\Delta t}$	Unit: m/s ²
	<i>v</i> : final velocity	
	u: initial velocity	
	• Gradient of distance-time graph = speed	
	• Gradient of displacement-time graph = velocity	
	d/m Ad	
	$Gradient = \frac{\Delta u}{\Delta t}$	
	= speed/velocity of object	
	$\Lambda d = change in distance$	
	$\Delta d \qquad \Delta t = change in time$	
	At	
	∠ t/s	

Topics	Formula	Symbols /
		Units / Remarks
	• Gradient of speed/velocity - time graph = acceleration	Unit: m/s ²
	v/ms^{-1} $Gradient = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$	
	$= acceleration$ $\Delta v = change in speed/velocity$ $\Delta t = change in time$	
	Δt t/s	
	• Area under the speed-time graph = total distance travelled	
	 Area under the velocity-time graph = total displacement travelled 	
	v/ms*	
	v_1 Area under graph = distance tr = area of tria	avelled Ingle
	$=\frac{1}{2} \times t_1 \times v_1$	
	$t_1 \rightarrow t/s$	
Dynamics	Newton's Second Law, $F_{net} = ma$	Unit: N
Mass, Weight, Density	• Weight, $W = mg$	N
	• Density, $\rho = \frac{m}{v}$	kg/m ³
Turning effect of Force	• Moment of force $moment = F \times d$ $d = \perp$ distance from line of action of force to pivot	Nm
	• Principle of Moment sum of anticlockwise moments = sum of clockwise moments	
Energy, Work and Power	• Work Done $WD = F \times d$	J
	d: distance travelled in the direction of force	
	• Power $P = \frac{E}{t} = \frac{WD}{t}$	W
	• Gravitational Potential Energy $E_P = mgh$	J

Topics	Formula	Symbols / Units /
		Remarks
	Kinetic energy	J
	$E_K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$	
	• Efficiency E _ useful output power x 1000/	% (no unit)
	• Efficiency, E = × 100%	unity
Pressure	Pressure, $P = \frac{F}{A}$	Pa, N/m ²
	• Pressure of liquid column $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{h} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a}$	
	r – npg	
	• For Hydraulic jack $F_x = F_y$	
	$\overline{A_x} = \overline{A_y}$	
	piston 1 with area A_x piston 2 with area A_y	
	liquid	
	<u>Or</u> work done at piston A = work done at piston B $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{y}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{y}}$	
	<u>Or</u> Vol change at piston A = Vol change at piston B. $A_x \mathbf{x} \mathbf{d}_x = A_y \mathbf{x} \mathbf{d}_y$	
	piston 1 with area A_x	
	liquid	
Temperature	Calculating temperature for thermometer based on length	Valid for
	expansion $\theta^{\circ}C = \frac{X_{\theta} - X_{0}}{X_{100} - X_{\theta}} \times 100$	100 parts. Need to modify if
		interval is
	• For thermocouple, $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{k} \wedge \mathbf{A}$	parts
		ε – emf

Topics	Formula	Symbols /
		Units / Remarks
Thermal Properties of	• Heat Capacity : $Q = C \times \Delta \theta$	J/°C, J/K
Matter	 Heat Capacity and specific Heat Capacity C = m x c Specific Heat Capacity : Q = m x c x Δθ 	J/kg°C, J/kgK
	• Specific Latent heat of fusion $E = m l_f$	J/kg
	• Specific Latent heat of vaporization $E = m l_{v}$	J/kg
General Wave Properties	 Wave velocity, <i>ν</i> = <i>f</i>λ Wave frequency, <i>f</i> = ¹/_T 	v - m/s f - Hz $\lambda - m$ T - s
Light	• Refractive index $\eta = \frac{c}{v}$	<i>c</i> – speed of light 3.0 x 10 ⁸ m/s
	• Snell's Law (refraction) $\eta = \frac{\sin i}{\sin r}$ • Critical Angle, $\eta = \frac{1}{\sin c}$	v – speed of light from <u>air to</u> <u>medium</u> <u>ONLY</u>
Current of Electricity	• Current $I = \frac{Q}{t}$	А
	• Voltage $V = \frac{E}{Q}$	V
	• Ohm's Law $R = \frac{V}{I}$	Ω
	• Resistance of a wire $R = \rho \frac{l}{A}$	$\rho - \Omega m$ $l - m$ $A - m^2$
D.C. Circuits	 <u>Resistance in series</u> R = R₁ + R₂ + R₃ Voltage is shared among all the components Same current flows through all the components 	

Topics	Formula	Symbols /
		Remarks
	Resistance in parallel	
	$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}$	
	 Voltage is the same for parallel resistors Sum of current flowing through each component equals to the current flowing through the source. 	
Practical Electricity	$P = VI, \qquad P = I^2R, \qquad P = \frac{V^2}{R}$	
	Electrical Energy	
	E = Pt	
	E = VIt	

MUST KNOW KEY CONCEPTS/IDEAS/FACTS IN PHYSICS 6091

rements	Key Concepts/ Ideas						
	SI Base Units						
	Qu	antity	Symbol	Unit	Abbreviation		
	L	ength	I	Meter	m		
	ſ	Mass	m	Kilogram	kg		
	-	Time	t	Second	s		
	Tem	perature	Т	Kelvin	К		
	A Sul	mt. of ostance	n	Mole	mol		
	E	lectric urrent	I	Ampere	А		
	Lui In ⁱ	minous tensity	I _v	Candela	cd		
	Table 2	Common	ly used SI pre	fixes			
-	Prefix	Symbol	Factor	Numerica	illy Name		
	giga	G	10 ⁹	1 000 000	000 billion		
	mega	M	106	1 000 000) million		
	kilo	k	10 ³	1 000	thousand		
	centi	С	10-2	0.01	hundredt		
	centi milli	c m	10 ⁻² 10 ⁻³	0.01	hundredt thousand		
	centi milli micro	c m μ	10 ⁻² 10 ⁻³ 10 ⁻⁶	0.01 0.001 0.000 00 ⁻	hundredt thousand millionth		













Topics	Key Concepts/ Ideas
	Vector Diagrams
	Parallelogram Tip-to-Tail Method Method
	9.5N 9.5N
	8N 9.5N 8N 9.5N 8N 9.5N (a) (b)
Mass, Weight, Density	Difference between Mass and Weight
	Mass Weight
	 The amount of matter in a body Due to the pull of gravity on a body
	Has only magnitude, i.e. a scalar Has both magnitude and direction, i.e. a vector
	Measured in kilograms (kg) Measured in newtons (N)
	 Constant regardless of the gravitational field strength Varies according to the gravitational field strength
	 Usually measured by a beam balance or calibrated electronic balance Usually measured by a spring or compression balance
	Conversion of density from kg / m^3 to g / cm^3 and vice versa:
	$1000 \text{ kg} / \text{m}^3 = 1.0 \text{ g} / \text{cm}^3$







































Topics

Key Concepts/Ideas





- pin engages.
- Helps in opening the safety shutters in wall socket, making possible the insertion of other two pins. Thicker earth pin:
 - Thicker earth pin has a lower resistance. If there is any leakage current, it provide a lower resistant path for the current to ground rather than through the person, preventing an electric shock.

Earth Leakage Circuit Breakers

The ELCB detects small current leakages from the live wire to the earth wire. When this happens, the current in the live wire will be greater than the neutral wire, causing the ELCB to 'trip'.

Key Concepts/Ideas

Fuse and Earth wire Fuse and Earth Wire work together "The to electrical fault (live wire touches metal casing) at this instance, as the short circuit current which · exceeds the fuse rating flows to the ground via the Earth Wire, · the fuse will melt and break the circuit. Current will be out off to the appliance, · hence protects the appliance and user. At this instance, the short cienif current exceeds the fuse rating the fuse will melt and break the circuit. The casing will not become Tive' as current is cut off live wire touches n metal casing !!! to the appliance ! switch fuse (/ 2401 Ø ov heater with metal casing σV evan.t

Remember to mention appliance will **remain live** if <u>fuse</u> or <u>earth wire</u> is connected incorrectly and a fault occurs.

Double insulation



Topics













Topics	Key Concepts/ Ideas					
	<u>Charged particle is a magnetic field – use FLH Rule</u>					
	Remember to reserve current direction for electron when using FLR					
Electromagnetic Induction	NOT INCLUDED FOR 2021 GCE O LEVEL PHYSICS EXAMINATION (CLT) Electromagnetic Induction					
	solenoid (a cylindrical coil of wire)					
	 As the magnet moves towards and away from the solenoid, the magnetic flux (or magnetic lines of force) linking the coils have changed. By Faraday's Law, this will cause an induced emf and hence an induced current to flow. By Lenz's Law, when the N pole of the magnet moves towards the solenoid, a N pole is form at that end of the solenoid. The current when view from that end will flow in an anti-clockwise direction. When the N pole of the magnet moves away from the solenoid, a S pole is form at that end of the solenoid. The current when view from that end of the solenoid. The current when view from that end of the solenoid. Magnitude of induced e.m.f. (i.e current) could be increased by increasing the number of turns in the solenoid, strength of the magnet or speed at which the magnet moved with respect to the solenoid. 					





