

		Ce	ntre	Nun	nber
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NSW Education Standards Authority

2023 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Physics

General Instructions

- Reading time 5 minutes
- Working time 3 hours
- Write using black pen
- Draw diagrams using pencil
- Calculators approved by NESA may be used
- · A data sheet, formulae sheet and Periodic Table are provided at the back of this paper
- · Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page

Total marks: 100

Section I – 20 marks (pages 2–13)

- Attempt Questions 1–20
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

Section II – 80 marks (pages 17–39)

- Attempt Questions 21–34
- · Allow about 2 hours and 25 minutes for this section

Section I

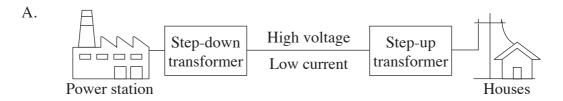
20 marks Attempt Questions 1–20 Allow about 35 minutes for this section

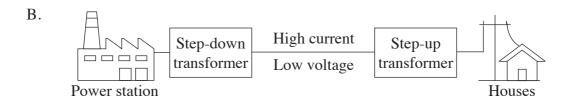
Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–20.

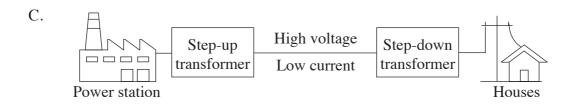
1 The gravitational field strength acting on a spacecraft decreases as its altitude increases.

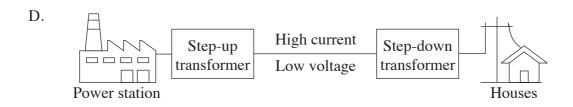
This is due to a change in the

- A. mass of Earth.
- B. mass of the spacecraft.
- C. density of the atmosphere.
- D. distance of the spacecraft from Earth's centre.
- **2** Which diagram best represents the transmission of energy from a power station to people's houses?

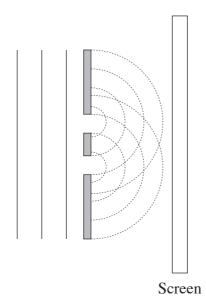








3 A diagram representing a double slit experiment using light is shown.



Which of the following best represents the expected pattern on the screen?

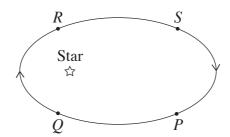
- Α.
- В.
- C.
- D.

4 Caesium-137 has a half-life of 30 years.

What mass of caesium-137 will remain after 90 years, if the initial mass was 120 g?

- A. 4 g
- B. 15 g
- C. 40 g
- D. 60 g

An exoplanet is in an elliptical orbit, moving in the direction shown. The distances between consecutive positions P, Q, R and S are equal.



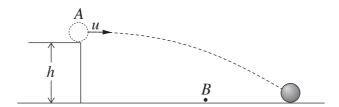
Between which two points is the exoplanet's travel time the greatest?

- A. P and Q
- B. Q and R
- C. R and S
- D. S and P
- 6 An electron would produce an electromagnetic wave when it is
 - A. stationary.
 - B. in a stable hydrogen atom.
 - C. moving at a constant velocity.
 - D. moving at a constant speed in a circular path.
- A proton and a neutron travel at the same speed.

Which statement correctly explains the difference between their de Broglie wavelengths?

- A. The proton has a longer wavelength because its mass is greater.
- B. The proton has a shorter wavelength because its mass is smaller.
- C. The neutron has a shorter wavelength because its mass is greater.
- D. The neutron has a longer wavelength because its mass is smaller.

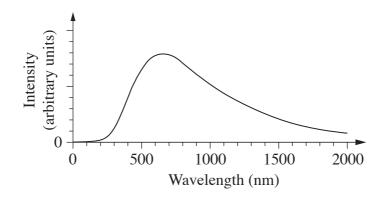
8 A ball is launched from a platform at position A with velocity u. It lands in the position shown.



The ball could be made to land at position B by increasing the

- A. velocity *u*.
- B. launch angle.
- C. mass of the ball.
- D. height of the platform.

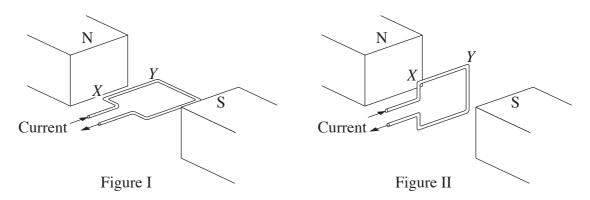
9 The graph shows the relationship between radiation intensity and wavelength for a black body at 4500 K.



Which statement describes the expected difference in the graph for a black body at 4000 K?

- A. Intensity at all wavelengths will be less.
- B. Intensity at all wavelengths will be greater.
- C. The peak intensity will occur at a higher frequency.
- D. The peak intensity will occur at a shorter wavelength.

10 Figure I shows a current flowing through a loop of wire that is in a uniform magnetic field.



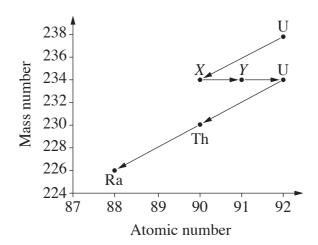
The loop is then rotated to the position shown in Figure II.

The magnitude of the force on the side XY and the magnitude of the torque on the loop in Figure II are compared to those in Figure I.

Which row of the table correctly describes the comparison?

	Force	Torque
A.	I > II	I = II
B.	I > II	I > II
C.	I = II	I = II
D.	I = II	I > II

11 The chart shows part of a nuclear decay series beginning with uranium.

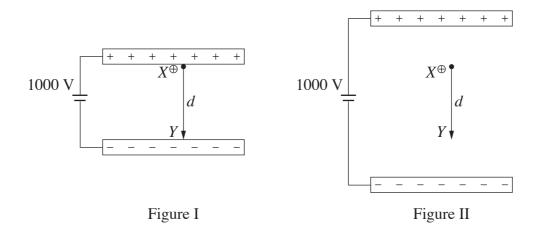


Which option correctly identifies X and Y and the process by which each was produced?

	X	Y		
Α.	²³⁴ ₉₀ Th	²³⁴ ₉₁ Pa		
Λ.	alpha decay	beta decay		
B.	²³⁴ ₉₀ Th	²³⁴ ₉₁ Pa		
Б.	alpha decay	alpha decay		
C.	²³⁴ ₉₁ Pa	²³⁴ ₉₀ Th		
C.	beta decay	beta decay		
D	²³⁴ ₉₁ Pa	²³⁴ ₉₀ Th		
D.	beta decay	alpha decay		

Figure I shows a positively charged particle accelerating freely from X to Y, between oppositely charged plates. The change in the particle's kinetic energy is W.

The distance between the plates is then doubled as shown in Figure II. The same charge accelerates from rest over the same distance from *X* to *Y*.



What is the change in kinetic energy of the positively charged particle shown in Figure II?

- A. W
- B. $\frac{W}{2}$
- C. \sqrt{W}
- D. 2W
- Nucleus X has a greater binding energy than nucleus Y.

What can be deduced about X and Y?

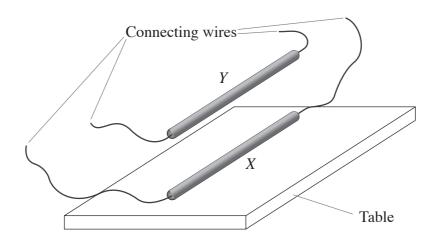
- A. X is more stable than Y.
- B. Y is more stable than X.
- C. *X* has a greater mass defect than *Y*.
- D. Y has a greater mass defect than X.

Planet *X* has a mass 4 times that of Earth and a radius 3 times that of Earth. The escape velocity at the surface of Earth is 11.2 km s^{-1} .

What is the escape velocity at the surface of planet X?

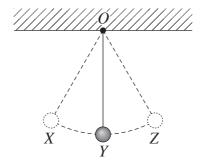
- A. 8.40 km s^{-1}
- B. 9.70 km s^{-1}
- C. 12.9 km s^{-1}
- D. 14.9 km s^{-1}
- What evidence resulting from investigations into the photoelectric effect is consistent with the model of light subsequently proposed by Einstein?
 - A. Photoelectrons were only ejected from a metal if the light was less than a specific wavelength.
 - B. Increasing the intensity of light on a metal increased the maximum kinetic energy of the photoelectrons.
 - C. If photons had sufficient energy to eject photoelectrons from a metal, the maximum kinetic energy was independent of the type of metal used.
 - D. The probability of photoelectrons being emitted from a metal was proportional to the duration of exposure to light for any given wavelength used.

In a thought experiment, two identical parallel aluminium rods, *X* and *Y*, are carrying electric currents of equal magnitude. Rod *X* rests on a table. Rod *Y* remains stationary, vertically above *X*, as a result of the magnetic interaction. The masses of the connecting wires are negligible.



Which statement must be correct if rod *Y* is stationary?

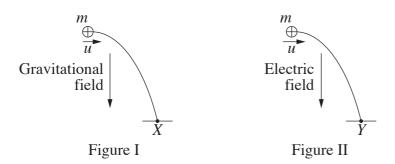
- A. The magnetic force acting on *X* is upward.
- B. The currents through *X* and *Y* are in the same direction.
- C. The force the table exerts on *X* is equal and opposite to the total weight of *X* and *Y*.
- D. The force the table exerts on *X* is equal and opposite to the force of gravity acting on *Y*.
- 17 A mass attached to a lightweight, rigid arm hanging from point O, oscillates freely between X and Z.



Which statement best describes the torque acting on the arm as it oscillates?

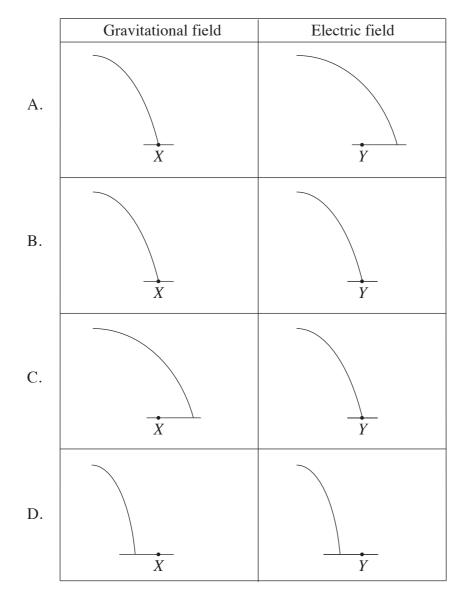
- A. It is constant in magnitude and direction.
- B. It is zero at Y and a maximum at X and Z.
- C. It is zero at *X* and *Z* and a maximum at *Y*.
- D. It is constant in magnitude but its direction changes.

18 The diagrams show the trajectories of two particles with the same mass and charge and which initially have the same velocity u, as shown. The subsequent motion of each particle is determined by its properties and by its interaction with the field in which it is moving.



X and *Y* represent the landing points in Figures I and II.

Which row of the table shows the correct paths of the particles if the mass of each is increased by the same amount and they are given the same initial velocity u?

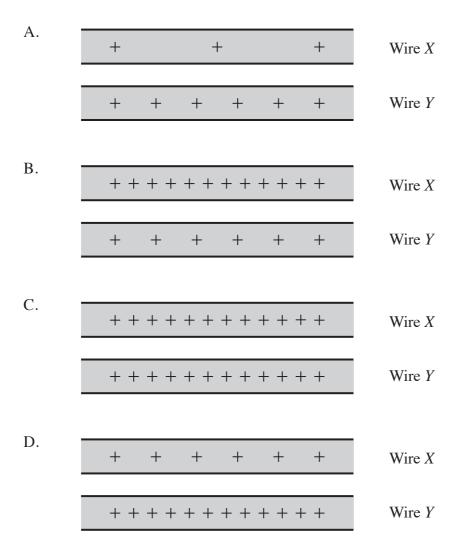


19 The diagram represents the distribution of positive charges in identical wires when no current is flowing.



Equal currents then flow in each wire, but in opposite directions. These currents are considered conventionally as the flow of positive charge.

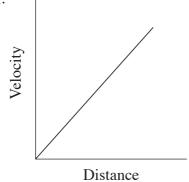
Which diagram represents the charge distribution in the wires, from the frame of reference of a positive charge in wire Y?



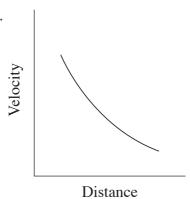
It was discovered that the expansion of the universe was accelerating. This discovery was based on observations of light from galaxies whose distances from Earth could be accurately measured, and were significantly more distant than any observed by Hubble.

Which graph relating velocities of galaxies to their distances from Earth is consistent with an accelerating rate of expansion of the universe?

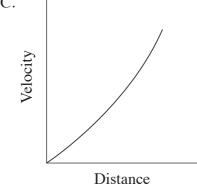




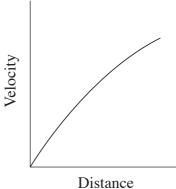
В.



C.



D.



2023 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION						
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Physics						
Section II Answer Booklet			Stuc	lent	Nun	nber

80 marks
Attempt Questions 21–34
Allow about 2 hours and 25 minutes for this section

Instructions

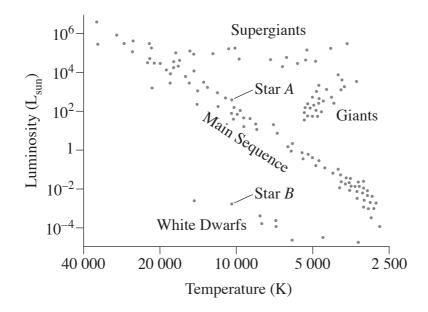
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided. These spaces provide guidance for the expected length of response.
- Show all relevant working in questions involving calculations.
- Extra writing space is provided at the back of this booklet.
 If you use this space, clearly indicate which question you are answering.

Please turn over

2

Question 21 (5 marks)

A Hertzsprung-Russell diagram is shown.



(a) Identify TWO variables that determine the luminosity of a star.

(b) Describe differences between stars A and B.

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Question 22 (3 marks)

A spacecraft passes Earth at a speed of $0.9c$. The spacecraft emits a light pulse every 3.1×10^{-9} s, as measured by the crew on the spacecraft.	3
What is the time between the pulses, as measured by an observer on Earth?	

Please turn over

Question 23 (7 marks)

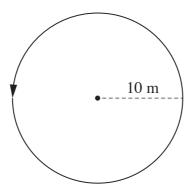
The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has a mass of 6.1×10^3 kg and orbits the Sun at a distance of approximately 1.52×10^{11} m.

(a)	The Sun has a mass of 1.99×10^{30} kg.	2
	Calculate the magnitude of gravitational force the Sun exerts on the JWST.	
(b)	The telescope is sensitive to wavelengths from 6.0×10^{-7} m to 2.8×10^{-5} m.	3
	What is the minimum photon energy that it can detect?	
(c)	The JWST observed an exoplanet emitting a peak wavelength of 1.14×10^{-5} m.	2

Calculate the temperature of the exoplanet.

Question 24 (3 marks)

An electron is travelling at $3.0 \times 10^6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ in the path shown.



Calculate the magnetic field required to keep the electron in the path.	

Please turn over

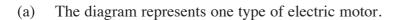
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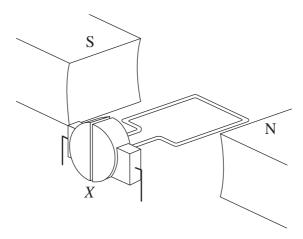
2

2

Question 25 (4 marks)

(b)





Describe the funct	ion of part X.	
		•••••
		•••••

Explain why the torque of a DC motor decreases as its rotational speed increases.

Question 26 (3 marks)

Consider the following nuclear reaction.

$${}^{12}_{6}\text{C} + {}^{1}_{1}\text{H} \rightarrow {}^{9}_{5}\text{B} + {}^{4}_{2}\text{He}$$

The masses of the isotopes in this process are shown in the table.

Isotope	Mass (u)
¹² ₆ C	12.064
⁹ ₅ B	9.013
⁴ ₂ He	4.003
¹ ₁ H	1.008

ergy released in the		

3

Question 27 (8 marks)

(a)	Explain how the composition and temperature of a star can be determined from its spectrum.

Question 27 continues on page 25

Question 27 (continued	Question	27	(continue	ed)
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(b)

The diagram represents one hydrogen em	nission line from the spec	trum of a star
	650	5 nm
Explain the changes to this spectral line the star's rotational velocity. Modify the diagram		
		•••••

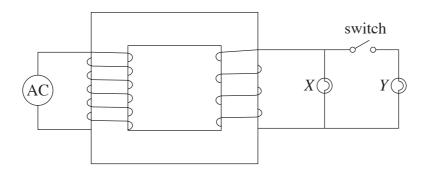
End of Question 27

4

Question 28 (5 marks)

An ideal transformer is connected to a 240 V AC supply. It has 300 turns on the primary coil and 50 turns on the secondary coil.

It is connected in the circuit with two identical light globes, X and Y, as shown.



(a)	Calculate the voltage across light globe X when the switch is open.	2
(b)	Explain why, after the switch has been closed, the current in the primary coil is different from when the switch is open.	3

Question 29 (4 marks)

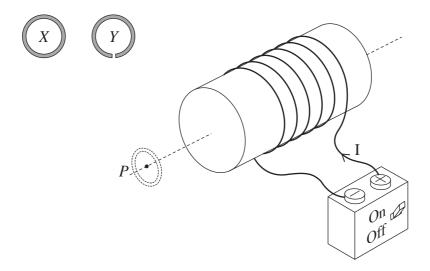
When light from an incandescent lamp is passed through a plane polarising filter, the intensity of the light is reduced.
Explain this phenomenon.

Please turn over

4

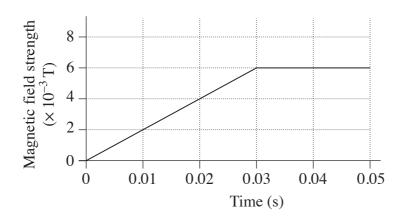
Question 30 (8 marks)

The diagram shows apparatus that is used to investigate the interaction between the magnetic field produced by a coil and two copper rings X and Y, when each is placed at position P, as shown.



Ring X is a complete circular ring, and a small gap has been cut in ring Y. Each of the rings has a cross-sectional area of 4×10^{-4} m².

The power supply connected to the coil produces an increasing current through the coil in the direction shown, when the switch is turned on. This produces a magnetic field at *P* that varies as shown in the graph.



Question 30 continues on page 29

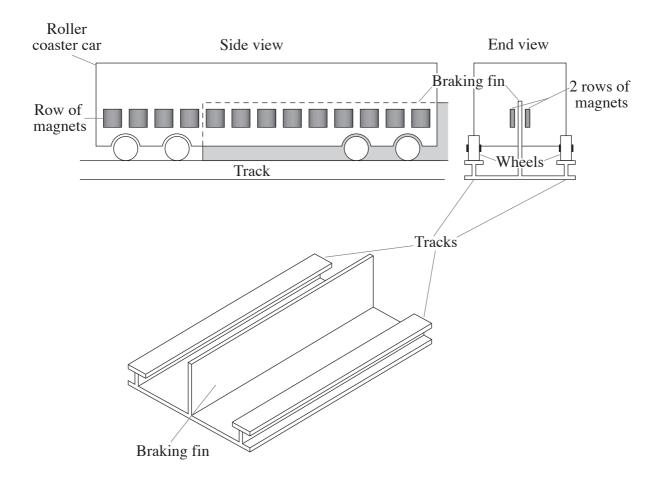
Question 30 (continued)

(a)		e first part of the investigation, ring X is held near the end of the omagnet at position P .	
		ant for the force acting on the ring from 0 to 0.05 seconds after the power y is turned on.	
	•••••		
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(b)	(i)	In the second part of the investigation, ring Y is placed at P , and the power supply is turned on.	
		Explain the behaviour of the ring.	
	(ii)	Calculate the maximum induced emf in ring Y .	

End of Question 30

Question 31 (5 marks)

A roller coaster uses a braking system represented by the diagrams.

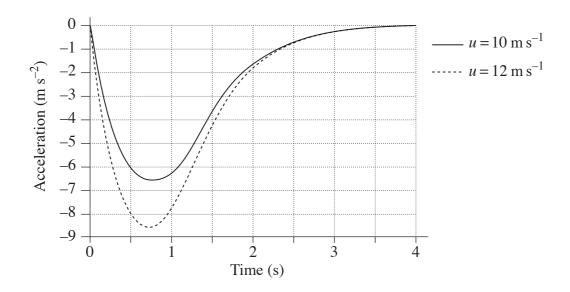


When the roller coaster car reaches the end of the ride, the two rows of permanent magnets on the car pass on either side of a thick aluminium conductor called a braking fin.

Question 31 continues on page 31

Question 31 (continued)

The graph shows the acceleration of the roller coaster reaching the braking fin at two different speeds.



Explain the similarities and differences between these two sets of data.

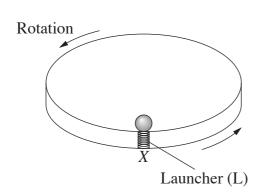
End of Question 31

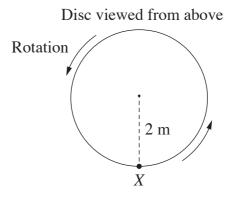
Question 32 (7 marks)

A horizontal disc rotates at 3 revolutions per second around its centre, with the top of the disc at ground level.

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At 2 m from the centre of the disc, a ball is held in place at ground level on the top of the disc by a spring-loaded projectile launcher. At position X, the launcher fires the ball vertically upward with a velocity of 5.72 m s⁻¹.





Calculate the ball's position relative to the launcher's new position, at the instant the ball hits the ground.

Question 33 (9 marks)

Consider the following statement.

The interaction of subatomic particles with fields, as well as with other types of particles and matter, has increased our understanding of processes that occur in the physical world and of the properties of the subatomic particles themselves.

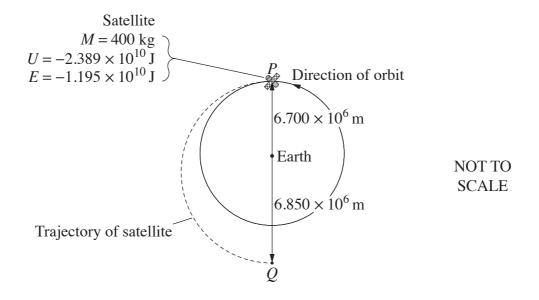
Justify this statement experiments that scient			ations that	have be	en made	and
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Question 34 (9 marks)

A 400 kg satellite is travelling in a circular orbit of radius 6.700×10^6 m around Earth. Its potential energy is -2.389×10^{10} J and its total energy is -1.195×10^{10} J.



At point P, the satellite's engines are fired, increasing the satellite's velocity in the direction of travel and causing its kinetic energy to increase by 5.232×10^8 J. Assume that this happens instantaneously and that the engine is then shut down.

The satellite follows the trajectory shown, which passes through Q, 6.850×10^6 m from Earth's centre.

(a)	Analyse qualitatively the energy changes as the satellite moves from P to Q .

Question 34 continues on page 35

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(b)	Show that the kinetic energy of the satellite at Q is 1.194×10^{10} J.	4
(c)	Explain the motion of the satellite after it passes through Q .	3

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Physics

DATA SHEET

Charge on electron, $q_{\rm e}$	$-1.602 \times 10^{-19} \mathrm{C}$
Mass of electron, $m_{\rm e}$	$9.109 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
Mass of neutron, $m_{\rm n}$	$1.675 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
Mass of proton, $m_{\rm p}$	$1.673 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
Speed of sound in air	340 m s^{-1}
Earth's gravitational acceleration, g	9.8 m s^{-2}
Speed of light, c	$3.00 \times 10^8 \mathrm{ms^{-1}}$
Electric permittivity constant, $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_0$	$8.854 \times 10^{-12} \mathrm{A}^2 \mathrm{s}^4 \mathrm{kg}^{-1} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$
Magnetic permeability constant, μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7} \mathrm{NA^{-2}}$
Universal gravitational constant, G	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{kg}^{-2}$
Mass of Earth, $M_{\rm E}$	$6.0 \times 10^{24} \mathrm{kg}$
Radius of Earth, $r_{\rm E}$	$6.371 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$
Planck constant, h	$6.626 \times 10^{-34} \mathrm{Js}$
Rydberg constant, R (hydrogen)	$1.097 \times 10^7 \mathrm{m}^{-1}$
Atomic mass unit, u	$1.661 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$ 931.5 MeV/ c^2
1 eV	$1.602 \times 10^{-19} \mathrm{J}$
Density of water, ρ	$1.00 \times 10^3 \mathrm{kg}\mathrm{m}^{-3}$
Specific heat capacity of water	$4.18 \times 10^3 \mathrm{Jkg^{-1}K^{-1}}$
Wien's displacement constant, b	$2.898 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{mK}$

– 1 – 1152

FORMULAE SHEET

Motion, forces and gravity

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^{2}$$

$$v^{2} = u^{2} + 2as$$

$$\Delta U = mg\Delta h$$

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

$$\sum \frac{1}{2}mv_{\text{before}}^{2} = \sum \frac{1}{2}mv_{\text{after}}^{2}$$

$$\Delta \vec{p} = \vec{F}_{\text{net}}\Delta t$$

$$v = u + at$$

$$K = m\vec{a}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^{2}$$

$$P = F_{\parallel}v = Fv\cos\theta$$

$$\sum m\vec{v}_{\text{before}} = \sum m\vec{v}_{\text{after}}$$

$$a_{\text{c}} = \frac{v^{2}}{r}$$

$$\sigma = r_{\perp}F = rF\sin\theta$$

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

$$U = -\frac{GMm}{r}$$

$$r^{3} = \frac{GMm}{4\pi^{2}}$$

Waves and thermodynamics

$$v = f\lambda$$

$$f_{\text{beat}} = \left| f_2 - f_1 \right|$$

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$

$$f' = f \frac{\left(v_{\text{wave}} + v_{\text{observer}} \right)}{\left(v_{\text{wave}} - v_{\text{source}} \right)}$$

$$m_1 \sin \theta_1 = m_2 \sin \theta_2$$

$$m_1 \sin \theta_2 = m_2 \sin \theta_2$$

$$\sin \theta_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

$$Q = mc\Delta T$$

$$I_1 r_1^2 = I_2 r_2^2$$

$$\frac{Q}{t} = \frac{kA\Delta T}{d}$$

FORMULAE SHEET (continued)

Electricity and magnetism

$$E = \frac{V}{d}$$

$$V = \frac{\Delta U}{q}$$

$$V = \frac{\Delta U}{q}$$

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

$$I = \frac{q}{t}$$

$$W = qV$$

$$V = IR$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r}$$

$$P = VI$$

$$F = qv_\perp B = qv_B \sin\theta$$

$$F = II_\perp B = IIB \sin\theta$$

$$\Phi = B_{\parallel} A = BA \cos\theta$$

$$\varepsilon = -N \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta t}$$

$$T = nIA_\perp B = nIAB \sin\theta$$

$$V_p I_p = V_s I_s$$

Quantum, special relativity and nuclear

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{mv}$$

$$K_{\text{max}} = hf - \phi$$

$$t = \frac{t_0}{\sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)}}$$

$$\lambda_{\text{max}} = \frac{b}{T}$$

$$E = mc^2$$

$$E = hf$$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R\left(\frac{1}{n_{\text{f}}^2} - \frac{1}{n_{\text{i}}^2}\right)$$

$$N_{\text{t}} = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

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DEDIVING TABLE	-
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2 He 4.003	10	Se	20.18	Neon	18	Ar	39.95	Argon	36	Kr	83.80	Krypton	54	Xe	131.3	Xenon	98	Rn		Radon	118	Og	Oganesson
	6	Ц	19.00	Fluorine	17	ご	35.45	Chlorine	35	Br	79.90	Bromine	53	Ι	126.9	Iodine	85	At		Astatine	117	$\Gamma_{\rm S}$	Tennessine
	∞	0	16.00	Oxygen	16	S	32.07	Sulfur	34	Se	78.96	Selenium	52	Te	127.6	Tellurium	84	Po		Polonium	116	Ľ	Livermorium
	7	Z	14.01	Nitrogen	15	Ь	30.97	Phosphorus	33	As	74.92	Arsenic	51	Sb	121.8	Antimony	83	Bi	209.0	Bismuth	115	Mc	Moscovium
	9	ت ا	12.01	Carbon	14	Si	28.09	Silicon	32	Ge	72.64	Germanium	20	Sn	118.7	Tin	82	Pb	207.2	Lead	114	豆	Flerovium
	S	В	10.81	Boron	13	Al	26.98	Aluminium	31	Сa	69.72	Gallium	46	In	114.8	Indium	81	I	204.4	Thallium	113	Nh	Nihonium
									30	Zu	65.38	Zinc	48	<u>5</u>	112.4	Cadmium	80	Hg	200.6	Mercury	112	Cn	Darmstadtium Roentgenium Copernicium
									56	Cn	63.55	Copper	47	Ag	107.9	Silver	79	Au	197.0	Gold	111	Rg	Roentgenium
					ı				28	Z	58.69	Nickel	46	Pq	106.4	Palladium	78	Pt	195.1	Platinum	110	Ds	Darmstadtium
	79								27	ට	58.93	Cobalt	45	Rh	102.9	Rhodium	77	Ir	192.2	Iridium	109	Mt	Meitnerium
	mic Number	Symbol	omic Weight	Name					56	Æ	55.85	Iron	44	Ru	101.1	Ruthenium	9/	SO	190.2	Osmium	108	Hs	Hassium
	Atomic Number		Standard Ato													`					107		Bohrium
									24	Ċ	52.00	Chromium	42	Mo	95.96	Molybdenum	74	\geqslant	183.9	Tungsten	106	Sg	Seaborgium
									23	>	50.94	Vanadium	41	γP	92.91	Niobium	73	Та	180.9	Tantalum	105	Dp	Dubnium
									77	Ξ	47.87	Titanium	40	Zr	91.22	Zirconium	72	Hf	178.5	Hafnium	104	Rf	Rutherfordium
									21	Sc	44.96	Scandium	39	Y	88.91	Yttrium	57–71			Lanthanoids	89–103		Actinoids
	4	Be	9.012	Beryllium	12	Mg	24.31	Magnesium	20	Ca	40.08	Calcium	38	Sr	87.61	Strontium	99	Ba	137.3	Barium	88	Ra	Radium
1 H 1.008 Hydrogen	8	ij	6.941	Lithium	11	Na	22.99	Sodium	19	X	39.10	Potassium	37	Rb	85.47	Rubidium	55	S	132.9	Caesium	87	Ŧ	Francium
																		_	4	_			

57	58	59	09	61	62	63	64	65	99	<i>L</i> 9	89	69	70	71
La	Ce	Pr	pN	Pm	Sm	Eu	PS	Tb	Dy	Ho	Ë	Tm	Λ	Γr
138.9	140.1	140.9	144.2		150.4	152.0	157.3	158.9	162.5	164.9	167.3	168.9	173.1	175.0
Lanthanum	Cerium	Praseodymium	Neodymium	Promethium	Samarium	Europium	Gadolinium	Terbium	Dysprosium	Holmium	Erbium	Thulium	Ytterbium	Luteti

Sids	ŀ
tin	
Ac	

	2													
68	06	91	92	93	94	95	96	26	86	66	100	101	102	103
Ac	Th	Pa	n	dN	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cţ	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr
	232.0	231.0	238.0	•										
Actinium	Thorium	Protactinium	Uranium	Neptunium	Plutonium	Americium	Curium	Berkelium	Californium	Einsteinium	Fermium	Mendelevium	Nobelium	Lawrencium

Standard atomic weights are abridged to four significant figures. Elements with no reported values in the table have no stable nuclides.

Information on elements with atomic numbers 113 and above is sourced from the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Periodic Table of the Elements (November 2016 version). The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Periodic Table of the Elements (February 2010 version) is the principal source of all other data. Some data may have been modified.