

PHYSICS UNIT 1 PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. A race car's velocity increases from 4 m/s to 88 m/s over a 4 sec time interval.

a. What is its average acceleration?

#2 $a = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t} = \frac{88 \text{ m/s} - 4 \text{ m/s}}{4 \text{ s}} = \frac{84 \text{ m/s}}{4 \text{ s}} = 21 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$

b. How far does the car travel during this time?

#4 $S = v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2 = (4 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})(4 \text{ s}) + \frac{1}{2} (21 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2})(4 \text{ s})^2 = 16 \text{ m} + 168 \text{ m} = 184 \text{ m}$

2. The car in problem #1 decelerates from 88 m/s to 20 m/s in 3 sec.

a. What is its average acceleration?

$a = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t} = \frac{20 \text{ m/s} - 88 \text{ m/s}}{3 \text{ s}} = \frac{-68 \text{ m/s}}{3 \text{ s}} = -22 \frac{2}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$

b. Over what distance does it travel during this time?

$S = v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2 = (88 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})(3 \text{ s}) + \frac{1}{2} (-22 \frac{2}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2})(3 \text{ s})^2$

3. A car accelerates from rest at 7 m/s² to a velocity of 50 m/s.

a. How long does it take?

#2 $a = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t}$ so $t = \frac{v_f - v_i}{a} = \frac{50 \text{ m/s} - 0 \text{ m/s}}{7 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}} = 7 \frac{1}{7} \text{ s}$

b. How far does the car travel in this time?

$S = \frac{1}{2} a t^2 = \frac{1}{2} (7 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}) (\frac{50}{7} \text{ s})^2 = 250 \text{ m}$

4. A bike rider accelerates uniformly at 2.4 m/s² to a velocity of 13 m/s. If the bike moved 14 m during this acceleration, calculate the bike's initial velocity.

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5. A drag racer accelerates uniformly from rest, traveling 400 meters in 6.5 seconds. What is the car's average and final velocity?

#1 $v_{av} = \frac{\Delta S}{t} = \frac{400 \text{ m}}{6.5 \text{ s}} = 61.54 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$

#3 $v_{av} = \frac{v_f}{2}$ so $v_f = 2 v_{av} = 2 (61.54 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}) = 123.08 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$

6. An airplane starts from rest and accelerates uniformly for 30 seconds down a 1400 meter runway before leaving the ground.

a. What is its acceleration?

#4 $s = \frac{1}{2}at^2$ so $a = \frac{2s}{t^2} = \frac{2(1400m)}{(30s)^2} = \frac{2800}{900} = 3.11 \frac{m}{s^2}$

b. How fast was it moving when it took off?

#2 $a = \frac{V_f}{t}$ so $V_f = at = (3.11)(30s) = 93.3 \frac{m}{s}$

7. A rock, starting from rest, takes 7.5 sec to fall from a height to the ground.

a. Calculate the distance it fell.

$s = \frac{1}{2}at^2 = \frac{1}{2}(9.8 \frac{m}{s^2})(7.5s)^2 = (4.9)(56.25) = 275.6m$

b. Calculate its final velocity just before it lands.

$a = \frac{V_f}{t}$ so $V_f = at = (9.8 \frac{m}{s^2})(7.5s) = 73.5 \frac{m}{s}$

8. A brick is dropped from rest from a high scaffold that is 180 meters above the ground.

a. How long does it take for the brick to fall?

#4 $s = \frac{1}{2}at^2$ so $t^2 = \frac{2s}{a}$ so $t = \sqrt{\frac{2s}{a}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(180m)}{9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}}} = 6.03s$

b. What is its velocity after this period of time?

#2 $a = \frac{V_f}{t}$ so $V_f = at = (9.8 \frac{m}{s^2})(6.03s) = 59.1m/s$