

SUMMARY OF KEY QUANTITIES, SYMBOLS AND UNITS

The following list illustrates the symbols and units that will be used in question papers.

Quantity	Usual symbols	Usual unit
<i>Base Quantities</i>		
mass	m	kg
length	l	m
time	t	s
electric current	I	A
thermodynamic temperature	T	K
amount of substance	n	mol
<i>Other Quantities</i>		
distance	d	m
displacement	s, x	m
area	A	m^2
volume	V, v	m^3
density	ρ	$kg\ m^{-3}$
speed	u, v, w, c	ms^{-1}
velocity	u, v, w, c	ms^{-1}
acceleration	a	ms^{-2}
acceleration of free fall	g	ms^{-2}
force	F	N
weight	W	N
momentum	p	Ns
work	w, W	J
energy	E, U, W	J
potential energy	E_p	J
kinetic energy	E_k	J
heating	Q	J
change of internal energy	ΔU	J
power	P	W
pressure	p	Pa
torque	T	Nm
gravitational constant	G	$N\ kg^{-2}\ m^2$
gravitational field strength	g	$N\ kg^{-1}$
gravitational potential	ϕ	$J\ kg^{-1}$
angle	θ	$^\circ, rad$
angular displacement	θ	$^\circ, rad$
angular speed	ω	$rad\ s^{-1}$
angular velocity	ω	$rad\ s^{-1}$
period	T	s
frequency	f	Hz
angular frequency	ω	$rad\ s^{-1}$
wavelength	λ	m
speed of electromagnetic waves	c	ms^{-1}
electric charge	Q	C
elementary charge	e	C
electric potential	V	V
electric potential difference	V	V
electromotive force	E	V
resistance	R	Ω
resistivity	ρ	$\Omega\ m$
electric field strength	E	$NC^{-1}, V\ m^{-1}$
permittivity of free space	ϵ_0	$F\ m^{-1}$
magnetic flux	Φ	Wb
magnetic flux density	B	T
permeability of free space	μ_0	$H\ m^{-1}$
force constant	k	$N\ m^{-1}$

Quantity	Usual symbols	Usual unit
Celsius temperature	θ	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
specific heat capacity	c	$\text{J K}^{-1} \text{kg}^{-1}$
molar gas constant	R	$\text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
Boltzmann constant	k	J K^{-1}
Avogadro constant	N_{A}	mol^{-1}
number	N, n, m	
number density (number per unit volume)	n	m^{-3}
Planck constant	h	J s
work function energy	ϕ	J
activity of radioactive source	A	Bq
decay constant	λ	s^{-1}
half-life	$t_{1/2}$	s
relative atomic mass	A_{r}	
relative molecular mass	M_{r}	
atomic mass	m_{a}	kg, u
electron mass	m_{e}	kg, u
neutron mass	m_{n}	kg, u
proton mass	m_{p}	kg, u
molar mass	M	kg
proton number	Z	
nucleon number	A	
neutron number	N	

DATA AND FORMULAE

Data

speed of light in free space	c	$= 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
permeability of free space	μ_0	$= 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$
permittivity of free space	ϵ_0	$= 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$ $(1/(36\pi)) \times 10^{-9} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
elementary charge	e	$= 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
the Planck constant	h	$= 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js}$
unified atomic mass constant	u	$= 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
rest mass of electron	m_e	$= 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
rest mass of proton	m_p	$= 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
molar gas constant	R	$= 8.31 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
the Avogadro constant	N_A	$= 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
the Boltzmann constant	k	$= 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$
gravitational constant	G	$= 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$
acceleration of free fall	g	$= 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$

Formulae

uniformly accelerated motion	s	$= ut + \frac{1}{2} at^2$
	v^2	$= u^2 + 2as$
work done on/by a gas	W	$= p\Delta V$
hydrostatic pressure	p	$= \rho gh$
gravitational potential	ϕ	$= -Gml/r$
temperature	T/K	$= T/^\circ\text{C} + 273.15$
pressure of an ideal gas	p	$= \frac{1}{3} \frac{Nm}{V} \langle c^2 \rangle$
mean translational kinetic energy of an ideal gas molecule	E	$= \frac{3}{2} kT$
displacement of particle in s.h.m.	x	$= x_0 \sin \omega t$
velocity of particle in s.h.m.	v	$= v_0 \cos \omega t$ $= \pm \omega \sqrt{(x_0^2 - x^2)}$
electric current	I	$= Anvq$
resistors in series	R	$= R_1 + R_2 + \dots$
resistors in parallel	$1/R$	$= 1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + \dots$
electric potential	V	$= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$
alternating current/voltage	x	$= x_0 \sin \omega t$
magnetic flux density due to a long straight wire	B	$= \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi d}$
magnetic flux density due to a flat circular coil	B	$= \frac{\mu_0 NI}{2r}$

magnetic flux density due to a long solenoid

$$B = \mu_0 n I$$

radioactive decay

$$x = x_0 \exp(-\lambda t)$$

decay constant

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