
AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based Free-Response Questions

AP[®] PHYSICS 2 TABLE OF INFORMATION

CONSTANTS AND CONVERSION FACTORS	
Proton mass, $m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg	Electron charge magnitude, $e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$ C
Neutron mass, $m_n = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg	1 electron volt, $1 \text{ eV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$ J
Electron mass, $m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg	Speed of light, $c = 3.00 \times 10^8$ m/s
Avogadro's number, $N_0 = 6.02 \times 10^{23}$ mol ⁻¹	Universal gravitational constant, $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ m ³ /kg·s ²
Universal gas constant, $R = 8.31$ J/(mol·K)	Acceleration due to gravity at Earth's surface, $g = 9.8$ m/s ²
Boltzmann's constant, $k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23}$ J/K	
1 unified atomic mass unit,	$1 \text{ u} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27}$ kg = 931 MeV/c ²
Planck's constant,	$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34}$ J·s = 4.14×10^{-15} eV·s
	$hc = 1.99 \times 10^{-25}$ J·m = 1.24×10^3 eV·nm
Vacuum permittivity,	$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$ C ² /N·m ²
Coulomb's law constant, $k = 1/4\pi\epsilon_0 = 9.0 \times 10^9$ N·m ² /C ²	
Vacuum permeability,	$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ (T·m)/A
Magnetic constant, $k' = \mu_0/4\pi = 1 \times 10^{-7}$ (T·m)/A	
1 atmosphere pressure,	$1 \text{ atm} = 1.0 \times 10^5$ N/m ² = 1.0×10^5 Pa

UNIT SYMBOLS	meter, m	mole, mol	watt, W	farad, F
	kilogram, kg	hertz, Hz	coulomb, C	tesla, T
	second, s	newton, N	volt, V	degree Celsius, °C
	ampere, A	pascal, Pa	ohm, Ω	electron volt, eV
	kelvin, K	joule, J	henry, H	

PREFIXES		
Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10^{12}	tera	T
10^9	giga	G
10^6	mega	M
10^3	kilo	k
10^{-2}	centi	c
10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{-12}	pico	p

VALUES OF TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS FOR COMMON ANGLES							
θ	0°	30°	37°	45°	53°	60°	90°
$\sin \theta$	0	1/2	3/5	$\sqrt{2}/2$	4/5	$\sqrt{3}/2$	1
$\cos \theta$	1	$\sqrt{3}/2$	4/5	$\sqrt{2}/2$	3/5	1/2	0
$\tan \theta$	0	$\sqrt{3}/3$	3/4	1	4/3	$\sqrt{3}$	∞

The following conventions are used in this exam.

- I. The frame of reference of any problem is assumed to be inertial unless otherwise stated.
- II. In all situations, positive work is defined as work done on a system.
- III. The direction of current is conventional current: the direction in which positive charge would drift.
- IV. Assume all batteries and meters are ideal unless otherwise stated.
- V. Assume edge effects for the electric field of a parallel plate capacitor unless otherwise stated.
- VI. For any isolated electrically charged object, the electric potential is defined as zero at infinite distance from the charged object

AP[®] PHYSICS 2 EQUATIONS

MECHANICS

$$v_x = v_{x0} + a_x t$$

$$x = x_0 + v_{x0} t + \frac{1}{2} a_x t^2$$

$$v_x^2 = v_{x0}^2 + 2a_x(x - x_0)$$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\sum \vec{F}}{m} = \frac{\vec{F}_{net}}{m}$$

$$|\vec{F}_f| \leq \mu |\vec{F}_n|$$

$$a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

$$\Delta \vec{p} = \vec{F} \Delta t$$

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

$$\Delta E = W = F_{\parallel} d = F d \cos \theta$$

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

$$\theta = \theta_0 + \omega_0 t + \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^2$$

$$\omega = \omega_0 + \alpha t$$

$$x = A \cos(\omega t) = A \cos(2\pi f t)$$

$$x_{cm} = \frac{\sum m_i x_i}{\sum m_i}$$

$$\vec{\alpha} = \frac{\sum \vec{\tau}}{I} = \frac{\vec{\tau}_{net}}{I}$$

$$\tau = r_{\perp} F = r F \sin \theta$$

$$L = I \omega$$

$$\Delta L = \tau \Delta t$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

$$|\vec{F}_s| = k |\vec{x}|$$

$$a = \text{acceleration}$$

$$A = \text{amplitude}$$

$$d = \text{distance}$$

$$E = \text{energy}$$

$$F = \text{force}$$

$$f = \text{frequency}$$

$$I = \text{rotational inertia}$$

$$K = \text{kinetic energy}$$

$$k = \text{spring constant}$$

$$L = \text{angular momentum}$$

$$\ell = \text{length}$$

$$m = \text{mass}$$

$$P = \text{power}$$

$$p = \text{momentum}$$

$$r = \text{radius or separation}$$

$$T = \text{period}$$

$$t = \text{time}$$

$$U = \text{potential energy}$$

$$v = \text{speed}$$

$$W = \text{work done on a system}$$

$$x = \text{position}$$

$$y = \text{height}$$

$$\alpha = \text{angular acceleration}$$

$$\mu = \text{coefficient of friction}$$

$$\theta = \text{angle}$$

$$\tau = \text{torque}$$

$$\omega = \text{angular speed}$$

$$U_s = \frac{1}{2} k x^2$$

$$\Delta U_g = m g \Delta y$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{1}{f}$$

$$T_s = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

$$T_p = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{\ell}{g}}$$

$$|\vec{F}_g| = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

$$\vec{g} = \frac{\vec{F}_g}{m}$$

$$U_G = -\frac{G m_1 m_2}{r}$$

ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

$$|\vec{F}_E| = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}_E}{q}$$

$$|\vec{E}| = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{|q|}{r^2}$$

$$\Delta U_E = q \Delta V$$

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$$

$$|\vec{E}| = \left| \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta r} \right|$$

$$\Delta V = \frac{Q}{C}$$

$$C = \kappa \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d}$$

$$E = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}$$

$$U_C = \frac{1}{2} Q \Delta V = \frac{1}{2} C (\Delta V)^2$$

$$I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$$

$$R = \frac{\rho \ell}{A}$$

$$P = I \Delta V$$

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R}$$

$$R_s = \sum_i R_i$$

$$\frac{1}{R_p} = \sum_i \frac{1}{R_i}$$

$$C_p = \sum_i C_i$$

$$\frac{1}{C_s} = \sum_i \frac{1}{C_i}$$

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

$$A = \text{area}$$

$$B = \text{magnetic field}$$

$$C = \text{capacitance}$$

$$d = \text{distance}$$

$$E = \text{electric field}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \text{emf}$$

$$F = \text{force}$$

$$I = \text{current}$$

$$\ell = \text{length}$$

$$P = \text{power}$$

$$Q = \text{charge}$$

$$q = \text{point charge}$$

$$R = \text{resistance}$$

$$r = \text{separation}$$

$$t = \text{time}$$

$$U = \text{potential (stored) energy}$$

$$V = \text{electric potential}$$

$$v = \text{speed}$$

$$\kappa = \text{dielectric constant}$$

$$\rho = \text{resistivity}$$

$$\theta = \text{angle}$$

$$\Phi = \text{flux}$$

$$\vec{F}_M = q \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

$$|\vec{F}_M| = |q \vec{v}| |\sin \theta| |\vec{B}|$$

$$\vec{F}_M = I \vec{\ell} \times \vec{B}$$

$$|\vec{F}_M| = |I \vec{\ell}| |\sin \theta| |\vec{B}|$$

$$\Phi_B = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$\Phi_B = |\vec{B}| \cos \theta |\vec{A}|$$

$$\mathcal{E} = -\frac{\Delta \Phi_B}{\Delta t}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = B \ell v$$

AP[®] PHYSICS 2 EQUATIONS

FLUID MECHANICS AND THERMAL PHYSICS

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

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

$$P = P_0 + \rho gh$$

$$F_b = \rho Vg$$

$$A_1 v_1 = A_2 v_2$$

$$P_1 + \rho gy_1 + \frac{1}{2} \rho v_1^2 = P_2 + \rho gy_2 + \frac{1}{2} \rho v_2^2$$

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

$$PV = nRT = Nk_B T$$

$$K = \frac{3}{2} k_B T$$

$$W = -P \Delta V$$

$$\Delta U = Q + W$$

A = area

F = force

h = depth

k = thermal conductivity

K = kinetic energy

L = thickness

m = mass

n = number of moles

N = number of molecules

P = pressure

Q = energy transferred to a system by heating

T = temperature

t = time

U = internal energy

V = volume

v = speed

W = work done on a system

y = height

ρ = density

MODERN PHYSICS

$$E = hf$$

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

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

$$E = mc^2$$

E = energy

f = frequency

K = kinetic energy

m = mass

p = momentum

λ = wavelength

ϕ = work function

WAVES AND OPTICS

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f}$$

$$n = \frac{c}{v}$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

$$\frac{1}{s_i} + \frac{1}{s_o} = \frac{1}{f}$$

$$|M| = \left| \frac{h_i}{h_o} \right| = \left| \frac{s_i}{s_o} \right|$$

$$\Delta L = m\lambda$$

$$d \sin \theta = m\lambda$$

d = separation

f = frequency or focal length

h = height

L = distance

M = magnification

m = an integer

n = index of refraction

s = distance

v = speed

λ = wavelength

θ = angle

GEOMETRY AND TRIGONOMETRY

Rectangle

$$A = bh$$

Triangle

$$A = \frac{1}{2} bh$$

Circle

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$C = 2\pi r$$

A = area

C = circumference

V = volume

S = surface area

b = base

h = height

ℓ = length

w = width

r = radius

Rectangular solid

$$V = \ell wh$$

Cylinder

$$V = \pi r^2 \ell$$

$$S = 2\pi r \ell + 2\pi r^2$$

Sphere

$$V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$$

$$S = 4\pi r^2$$

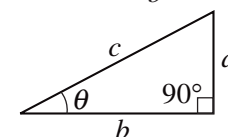
Right triangle

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{a}{c}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{b}{c}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{a}{b}$$



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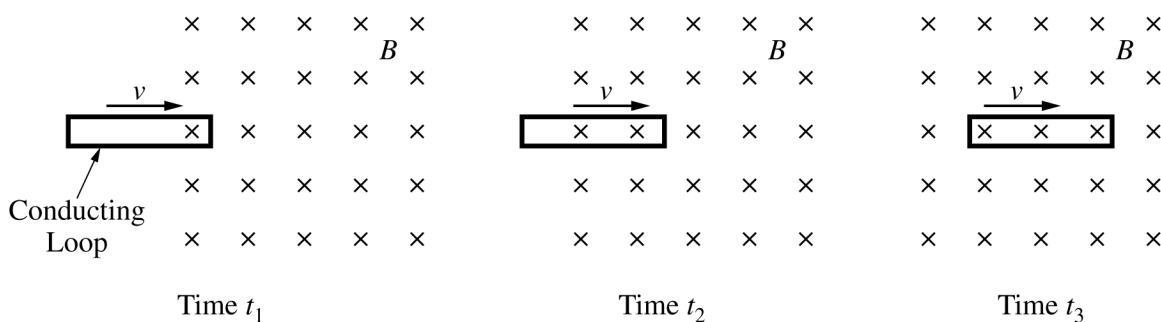
PHYSICS 2

Section II

Time—1 hour and 30 minutes

4 Questions

Directions: Questions 1 and 4 are short free-response questions that require about 20 minutes each to answer and are worth 10 points each. Questions 2 and 3 are long free-response questions that require about 25 minutes each to answer and are worth 12 points each. Show your work for each part in the space provided after that part.



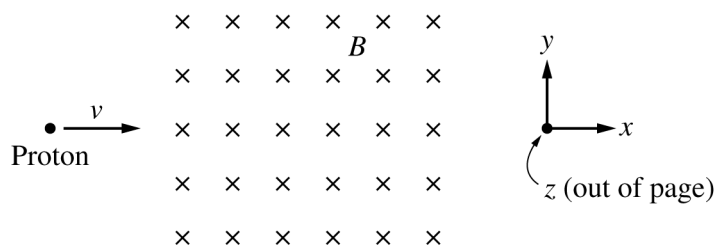
1. (10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

The figures above show a rectangular conducting loop at three instants in time. The loop moves at a constant speed v into and through a region of constant, uniform magnetic field B directed into the page. The magnetic field is zero outside the region.

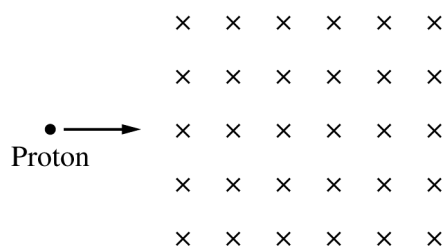
- (a) In a coherent paragraph-length response, compare the magnitude and direction of the current at times t_1 , t_2 , and t_3 . Include an explanation of why there is or is not a current and the direction of the current if one is present. Use fundamental physics concepts and principles in your explanation.

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- (b) The loop is removed. A proton traveling to the right in the plane of the page, as shown below, then enters the region of magnetic field with a speed $v = 3.0 \times 10^5$ m/s. The magnitude of the field is 0.030 T. The effects of gravity are negligible.

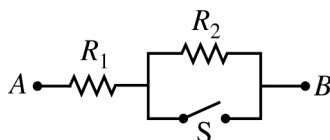


- i. Calculate the magnitude of the force on the proton as it enters the field.
- ii. On the figure below, sketch a possible path of the proton as it travels through the magnetic field. Clearly label the path P1.



- iii. A second proton now enters the magnetic field at the same point and from the same direction but at a greater speed than the first proton. On the figure above, draw the path of the second proton as it travels through the field. Clearly label the path P2.
- iv. Next an electric field is applied in the same region as the magnetic field, such that there is no net force on the first proton as it enters the region. Calculate the magnitude and indicate the direction of the electric field relative to the coordinate system shown in part (b).

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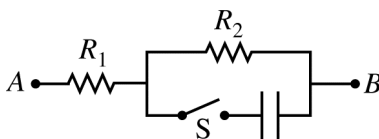
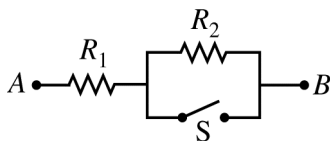
2. (12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

Students are given resistor 1 with resistance R_1 connected in series with the parallel combination of a switch S and resistor 2 with resistance R_2 , as shown above. The circuit elements cannot be disconnected from each other, and other circuit components can only be connected at points A and B . The students also are given an ammeter and one 9 V battery. The teacher instructs the students to take measurements that can be used to determine R_1 and R_2 .

- (a) Complete the diagram below to show how the ammeter and the battery should be connected to experimentally determine the resistance of each resistor. Describe the experiment by listing the measurements to be taken and explaining how the measurements would be used to calculate resistances R_1 and R_2 .

Complete the Diagram

Describe the Experiment



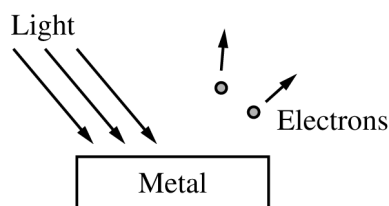
A second group of students is given a combination of circuit elements that is similar to the previous one but has an initially uncharged capacitor in series with the open switch, as shown above. The combination is placed in a circuit with a power supply so that the potential difference between A and B is maintained at 9 V. The students close the switch and immediately begin to record the current through point B . The initial current is 0.9 A, and after a long time the current is 0.3 A.

- (b)
- i. Compare the currents through resistor 1, resistor 2, and the switch immediately after the switch is closed to the currents a long time after the switch is closed. Specifically state if any current is zero.
 - ii. Calculate the values of R_1 and R_2 .
 - iii. Determine the potential difference across the capacitor a long time after the switch is closed.

A third group of students now uses the combination of circuit elements with the capacitor. They connect it to a 9 V battery that they treat as ideal but which is actually not ideal and has internal resistance.

- (c) How does the third group's value of R_1 calculated from the data they collected compare to the second group's value? Explain your reasoning with reference to physics principles and/or mathematical models.

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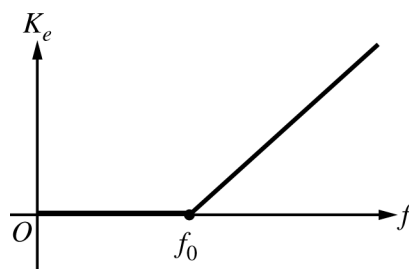


3. (12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

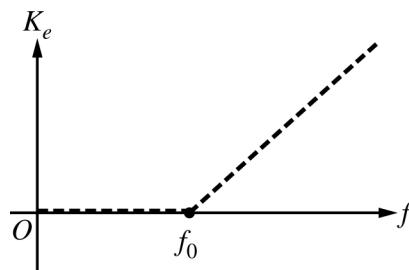
Monochromatic light of frequency f shines on a metal, as shown above. The frequency of the light is varied, and for some frequencies electrons are emitted from the metal. The maximum kinetic energy K_e of the emitted electrons is measured as a function of the frequency of the light.

(a)

- i. Based on conservation of energy, the relationship between K_e and f is predicted to be $Af = B + K_e$ when $f > f_0$ and $K_e = 0$ when $f \leq f_0$, where A and B are positive constants. A graph of this relationship is shown below. Indicate which aspects of the graph correspond to A and B . Also, explain the physical meaning of A , B , and f_0 .

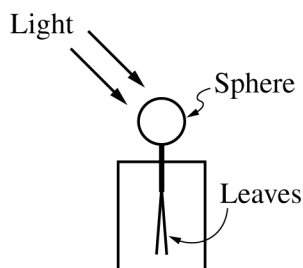


- ii. Explain the physical meaning of the horizontal section of the graph between the origin and f_0 .
- iii. A second metal with different properties than the first metal is now used. On the figure below, the dashed lines are the same lines shown in the previous graph. Sketch lines on the figure below that could represent the data for the second metal. Explain one difference between the two graphs.



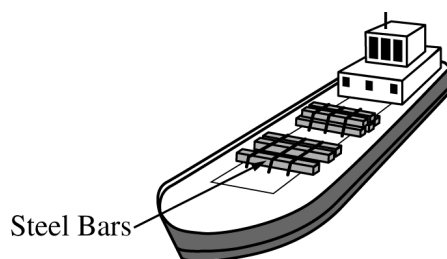
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- (b) The figure below shows an electroscope. A sphere is connected by a vertical bar to the leaves, which are thin, light strips of material. The sphere, leaves, and bar are all made of metal. The electroscope initially has a negative charge, so the leaves are separated.



- Ultraviolet (UV) light shines on the sphere, causing the leaves of the electroscope to move closer together. Explain why this happens.
 - Green light then shines on an identical negatively charged electroscope. No movement of the leaves is observed. Explain why the green light does not make the leaves move, while the UV light does.
- (c) The brightness of the green light is increased until the intensity (power per unit area) is the same as that of the UV light. What aspect of the green light changes when its brightness is increased? Would shining the brighter green light on the electroscope result in movement of the leaves? Explain why or why not.

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4. (10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

A large boat like the one shown above has a mass M_b and can displace a maximum volume V_b . The boat is floating in a river with water of density ρ_{water} and is being loaded with steel beams each of density ρ_{steel} and volume V_{steel} . The boat owners want to be able to carry as many beams as possible.

- (a) Derive an expression for the maximum number N of steel beams that can be loaded on the boat without exceeding the maximum displaced volume, in terms of the given quantities and physical constants, as appropriate.
- (b) The captain realizes that oil is leaking from the boat, creating a thin film of oil on the water surface. In one area of the oil film the surface looks mostly green. Explain in detail how constructive interference contributes to the green appearance. Assume the index of refraction of the oil is greater than the index of refraction of the water.
- (c) Later the boat is floating down the river with the water current, heading for a town. The river has a width of 60 m and a constant depth and flows at a speed of 5 km/hr. Partway to the town, the river narrows to a width of 30 m while its depth remains the same. Calculate the speed of the water in the narrow section.

STOP

END OF EXAM