

Physics data booklet

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Diploma Programme Physics data booklet

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Fundamental constants

Quantity	Symbol	Approximate value
Acceleration of free fall (Earth's surface)	g	9.81 m s ⁻²
Gravitational constant	G	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{kg}^{-2}$
Avogadro's constant	$N_{\rm A}$	$6.02 \times 10^{23} \mathrm{mol^{-1}}$
Gas constant	R	8.31 J K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹
Boltzmann's constant	$k_{ m B}$	$1.38 \times 10^{-23} \mathrm{J}\mathrm{K}^{-1}$
Stefan-Boltzmann constant	σ	$5.67 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{W}\mathrm{m}^{-2}\mathrm{K}^{-4}$
Coulomb constant	k	$8.99 \times 10^9 \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{C}^{-2}$
Permittivity of free space	$arepsilon_0$	$8.85 \times 10^{-12} \mathrm{C^2N^{-1}m^{-2}}$
Permeability of free space	μ_0	$4\pi\times10^{-7}TmA^{-1}$
Speed of light in vacuum	с	$3.00 \times 10^8 \mathrm{ms^{-1}}$
Planck's constant	h	$6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{Js}$
Elementary charge	e	$1.60 \times 10^{-19} \mathrm{C}$
Electron rest mass	$m_{ m e}$	$9.110 \times 10^{-31} \mathrm{kg} = 0.000549 \mathrm{u} = 0.511 \mathrm{MeV} \mathrm{c}^{-2}$
Proton rest mass	$m_{ m p}$	$1.673 \times 10^{-27} \mathrm{kg} = 1.007276 \mathrm{u} = 938 \mathrm{MeV} \mathrm{c}^{-2}$
Neutron rest mass	$m_{ m n}$	$1.675 \times 10^{-27} \mathrm{kg} = 1.008665 \mathrm{u} = 940 \mathrm{MeV} \mathrm{c}^{-2}$
Unified atomic mass unit	u	$1.661 \times 10^{-27} \mathrm{kg} = 931.5 \mathrm{MeV} \mathrm{c}^{-2}$
Solar constant	S	$1.36 \times 10^{3} \mathrm{W}\mathrm{m}^{-2}$
Fermi radius	R_0	$1.20 \times 10^{-15} \mathrm{m}$

1

Metric (SI) multipliers

Prefix	Abbreviation	Value
peta	P	1015
tera	Т	1012
giga	G	109
mega	M	10^6
kilo	k	10^{3}
hecto	h	10^{2}
deca	da	10^{1}
deci	d	10-1
centi	С	10-2
milli	m	10-3
micro	μ	10-6
nano	n	10-9
pico	p	10-12
femto	f	10 ⁻¹⁵

Unit conversions

1 radian (rad)
$$\equiv \frac{180^{\circ}}{\pi}$$

Temperature (K) = temperature ($^{\circ}$ C) + 273

1 light year (ly) = 9.46×10^{15} m

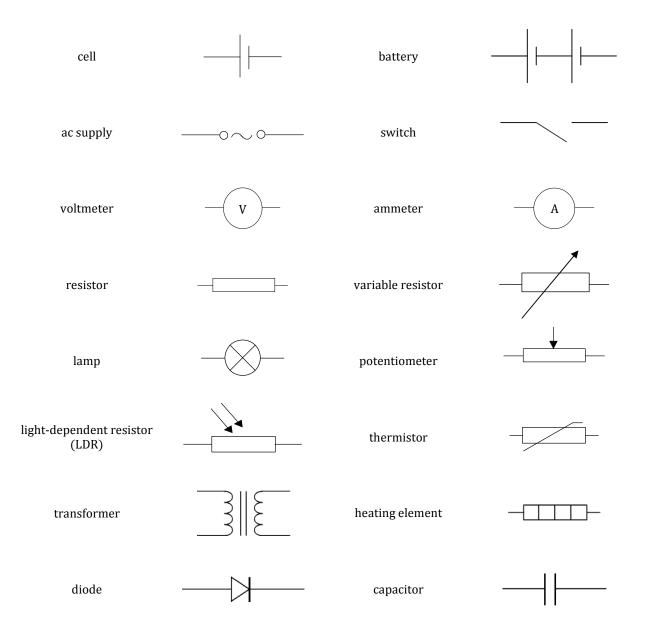
1 parsec (pc) = 3.26 ly

1 astronomical unit (AU) = $1.50 \times 10^{11} \, \text{m}$

1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) = 3.60×10^6 J

 $hc = 1.99 \times 10^{-25} \text{ J m} = 1.24 \times 10^{-6} \text{ eV m}$

Electrical circuit symbols



Equations—Core

Note: All equations relate to the magnitude of the quantities only. Vector notation has not been used.

Sub-topic 1.2 – Uncertainties and errors	Sub-topic 1.3 – Vectors and scalars
If: $y = a \pm b$	
then: $\Delta y = \Delta a + \Delta b$	A _V A
If: $y = \frac{ab}{c}$	A
then: $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = \frac{\Delta a}{a} + \frac{\Delta b}{b} + \frac{\Delta c}{c}$	
If: $y = a^n$	<u>ν</u> θ
then: $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = \left n \frac{\Delta a}{a} \right $	$A_{ m H}$
y I a I	$A_{\rm H} = A\cos\theta$
	$A_{\rm V} = A\sin\theta$

Sub-topic 2.1 – Motion	Sub-topic 2.2 – Forces
v = u + at	F = ma
$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$	$F_{\rm f} \le \mu_{\rm s} R$
$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$	$F_{\rm f} = \mu_{ m d} R$
$s = \frac{(v+u)t}{2}$	
Sub-topic 2.3 – Work, energy and power	Sub-topic 2.4 – Momentum and impulse
$W = Fs \cos\theta$	p = mv
$E_{\rm K} = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$	$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$
$E_{\rm P} = \frac{1}{2} k \Delta x^2$	
$\Delta E_{ m P} = mg\Delta h$	$E_{\rm K} = \frac{p^2}{2m}$
power = Fv	Impulse = $F\Delta t = \Delta p$
$Efficiency = \frac{useful work out}{total work in}$	
$= \frac{\text{useful power out}}{\text{total power in}}$	

Sub-topic 3.1 – Thermal concepts	Sub-topic 3.2 – Modelling a gas
$Q = mc\Delta T$	$p = \frac{F}{4}$
Q = mL	· A N
	$n = \frac{N}{N_{\rm A}}$
	pV = nRT
	$\bar{E}_{\mathrm{K}} = \frac{3}{2} k_{\mathrm{B}} T = \frac{3}{2} \frac{R}{N_{\mathrm{A}}} T$

Sub-topic 4.1 – Oscillations	Sub-topic 4.4 – Wave behaviour
$T = \frac{1}{f}$	$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{\sin \theta_1} = \frac{v_2}{v_1}$
Sub-topic 4.2 – Travelling waves	$s = \frac{\lambda D}{d}$
$c = f\lambda$	Constructive interference: path difference = $n\lambda$
Sub-topic 4.3 – Wave characteristics	<u>-</u>
$I \propto A^2$	Destructive interference: path difference = $(n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$
$I \propto x^{-2}$	
$I = I_0 cos^2 \theta$	

Sub-topic 5.1 – Electric fields	Sub-topic 5.2 – Heating effect of electric currents
$I = \frac{\Delta q}{\Delta t}$	Kirchhoff's circuit laws:
	$\Sigma V = 0 \text{ (loop)}$
$F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$	$\Sigma I = 0$ (junction)
$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}$	$R = \frac{V}{I}$
$V = \frac{W}{q}$	$P = VI = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$
$E = \frac{F}{A}$	$R_{\text{total}} = R_1 + R_2 + \cdots$
$L = \frac{1}{q}$	$\frac{1}{R_{\text{total}}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \cdots$
I = nAvq	
	$\rho = \frac{RA}{L}$
Sub-topic 5.3 – Electric cells	Sub-topic 5.4 – Magnetic effects of electric currents
$\varepsilon = I(R+r)$	$F = qvB\sin\theta$
	$F = BIL \sin \theta$

Sub-topic 6.1 – Circular motion	Sub-topic 6.2 – Newton's law of gravitation
$v = \omega r$	$F = G \frac{Mm}{r^2}$
$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{4\pi^2 r}{T^2}$	$g = \frac{F}{-}$
$F = \frac{mv^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$	m _c M
	$g = G \frac{1}{r^2}$

Sub-topic 7.1 – Discrete energy and radioactivity	Sub-topic 7.2 – Nuclear reactions
E = hf	$\Delta E = \Delta m c^2$
$\lambda = \frac{hc}{E}$	

Sub-topic 7.3 – The structure of matter

Charge	Quarks		S	Baryon number
$\frac{2}{3}e$	u	С	t	$\frac{1}{3}$
$-\frac{1}{3}e$	d	S	b	$\frac{1}{3}$

All quarks have a strangeness number of 0 except the strange quark that has a strangeness number of -1

Charge	Leptons			
-1	e μ τ			
0	υe	υ_{μ}	υτ	

All leptons have a lepton number of 1 and antileptons have a lepton number of –1

	Gravitational	Weak	Electromagnetic	Strong
Particles experiencing	All	Quarks, leptons	Charged	Quarks, gluons
Particles mediating	Graviton	W+, W-, Z ⁰	γ	Gluons

Sub-topic 8.1 – Energy sources	Sub-topic 8.2 – Thermal energy transfer
Power = $\frac{\text{energy}}{\text{time}}$ Power = $\frac{1}{2}A\rho v^3$	$P = e\sigma A T^{4}$ $\lambda_{\text{max}}(\text{metres}) = \frac{2.90 \times 10^{-3}}{T(\text{kelvin})}$ $I = \frac{\text{power}}{A}$ $\text{albedo} = \frac{\text{total scattered power}}{\text{total incident power}}$

Equations—AHL

Sub-topic 9.1 – Simple harmonic motion	Sub-topic 9.2 – Single-slit diffraction
$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$	$\theta = \frac{\lambda}{b}$
$a = -\omega^2 x$	Sub-topic 9.3 – Interference
$x = x_0 \sin \omega t; x = x_0 \cos \omega t$	$n\lambda = d\sin\theta$
$v = \omega x_0 \cos \omega t; v = -\omega x_0 \sin \omega t$	Constructive interference: $2dn = (m + \frac{1}{2}) \lambda$
$v = \pm \omega \sqrt{(x_0^2 - x^2)}$	Destructive interference: $2dn = m\lambda$
$E_{\rm K} = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 (x_0^2 - x^2)$	
$E_{\mathrm{T}} = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_0^2$	
Pendulum: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$	
Mass–spring: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$	
Sub-topic 9.4 – Resolution	Sub-topic 9.5 – Doppler effect
$\theta = 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{b}$	Moving source: $f' = f\left(\frac{v}{v \pm u_s}\right)$
$R = \frac{\lambda}{\Lambda \lambda} = mN$	Moving observer: $f' = f\left(\frac{v \pm u_0}{v}\right)$
	$\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} \approx \frac{v}{c}$

Sub-topic 10.1 – Describing fields	Sub-topic 10.2 – Fields at work
$W = q\Delta V_e$	
$W=m\Delta V_g$	$V_g = -\frac{GM}{r} \qquad \qquad V_e = \frac{kq}{r}$
	$g = -\frac{\Delta V_g}{\Delta r} \qquad \qquad E = -\frac{\Delta V_e}{\Delta r}$
	$E_{ m P} = mV_g = -rac{GMm}{r}$ $E_{ m P} = qV_{ m e} = rac{kq_1q_2}{r}$
	$F_{\rm G} = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} \qquad F_{\rm E} = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$
	$v_{\rm esc} = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r}}$
	$v_{ m orbit} = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$

Sub-topic 11.1 – Electromagnetic induction	Sub-topic 11.3 – Capacitance
$\Phi = BA\cos\theta$	$C = \frac{q}{V}$
$\varepsilon = -N \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta t}$	$C_{\text{parallel}} = C_1 + C_2 + \cdots$
$\varepsilon = Bvl$	$\frac{1}{C_{\text{series}}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \cdots$
$\varepsilon = BvlN$	
Sub-topic 11.2 – Power generation and transmission	a
I_0	$E = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$
$I_{\rm rms} = \frac{I_0}{\sqrt{2}}$	au = RC
$V_{\rm rms} = \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{2}}$	$q = q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$
$R = \frac{V_0}{I_0} = \frac{V_{\rm rms}}{I_{\rm rms}}$	$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$
$I_0 I_{\rm rms}$	$V = V_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$
$P_{\max} = I_0 V_0$	
$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{2} I_0 V_0$	
$\frac{\varepsilon_{\rm p}}{\varepsilon_{\rm s}} = \frac{N_{\rm p}}{N_{\rm s}} = \frac{I_{\rm s}}{I_{\rm p}}$	

Sub-topic 12.1 – The interaction of matter with radiation	Sub-topic 12.2 – Nuclear physics
E = hf	$R = R_0 A^{1/3}$
$E_{\max} = hf - \Phi$	$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
$E = -\frac{13.6}{n^2}eV$	$R = R_0 A^{1/3}$ $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ $A = \lambda N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
$mvr = \frac{nh}{2\pi}$	$\sin \theta \approx \frac{\lambda}{D}$
$P(r) = \psi ^2 \Delta V$	
$\Delta x \Delta p \ge \frac{h}{4\pi}$	
$\Delta E \Delta t \ge \frac{h}{4\pi}$	

Equations—Options

Sub-topic A.1 – The beginnings of relativity	Sub-topic A.2 – Lorentz transformations
x' = x - vt $u' = u - v$	$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$
Sub-topic A.3 – Spacetime diagrams $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{v}{c}\right)$	$x' = \gamma(x - vt); \Delta x' = \gamma(\Delta x - v\Delta t)$
$v = \tan \left(\frac{1}{c}\right)$	$t' = \gamma(t - \frac{vx}{c^2}); \Delta t' = \gamma(\Delta t - \frac{v\Delta x}{c^2})$ $u - v$
	$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - \frac{uv}{c^2}}$
	$\Delta t = \gamma \Delta t_0$ L_0
	$L = \frac{L_0}{\gamma}$ $(ct')^2 - (x')^2 = (ct)^2 - (x)^2$
Out (aris A.4. Balatisistis was basis (III auto)	
Sub-topic A.4 – Relativistic mechanics (HL only)	Sub-topic A.5 – General relativity (HL only)
$E = \gamma m_0 c^2$	$\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{g\Delta h}{c^2}$
$E_0 = m_0 c^2$	
$E_{\rm K} = (\gamma - 1)m_0c^2$	$R_{\rm s} = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$
$p = \gamma m_0 v$	$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{R_s}{r}}}$
$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4$	$\frac{\Delta t}{1 - \frac{R_s}{t}}$
$qV = \Delta E_{\rm K}$	V r

Sub-topic B.1 – Rigid bodies and rotational dynamics	Sub-topic B.2 – Thermodynamics
$\Gamma = Fr \sin \theta$	$Q = \Delta U + W$
$I = \sum mr^2$	$U = \frac{3}{2} nRT$
$\Gamma = I\alpha$	$\Delta S = \frac{\Delta Q}{T}$
$\omega = 2\pi f$	$\Delta S = \frac{1}{T}$
$\omega_{\rm f} = \omega_{\rm i} + \alpha t$	$pV^{\frac{5}{3}}$ = constant (for monatomic gases)
$\omega_{\rm f}^2 = \omega_{\rm i}^2 + 2\alpha\theta$	$W = p\Delta V$
$\theta = \omega_{\rm i} t + \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^2$	$\eta = \frac{\text{useful work done}}{\text{energy input}}$
$L = I\omega$	
$E_{\rm K_{\rm rot}} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$	$\eta_{ ext{Carnot}} = 1 - rac{T_{ ext{cold}}}{T_{ ext{hot}}}$
Sub-topic B.3 – Fluids and fluid dynamics (HL only)	Sub-topic B.4 – Forced vibrations and resonance (HL only)
$B = \rho_{\rm f} V_{\rm f} g$	$O = 2\pi$ energy stored
$P = P_0 + \rho_f g d$	$Q = 2\pi \frac{\text{energy stored}}{\text{energy dissipated per cycle}}$
Av = constant	$Q = 2\pi \times \text{resonant frequency} \times \frac{\text{energy stored}}{\text{power loss}}$
$\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 + \rho gz + p = \text{constant}$	power loss
$F_{\rm D} = 6\pi\eta r v$	
$R = \frac{vr\rho}{\eta}$	

Sub-topic C.1 – Introduction to imaging	Sub-topic C.2 – Imaging instrumentation
$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{v} + \frac{1}{u}$	$M = \frac{f_{\rm o}}{f_{\rm e}}$
$P=\frac{1}{\epsilon}$	Sub-topic C.3 – Fibre optics
$m = \frac{h_i}{h_o} = -\frac{v}{u}$	$n = \frac{1}{\sin c}$
$M = \frac{\theta_{i}}{\theta_{o}}$	$attenuation = 10 \log \frac{I}{I_0}$
	Sub-topic C.4 – Medical imaging (HL only)
$M_{\text{near point}} = \frac{D}{f} + 1$; $M_{\text{infinity}} = \frac{D}{f}$	$L_{\rm I} = 10 \log \frac{I_1}{I_0}$
	$I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$
	$I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$ $\mu x_{\frac{1}{2}} = \ln 2$
	$Z = \rho c$

Sub-topic D.1 – Stellar quantities	Sub-topic D.2 – Stellar characteristics and stellar evolution
$d ext{ (parsec)} = \frac{1}{p ext{ (arc-second)}}$ $L = \sigma A T^4$ $b = \frac{L}{4\pi d^2}$	$\lambda_{\text{max}}T = 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m K}$ $L \propto M^{3.5}$
Sub-topic D.3 – Cosmology	Sub-topic D.5 – Further cosmology (HL only)
$z = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda_0} \approx \frac{v}{c}$ $z = \frac{R}{R_0} - 1$ $v = H_0 d$ $T \approx \frac{1}{H_0}$	$v = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi G\rho}{3}}r$ $\rho_{\rm c} = \frac{3H^2}{8\pi G}$