

# Motion and Force in a Gravitational Field

## Home Assignment Circular Motion and Universal Gravitation

Name:

**ANSWERS**

(48 marks total)

1. If a 1.50 kg ball is swung in a vertical circle at a constant speed of  $2.40 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . Find the tension in the string at the bottom of the swing if the length of string is 1.20 m. (3 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} m &= 1.50 \text{ kg} \\ v &= 2.40 \text{ ms}^{-1} \\ r &= 1.20 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

As in vertical circle,  $F_T = F_c + F_w$  [1 mark]

$$F_T = \frac{mv^2}{r} + mg$$

$$F_T = \frac{1.5 \times 2.40^2}{1.20} + (1.5 \times 9.8) \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$F_T = 7.2 + 14.7$$

$$\underline{F_T = 21.9 \text{ N}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

2. While doing his Physics homework, Michael places a cup of milo (mass 0.659 kg) 10.0 cm from the centre of a microwave's turntable and then turns the microwave on. While waiting for the milo to heat, Michael notices that the microwave's turntable spins at 5.0 revolutions per minute.

- a. Find the tangential velocity on the cup. (3 marks)

$$\begin{aligned} m &= 0.659 \text{ kg} \\ r &= 10.0 \text{ cm} \\ &= 0.10 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

$$5 \text{ rev} = 60 \text{ s}$$

$$1 \text{ rev} = T$$

$$T = 12 \text{ s} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2 \times \pi \times 0.10}{12} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$v = 0.05235$$

$$\underline{v = 5.34 \times 10^{-2} \text{ ms}^{-1}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

- b. Find the centripetal force on the cup. (2 marks)

$$F_c = \frac{mv^2}{r} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$F_c = \frac{0.659 \times 0.05235^2}{0.1}$$

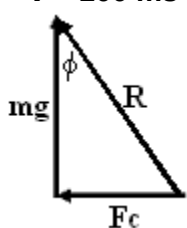
$$F_c = 0.01807$$

$$\underline{F_c = 1.81 \times 10^{-2} \text{ N}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

3. A railway line goes around a curve of radius 3.50 km. It is designed to carry a very fast train travelling at  $360 \text{ kmh}^{-1}$ . What would be the angle of banking for the tracks which would result in the best cornering? (3 marks)

$$r = 3.50 \times 10^3 \text{ m} \quad [1 \text{ mark conversions}]$$

$$v = 100 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$



$$\tan \phi = \frac{F_c}{mg} = \frac{mv^2/r}{mg}$$

$$\tan \phi = \frac{v^2}{rg}$$

$$\tan \phi = \frac{v^2}{rg} = \frac{100^2}{3500 \times 9.8} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$\tan \phi = 0.2914$$

$$\underline{\phi = 16.3^\circ}$$

[1 mark]

4. A car is driven around a circular track at a constant speed of  $30.0 \text{ kmh}^{-1}$ .

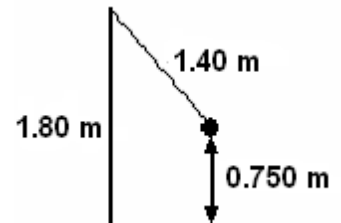
a. Is the car accelerating? **yes** [1 mark]

b. Explain your answer. (2 marks)

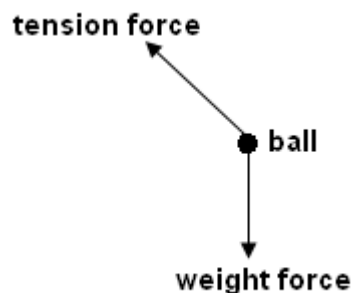
**As car is going in a circle, direction is always changing so velocity is always changing. [1 mark]**

**Change in velocity divided by time taken is acceleration so as  $\Delta V$ , must be accelerating. [1 mark]**

5. In a game of totem tennis, a 1.20 kg ball is swung in a horizontal circle at a constant speed on a 1.80 m tall pole. The distance from the ball to the ground is 0.750 m and the length of the rope is 1.40 m. It takes 2.10 s for one revolution of the ball.

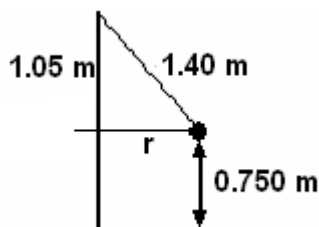


- a. Draw a free body diagram of the situation and label the forces acting on the ball. (2 mark)



[1 mark forces, 1 mark labels]

- b. What is the ball's acceleration? (3 marks)



$$T = 2.10 \text{ s}$$

$$r = \sqrt{(1.4^2 - 1.05^2)}$$

$$= 0.926 \text{ m}$$

[1 mark]

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2 \times \pi \times 0.926}{2.1}$$

$$v = 2.77 \text{ ms}^{-1} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{2.77^2}{0.926}$$

$$\underline{a = 8.29 \text{ ms}^{-2}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

- c. What is the tension in the rope? (4 mark)

$$F_c = ma_c$$

$$= 1.2 \times 8.29$$

$$= 9.9475 \text{ N}$$

[1 mark]

$$F_w = mg$$

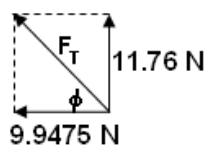
$$= 1.2 \times 9.8$$

$$= 11.76 \text{ N}$$

[1 mark]

$$F_R = \text{reaction for to weight}$$

$$= 11.76 \text{ N up}$$



$$F_T = \sqrt{(11.76^2 + 9.9475^2)}$$

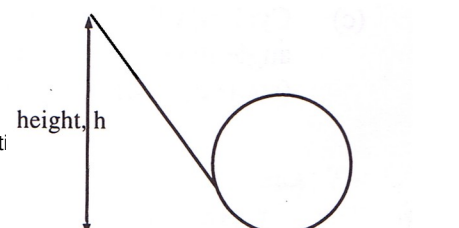
$$= 15.4 \text{ N} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}(11.76 \div 9.9475)$$

$$= 49.8^\circ \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$F_T = 15.4 \text{ N } 49.8^\circ \text{ to the horizontal as shown in diagram}$

6. In a spectacular stunt a motorcyclist, starting from rest, free wheels down a slope and into a loop. At what maximum



height must the motorcycle be so that the motorcycle just completes one loop before continuing on. The diameter of the loop is 20.0 m. (4 marks)

Total energy throughout system is conserved

$E_T$  at A =  $E_K + E_P$  but  $E_K = 0$  so

$E_T$  at A =  $mgh(A)$

$E_T$  at B =  $E_K + E_P$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + mgh(B)$  [1 mark]

now as in a circle and need minimum velocity to maintain circle,  $F_c = F_w$  (weight)

so equating formulas:  $v^2 = rg$  at point B [1 mark]

now total energy,  $E_T$ , is constant therefore energy at A must equal energy at B

$mgh(A) = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + mgh(B)$  also  $v^2$  at B =  $rg$  so

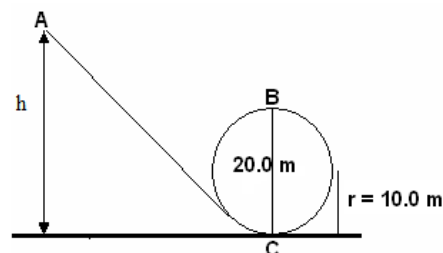
$mgh(A) = \frac{1}{2}mrg + mgh(B)$

$g$  and  $m$  will cancel throughout

$h(A) = \frac{1}{2}r + h(B)$  and height at B = 20.0 m so

$h(A) = (\frac{1}{2} \times 10.0) + 20.0$  [1 mark]  
 $= 25.0 \text{ m}$

so motorcycle free wheels from 25.0 m [1 mark]



7. Sam is on a space-walk around his spaceship to repair a faulty antenna. If his spaceship is 250 km above the Earth, what is the gravitational field strength on him at this point? (3 marks)

$$r_T = r_E + r_O$$

$$= 6.37 \times 10^6 + 250000$$

$$= 6620000 \text{ m} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$m_E = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$$

$$g' = \frac{Gm_E}{r^2}$$

$$g' = \frac{6.67 \times 10^{-11} \times 5.98 \times 10^{24}}{6620000^2} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$g' = 9.10 \text{ ms}^{-2} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

8. The International Space Station will be finished in 2011 and is expected to operate until at least 2015. It has a mass of 344 378 kg and completes 15.7 orbits every day. Its orbit is between 278 km and 460 km but on average about 370 km.
- a. Calculate the period of the Space Station. Is it in geostationary orbit? Explain. (3 marks)

$$15.7 \text{ rev} = 24 \times 60 \times 60 \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$15.7 \text{ rev} = 86400 \text{ s}$$

$$1 \text{ rev} = 5503 \text{ s}$$

$$\underline{T = 5503 \text{ s}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

It is not geostationary as to be geostationary it needs a period of 24 hours which is 86400 seconds. [1 mark]

- b. Calculate the speed of the Space Station and compare it to  $27\,743 \text{ kmh}^{-1}$  which is given by NASA. (4 marks)

$$r = 6.37 \times 10^6 + 370000$$

$$= 6740000 \text{ m} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$T = 5503 \text{ s}$$

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2 \times \pi \times 6740000}{5503} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$v = 7696 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

$$\underline{v = 7.70 \times 10^3 \text{ ms}^{-1}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$\text{given speed} = 27\,743 \text{ kmh}^{-1}$$

$$= 7706$$

$$= 7.71 \times 10^3 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

calculated value close to actual value [1 mark]

- c. Calculate the force of attraction between the Space Station and the Earth. (2 marks)

$$F_g = \frac{Gm_E m_S}{r^2}$$

$$F_g = \frac{6.67 \times 10^{-11} \times 5.98 \times 10^{24} \times 344378}{6740000^2}$$

$$F_g = 3023727$$

$$\underline{F_g = 3.02 \times 10^6 \text{ N}}$$

9. A moon of Saturn moves in circular orbit of radius  $1.00 \times 10^9 \text{ m}$  and period of  $1.00 \times 10^6 \text{ s}$ . Calculate the mass of Saturn. (4 marks)

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

$$v = \frac{2 \times \pi \times 1.0 \times 10^9}{1.0 \times 10^6}$$

$$v = 6283$$

$$\underline{v = 6.28 \times 10^3 \text{ ms}^{-1}} \quad [2 \text{ marks}]$$

$$F_c = F_g$$

$$\frac{m_m v}{r} = \frac{Gm_S m_m}{r^2} \quad r \text{ and } m_m \text{ cancel}$$

$$m_S = \frac{v^2 \times r}{G} = \frac{6283^2 \times 1.0 \times 10^9}{6.67 \times 10^{-11}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$\underline{m_S = 6.92 \times 10^{26} \text{ kg}} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

10. Explain, using a mathematical proof, that all geostationary satellites are at the same altitude above the Earth regardless of their mass, then calculate the actual altitude. (5 marks)

$$T = 24 \times 60 \times 60$$

$$= 86400 \text{ s}$$

[1 mark]

$$r = \sqrt[3]{\left( \frac{Gm_E T^2}{4\pi^2} \right)}$$

we know that  $v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$

and  $F_c = F_g$  so

$$\frac{m_m v}{r} = \frac{G m_s m_m}{r^2}$$

$$v^2 = \frac{G m_E}{r} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

but as  $v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$ ,

$$\left( \frac{2\pi r}{T} \right)^2 = \frac{G m_E}{r}$$

$$\frac{4\pi^2 r^2}{T^2} = \frac{G m_E}{r}$$

$$r^3 = \frac{G m_E T^2}{4\pi^2} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

$$r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{6.67 \times 10^{-11} \times 5.98 \times 10^{24} \times 86400^2}{4\pi^2}}$$

$$r = \sqrt[3]{7.542 \times 10^{22}}$$

$$r = 42250207 \text{ m} \quad [1 \text{ mark}]$$

but this is the total r. For r of satellite,

$$\begin{aligned} r_s &= r_T - r_E \\ &= 42250207 - 6.37 \times 10^6 \\ &= 3.59 \times 10^7 \text{ m} \quad [1 \text{ mark}] \end{aligned}$$

As can be seen, all satellites orbit at the same altitude as radius is constant and independent of mass of satellite.