

# Oxford Physics Course Companion

Unofficial suggested solutions

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Topic A – Space, time and motion</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Subtopic A.1 – Kinematics . . . . .	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Topic B – The particulate nature of matter</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Subtopic B.1 – Thermal energy transfers . . . . .	3

# 1 Topic A – Space, time and motion

## 1.1 Subtopic A.1 – Kinematics

### A1:P11 Question 1

- a) The total distance is given as the sum of distance traveled during each translation,  $2.5 + 3.8 = 6.3$  [km]
- b) Displacement is a vector quantity, thus taking the magnitude of the sum of the two vector displacements caused by the movement:

$$\begin{aligned}\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3.8 \end{pmatrix} \right\| &= \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 3.8 \end{pmatrix} \right\| \\ &= \sqrt{2.5^2 + 3.8^2} \approx \boxed{4.55 \text{ [km]}}\end{aligned}$$

- c) Since this can be scenario can be set up as a right angle triangle, with the boat as the hypothesis' outer vertex, using trigonometry the angle can is determined as:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{o}{a} \rightsquigarrow \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{2.5}{3.8} \approx 33.3^\circ$$

### A1:P11 Question 2

- a) 15 minutes corresponds to a 90 degree ( $\frac{\pi}{2}$  [rad]) rotation on a clock, or one quarter of its perimeter. Therefore the distance travelled by the tip of the pointer must be:

$$s = \frac{2\pi r}{4} = \frac{15\pi}{2} \approx 23.6 \text{ [cm]}$$

The displacement however is the distance between the points  $\langle 0, 15 \rangle$  and  $\langle 15, 0 \rangle$ , thus using Pythagora's theorem<sup>a</sup>:

$$s = \sqrt{15^2 + 15^2} = \sqrt{450} = 21.2 \text{ [cm]}$$

- b) Analogously to question a but for the 180 degrees ( $\pi$  [rad]) rotation resulting from 30 elapsed minutes:

$$\begin{aligned}s_{\text{distance}} &= \frac{2\pi r}{2} = 15\pi \approx 47.1 \text{ [cm]} \\ s_{\text{displacement}} &= \sqrt{0^2 + 30^2} = 30 \text{ [cm]}\end{aligned}$$

### A1:P12 Question 3

Since they are headed in completley oposite directions,  $s_{\text{Ada}} + s_{\text{Matt}} = 580$  [m]. Ada's speed of  $20 \text{ [km h}^{-1}\text{]}$

is approximately  $5.56 \text{ [m s}^{-1}\text{]}$  Since  $s = \int v \, dt$ :

$$v_{\text{Ada}} t + v_{\text{Matt}} t = 580$$

$$5.56 \times 60 + v_{\text{Matt}} \times 60 = 580$$

$$\therefore v_{\text{Matt}} \approx 4.11 \text{ [m s}^{-1}\text{]} \equiv \boxed{14.8 \text{ [km h}^{-1}\text{]}}$$

#### A1:P12 Question 4

$$1 \text{ [ly]}$$

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

## **2 Topic B – The particulate nature of matter**

### **2.1 Subtopic B.1 – Thermal energy transfers**