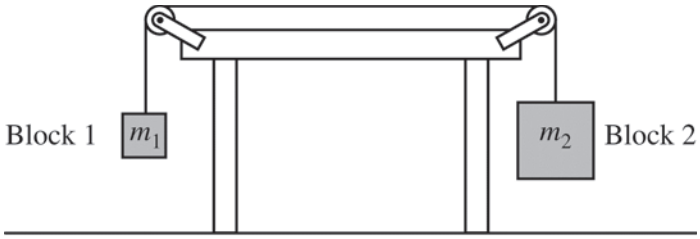
PHYSICS 1
Section II
5 Questions
Time—90 minutes

Directions: Questions 1, 4 and 5 are short free-response questions that require about 13 minutes each to answer and are worth 7 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.



Note: Figure not drawn to scale.

1. (7 points, suggested time 13 minutes)

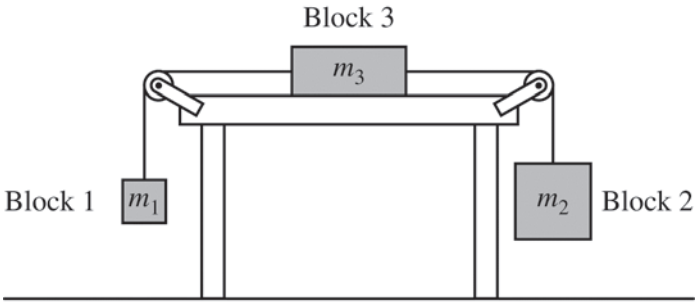
   Two blocks are connected by a string of negligible mass that passes over massless pulleys that turn with negligible friction, as shown in the figure above. The mass m_2 of block 2 is greater than the mass m_1 of block 1. The blocks are released from rest.

   (a) The dots below represent the two blocks. Draw free-body diagrams showing and labeling the forces (not components) exerted on each block. Draw the relative lengths of all vectors to reflect the relative magnitudes of all the forces.

   Block 1 Block 2

   (b) Derive the magnitude of the acceleration of block 2. Express your answer in terms of m_1, m_2, and g.

Block 3 of mass m_3 is added to the system, as shown below. There is no friction between block 3 and the table.



Note: Figure not drawn to scale.

(c) Indicate whether the magnitude of the acceleration of block 2 is now larger, smaller, or the same as in the original two-block system. Explain how you arrived at your answer.

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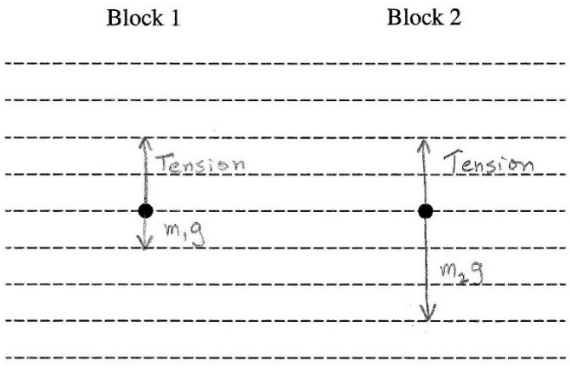
Question 1

7 points total **Distribution of points**

(a) 2 points



For drawing two vectors starting on the dots that point upward, have the same length and are labeled as the tension force — 1 point

For drawing two vectors starting on the dots that point downward, where the vector for block 1 is smaller than the vector for block 2 and both are labeled as the gravitational force — 1 point

One earned point is deducted for drawing any extraneous vectors.

One earned point is deducted for vector lengths that do not allow the system to accelerate in the proper direction.

(b) 3 points

For writing an equation for Newton's second law for block 1 — 1 point

$m_1a = T - m_1g$

For writing an equation for Newton's second law for block 2 — 1 point

$m_2a = m_2g - T$

For eliminating T to obtain an equation that can be solved for the acceleration — 1 point

$T = m_1a + m_1g$

$m_2a = m_2g - m_1a - m_1g$

$(m_2 + m_1)a = (m_2 - m_1)g$

$a = (m_2 - m_1)g/(m_2 + m_1)$

Question 1 (continued)

Distribution of points

(b) (continued)

Alternate solution — *Alternate points*

The system of two blocks must move as a unit, so the acceleration of the system is the acceleration of block 2.

For writing an equation showing that the net force acting on the system is the difference in masses times the acceleration of gravity — *1 point*

$F_{net} = (m_2 - m_1)g$

For writing an equation that relates the net force to the sum of the masses and the acceleration of the system — *1 point*

$F_{net} = (m_2 + m_1)a$

For writing an equation that can be solved for the acceleration in terms of the variables used in the summation of forces equations — *1 point*

$(m_2 + m_1)a = (m_2 - m_1)g$

$a = (m_2 - m_1)g/(m_2 + m_1)$

(c) 2 points

The acceleration of the new system, and thus of block 2, is smaller.

For indicating that the mass of the system is larger — 1 point

For a clear indication that the tension on block 2 is greater — 1 point

Alternate solution — *Alternate points*

For indicating that the mass of the system is larger — *1 point*

For indicating that the net force exerted on the system stays the same — *1 point*

Notes:

No points are earned for a correct prediction without a reasonable attempt at an explanation.

No points are earned for an incorrect prediction, regardless of the explanation.