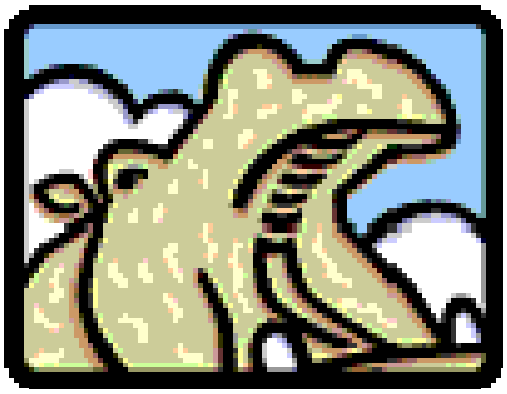
UPGRADE YOUR PHYSICS



NOTES FOR BRITISH SIXTH FORM STUDENTS WHO

- **ARE PREPARING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD, OR**
- **WISH TO TAKE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF PHYSICS BEYOND THE A-LEVEL SYLLABI.**

A. C. MACHACEK

Introduction

The International Physics Olympiad is an annual international physics competition for pre-university students. Teams of five from each participating nation attend, and recently over 60 countries have taken part. Each nation has its own methods for selecting its team members. In Britain, this is by means of a series of written and practical exams. The question paper for the first round is circulated to all secondary schools.

Once the team has been chosen, it is necessary for its members to broaden their horizons. The syllabus for the International Physics Olympiad is larger than that of the British A2-level, and indeed forms a convenient stepping-stone to first year undergraduate work. For this reason, training is provided to help the British team bridge the gap.

The British Olympiad Committee recognizes the need for teaching material to help candidates prepare for the international competition. Furthermore, this material ought to have greater potential in the hands of students who wish to develop their physics, even if they have no desire to take part in the examinations.

It is my hope that these notes make a start in providing for this need.

A.C. Machacek, 2001

About the author: Anton Machacek has served on the British Physics Olympiad Committee since 1997, and has been involved regularly in training the British team and in writing Physics Challenge examinations. He served on the academic committee for the International Physics Olympiad in Leicester in 2000. Anton is Head of Physics at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, and is an Academic Visitor in the sub-department of Atomic and Laser Physics, University of Oxford.

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