

AP PHYSICS C: WORK AND ENERGY

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and place the letter of your choice in the corresponding box on the student answer sheet.

Note: To simplify calculations, you may use $g = 10\text{ m/s}^2$ in all problems.

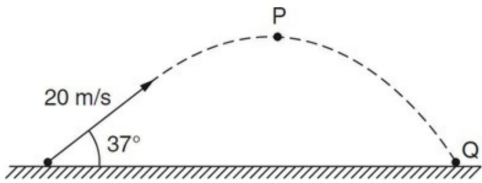
1. A 1 kg ball is thrown vertically downward from a 50 m high tower with an initial speed of 4 m/s. Just before striking the ground, the speed of the ball is 20 m/s. The energy lost to air friction is most nearly

(A) 101 J
(B) 210 J
(C) 308 J
(D) 406 J
(E) 508 J
7. If the only force acting on an object is given by the equation $F(x) = 2 - 4x$ (where the force is measured in newtons and position in meters), what is the change in the object’s kinetic energy as it moves from $x = 2$ to $x = 1$?

(A) +4 J
(B) −4 J
(C) +2 J
(D) −2 J
(E) +8 J

Questions 2–3

A 2 kg projectile is launched with a speed of 20 m/s from horizontal ground at an angle of 37° to the horizontal as shown. Point P is at the top of the path, and point Q is at the end of the path, just before the projectile again reaches the ground.



2. The kinetic energy of the projectile at point P is

(A) 108 J
(B) 225 J
(C) 256 J
(D) 400 J
(E) 525 J
3. The kinetic energy of the projectile at point Q is

(A) 108 J
(B) 225 J
(C) 256 J
(D) 400 J
(E) 525 J
4. If a projectile thrown directly upward reaches a maximum height h and spends a total time in the air of T , then returning to the original location, the average power of the gravitational force during the trajectory is

(A) $P = 2mgh/T$
(B) $P = -2mgh/T$
(C) 0
(D) $P = mgh/T$
(E) $P = -mgh/T$
5. Given that the constant net force on an object and the object’s displacement, which of the following quantities can be calculated?

(A) the net change in the object’s velocity
(B) the net change in the object’s mechanical energy
(C) the average acceleration
(D) the net change in the object’s kinetic energy
(E) the net change in the object’s potential energy
6. The force acting on an object varies with the equation $F(x) = -3x^2 - 2x - 4$, where force is in newtons and displacement is in meters. The potential energy at $x = 2$ m is

(A) zero
(B) 20 J
(C) 40 J
(D) −20 J
(E) −40 J
8. The potential energy of an object varies with the equation $U(x) = 2x^2 + x - 6$, where force is in newtons and displacement is in meters. A force F vs. displacement x graph would yield which of the following?

(A) A straight, horizontal line
(B) A parabola
(C) An exponential decay curve
(D) A straight line with a positive slope
(E) A straight line with a negative slope
9. A particle of mass m moves according to the displacement equation $x = 2t^{5/2}$. The kinetic energy of the particle as a function of time is

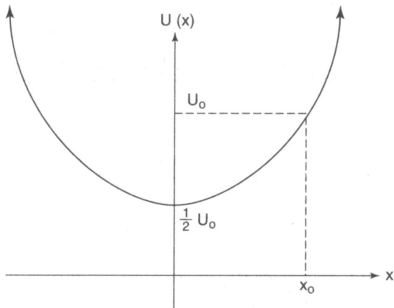
(A) $10mt^{5/2}$
(B) $10mt^{3/2}$
(C) $\frac{25}{2}mt^3$
(D) $5mt^2$
(E) $2mt^{3/2}$
10. An electron travels in a circle around a hydrogen nucleus at a very high speed. The work done by the electrostatic force acting on the electron after one complete revolution is

(A) zero
(B) positive
(C) negative
(D) equal to the kinetic energy of the electron
(E) equal to the potential energy of the electron
11. An object is moved from rest at point P to rest at point Q in a gravitational field. The net work against the gravitational field depends on the

(A) mass of the object and the positions of P and Q
(B) mass of the object only
(C) positions of P and Q only
(D) length moved between points P and Q
(E) coefficient of friction

Questions 12–13

Consider the potential energy function shown below.



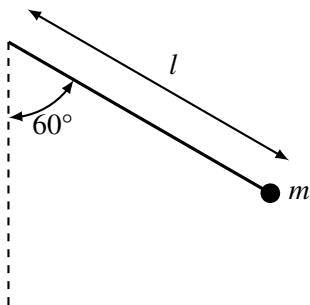
12. Assuming that no non-conservative forces are present, if a particle of mass m is released from position x_0 , what is the maximum speed it will achieve?

- (A) $\sqrt{4U_0/m}$
- (B) $\sqrt{2U_0/m}$
- (C) $\sqrt{U_0/m}$
- (D) $\sqrt{U_0/2m}$
- (E) The particle will achieve no maximum speed but instead will continue to accelerate indefinitely.

13. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the system introduced in the previous question?

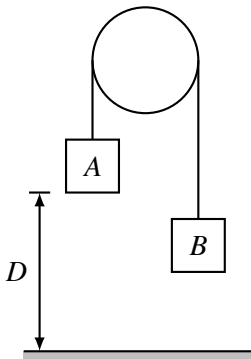
- (A) A stable equilibrium
- (B) An unstable equilibrium
- (C) A neutral equilibrium
- (D) A bound system
- (E) There is a linear restoring force

14. A pendulum bob of mass m is released from rest as shown in the figure below. What is the tension in the string as the pendulum swings through the lowest point of its motion?



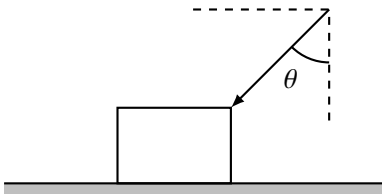
- (A) $T = \frac{1}{2}mg$
- (B) $T = mg$
- (C) $T = \frac{3}{2}mg$
- (D) $T = 2mg$
- (E) None of the above

15. Two blocks of mass m_A and m_B are connected by a string that passes over a light pulley. The mass of A is larger than the mass of B. The speed of mass A just before reaching the floor is:



- (A) $\sqrt{\frac{2(m_A - m_B)}{m_A + m_B}gD}$
- (B) $\sqrt{\frac{2(m_A + m_B)}{m_A - m_B}gD}$
- (C) $\sqrt{\frac{2m_A}{m_A + m_B}gD}$
- (D) $\sqrt{\frac{2m_B}{m_A + m_B}gD}$
- (E) $\sqrt{\frac{2m_A}{m_B}gD}$

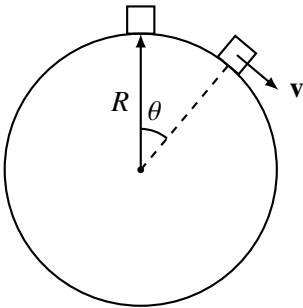
16. A force is applied to a block of mass m at a downward angle of θ to the vertical as shown. The block moves with a constant speed across a rough floor for a distance x . The work done by the applied force on the block is



- (A) $Fx \sin \theta$
- (B) $Fx \cos \theta$
- (C) $Fmx \sin \theta$
- (D) $Fmx \cos \theta$
- (E) zero

Questions 17–18

A small block rests on the top of a smooth sphere of radius R when it is given a light tap so that it just begins sliding on the sphere. When the block reaches the angle θ , it loses contact with the surface of the sphere.



17. The kinetic energy of the block as it leaves the surface of the sphere is

- (A) mgR
- (B) $mgR \cos \theta$
- (C) $mgR \sin \theta$
- (D) $mg(R - R \cos \theta)$
- (E) $mg(R - R \sin \theta)$

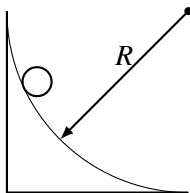
18. The speed of the block as it leaves the surface of the sphere is

- (A) $\sqrt{2gm}$
- (B) $\sqrt{2gRm}$
- (C) $\sqrt{2gR \cos \theta}$
- (D) $\sqrt{2g(R - R \cos \theta)}$
- (E) $\sqrt{2g(R - R \sin \theta)}$

19. A machine can lift large weights according to the power equation $P(t) = 4t^3 + 3t^2 - 2$, where power is in watts and time is in seconds. The energy expended by the machine from $t = 0$ to $t = 10$ s is

- (A) 1260 J
- (B) 3630 J
- (C) 9240 J
- (D) 10 980 J
- (E) 18 150 J

20. A small ball starts from rest and rolls down a quarter-circle ramp of radius R . The speed of the ball at the point halfway down the ramp is most nearly

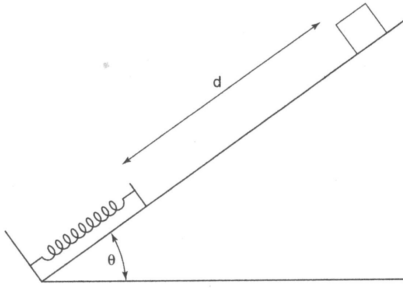


- (A) gR
- (B) $2gR$
- (C) $\sqrt{gR \sin 45^\circ}$
- (D) $\sqrt{2gR \sin 45^\circ}$
- (E) The speed cannot be determined without knowing the mass of the ball.

AP PHYSICS C: WORK AND ENERGY
SECTION II
6 Questions

Directions: Answer all questions. The parts within a question may not have equal weight. All final numerical answers should include appropriate units. Credit depends on the quality of your solutions and explanations, so you should show your work. Credit also depends on demonstrating that you know which physical principles would be appropriate to apply in a particular situation. Therefore, you should clearly indicate which part of a question your work is for.

1. A mass m is placed on an incline of angle θ at a distance d from the end of a spring as shown below. The coefficient of kinetic friction between the mass and the plane is μ .



- (a) The mass is released from rest at the position shown. Using Newton's laws, calculate the block's speed when it reaches the spring.
- (b) Using energy conservation, calculate the block's speed when it reaches the spring.
- (c) The spring has spring constant k . At what value x of the compression of the spring does the object reach its maximum speed?

2. A 3.0 kg object is moving along the x -axis in a region where its potential energy as a function of x is given as $U(x) = 4.0x^2$, where U is in joules and x is in meters. When the object passes the point $x = -0.50$ m, its velocity is +2.0 m/s. All forces acting on the object are conservative.
- (a) Calculate the total mechanical energy of the object.
 - (b) Calculate the x -coordinate of any points at which the object has zero kinetic energy.
 - (c) Calculate the magnitude of the momentum of the object at $x = 0.60$ m.
 - (d) Calculate the magnitude of the acceleration of the object as it passes $x = 0.60$ m.
 - (e) On the axes below, sketch graphs of the object's position x versus time t and kinetic energy K versus time t . Assume that $x = 0$ at time $t = 0$. The two graphs should cover the same time interval and use the same scale on the horizontal axes.

