

HOMEWORK 1 GUIDEBOOK

1. (No hints – just go fill it out!)
2. This problem is something of a warmup, but it also serves another purpose. Position doesn't appear anywhere in it, so you are only relating velocity and acceleration. However, it also requires you to think about unit conversions between kilometers and meters, and seconds, hours, and milliseconds. Once you have done that, it asks you to relate the accelerations experienced in a car crash to the more familiar units of “g-forces” used in aerospace engineering, to get you used to thinking in terms of physical values.

Whenever you encounter a physical value in this class, you should ask: “How big or small is this really? Does this make sense?”

3. This is a straightforward problem to get you used to using the position-vs.-time relation to solve physical problems, and to connecting the physical descriptions of things to algebraic variables.
4. Here you're confronted with motion that doesn't have constant acceleration overall, but the acceleration has three different constant values at different stages. The idea here is that you can use the final position and velocity values for the first stage as the initial values for the second stage, and so on.

This problem also asks you to graph position, velocity, and acceleration based on a description. Remember:

- Position is the area under the velocity curve (integral)
- Velocity is the area under the acceleration curve (integral)
- Velocity is the slope of the position curve (derivative)
- Acceleration is the slope of the velocity curve (derivative)

5. This problem gives you practice at several things:
 - Translating between verbal, graphical, and algebraic representations of motion (you'll need all three here!)
 - Using the quadratic formula
 - Understanding the physical meaning of the roots that the quadratic formula gives you
6. This problem is similar to problem 3 in that it lets you practice working with position, velocity, and acceleration graphs, and understanding the physical meaning of their slopes and the areas under their curves (derivatives and integrals). These are important ideas and you can bet that they'll be on your exam...

7. This problem reminds you that the constant-acceleration kinematics formulas we learned are only valid if acceleration is constant. If acceleration is not constant, you'll need to repeat the process we did in class to arrive at those formulas, but starting at a different form for the acceleration.
8. Here we are not all that interested in the answer you get, but in the reasoning you use to get there. Make sure you explain – using a mixture of words and mathematics – what you are thinking.