

# TOPIC 4: EXPLAINING MOTION

## Forces

Friction and the Normal Reaction

Contact or non contact

Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law

Forces are vectors

Interaction between objects

Mass is amount of matter

Weight = Mass x g  
(g = 10N/kg on earth)

Weight is the downward force on an object due to gravity

## Describing Motion

Scalar

Distance and speed

Gradient = acceleration

Vectors

$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$

Acceleration = change in velocity/time

Displacement and velocity

Graphs

Velocity/time

Area = displacement

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Displacement/time

A curved gradient shows acceleration

Gradient = velocity

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# TOPIC 4: EXPLAINING MOTION: ENERGY

Energy  
= mass x g x height

Energy  
=  $\frac{1}{2}$  mass x velocity<sup>2</sup>

When an object is lifted,  
its Gravitational Potential Energy  
increases

Moving objects store  
Kinetic Energy

Energy is dissipated  
when work is done  
against resistive  
forces (friction, air  
resistance etc)

Work done

The energy  
transferred from one  
form to another

Power is the rate of  
energy transfer

Work done  
= force x distance moved

Power = work done / time

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**TOPIC 4: EXPLAINING MOTION: FORCES AND MOTION**

Constant speed, changing velocity

Circular Motion

Moments

The rotational effect of a force—gears and levers

Moment = force x distance

Distance is the perpendicular distance between the pivot and the line of action of the force

Force at right angles to the direction of motion

Inertial mass

Difficulty in changing motion of an object

$F=ma$

Cars

Braking distance

Affected by speed, road conditions, tyre conditions and weight of car

Thinking distance

Braking distance + thinking distance = overall stopping distance

Safety precautions

Affected by speed, reactions, concentration, tiredness, drugs and distractions

Seat belts

Crumple zones

Air bags

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# TOPIC 4: EXPLAINING MOTION: FORCES AND MOTION

**Momentum**  
= mass x velocity

A resultant force means a change in momentum

Conservation of momentum - momentum is always conserved in a collision/explosion

Change in momentum = force x time = (impulse)

Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law

A non-zero resultant force - accelerate or decelerate

**Resultant Force**

Net forces acting on an object

Weight causes acceleration downwards (resultant force down)

As speed increases, air resistance increases

Resultant force decreases

Eventually, air resistance = weight so there is no resultant force

No more acceleration

**Terminal Velocity**

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