

• Candidates should be able to :

- Derive the **equations of motion** for constant acceleration in a straight line from a velocity-time graph.
- Select and use the equations of motion for constant acceleration in a straight line :

$$v = u + at$$

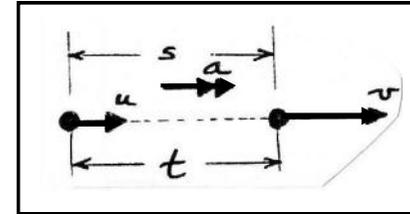
$$s = \frac{1}{2}(u + v)t$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

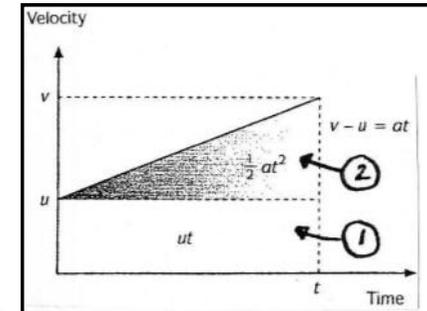
$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$$

- Apply the equations for constant acceleration in a straight line, including the motion of bodies falling in the Earth's uniform gravitational field without air resistance.
- Explain how experiments carried out by **Galileo** overturned **Aristotle's** ideas of motion.
- Describe an experiment to determine **the acceleration of free fall (g)** using a falling body.
- Apply the equations of constant acceleration to describe and explain the motion of an object due to a **uniform velocity in one direction and a constant acceleration in a perpendicular direction.**

Consider an object moving with an **initial velocity (u)** which accelerates with a constant **acceleration (a)** to reach a **final velocity (v)** after a **time (t)**. The **distance moved in this time is (s)**.



This is the **velocity-time graph** for the motion.



EQUATION 1

Acceleration = gradient of v/t graph

$$a = \frac{v - u}{t}$$

$$at = v - u$$

$$v = u + at$$

EQUATION 2

Total displacement = average velocity x time

$$s = \frac{1}{2}(u + v)t$$

EQUATION 3

$$v = u + at \dots\dots (1) \text{ and } s = \frac{(u + v)t}{2} \dots\dots (2)$$

Substituting $(u + at)$ for (v) in equation (2) gives:

$$s = \frac{(u + u + at)t}{2} = \frac{2ut + at^2}{2}$$

So,

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

EQUATION 4

$$v = u + at, \text{ so } t = \frac{(v - u)}{a}$$

Substituting for (t) in $s = \frac{(u + v)t}{2}$ gives:

$$s = \frac{(u + v)}{2} \times \frac{(v - u)}{a} = \frac{(uv - uv + v^2 - u^2)}{2a}$$

$$2as = v^2 - u^2$$

So,

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

• **EQUATIONS OF MOTION - SUMMARY**

2

$$v = u + at$$

$$s = \frac{1}{2}(u + v)t$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

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

• These equations can also be used for objects falling without air resistance in the Earth's uniform gravitational field. Then:

- $a = g = \text{acceleration due to gravity} = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$.
- g is **positive** for objects which are **initially falling**.
 g is **negative** for objects which are **projected upwards**.
- $h = \text{vertical displacement}$.

• **PRACTICE QUESTIONS (1)**

1 An aircraft accelerates uniformly from **rest** at 3.1 m s^{-2} to reach its take-off velocity of 100 m s^{-1} .

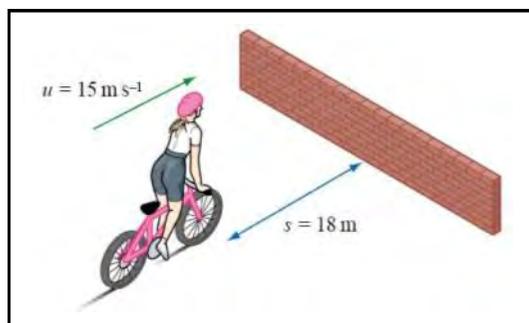
- (a) How long does it take for the aircraft to leave the ground?
- (b) How far does it travel during take-off?

2 A motorway designer assumes that cars approaching a motorway enter a slip road with a velocity of 8 m s^{-1} and need to reach a velocity of 25 m s^{-1} .

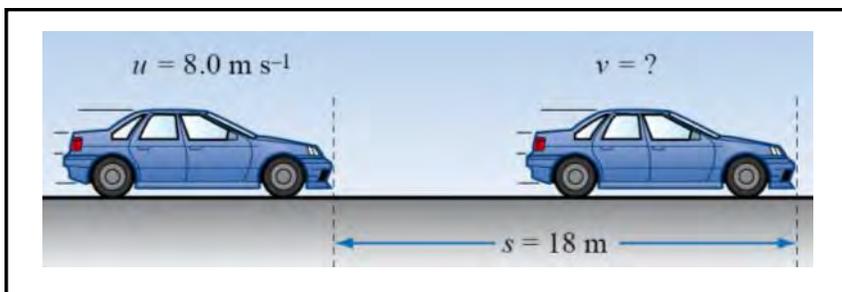
Assuming that vehicles have an acceleration of 5 m s^{-2} , calculate the **minimum length** for a slip road.

- 3 The cyclist shown in the diagram opposite is travelling at 15 m s^{-1} . She brakes so as to avoid colliding with the wall.

Calculate the **deceleration** needed in order to come to rest in 18 m .



4



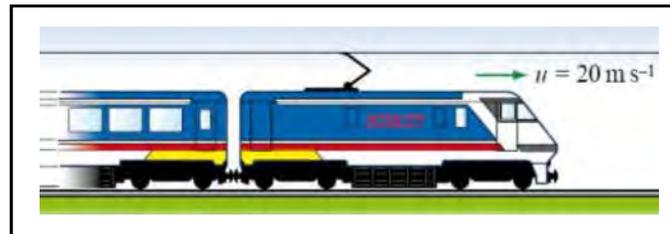
The car shown in the diagram above is travelling along a straight road at 8 m s^{-1} . If it accelerates uniformly at 1.5 m s^{-2} over a distance of 18 m , calculate its **final velocity**.

- 5 A lorry accelerates from rest at a steady rate of 1.2 m s^{-2} .

Calculate :

- The **time taken** to reach a velocity of 15 m s^{-1} .
- The **distance travelled** during this time.
- The **velocity** of the lorry when it is 100 m from the start.

6



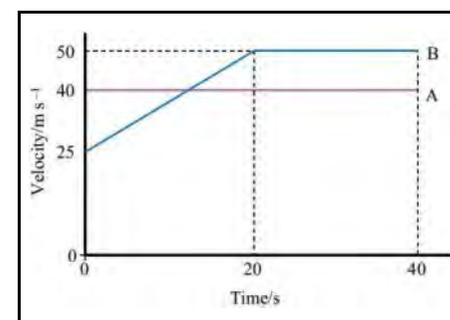
3

A train travelling at 20 m s^{-1} accelerates uniformly at 0.75 m s^{-2} for 25 s . Calculate the **distance travelled** by the train in this time.

7

The diagram opposite shows a velocity-time graph for two cars, **A** and **B**, which are moving in the same direction over a 40 s time period.

Car **A**, travelling at a constant velocity of 40 m s^{-1} , overtakes car **B** at time, $t = 0$.



In order to catch up with car **A**, car **B** immediately accelerates uniformly for 20 s to reach a constant velocity of 50 m s^{-1} .

Calculate :

- The **distance travelled** by car **A** during the first 20 s .
- Car **B's acceleration** during the first 20 s .
- The **distance travelled** by car **B** during the first 20 s .
- The **additional time** taken for car **B** to catch up with car **A**.
- The **total distance** each car will have travelled.

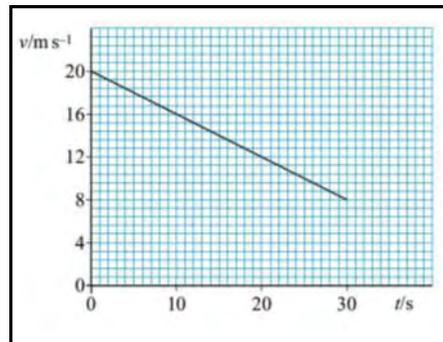
- 8 A coin is dropped down a mine shaft and falls through a height of **55 m** before hitting the bottom of the shaft. Assuming **negligible air resistance** and taking the **acceleration due to gravity (g)** as **9.81 m s^{-2}** , calculate :

- (a) The **time taken** for the coin to hit the bottom.
 (b) The **velocity** of the coin on impact.

- 9 A stone is projected vertically upwards from the ground with an initial velocity of **30 m s^{-1}** . Assuming **air resistance is negligible** and taking the **acceleration due to gravity (g)** as **9.81 m s^{-2}** , Calculate :

- (a) The **maximum height** reached by the stone.
 (b) The **total time taken** to return to the ground.

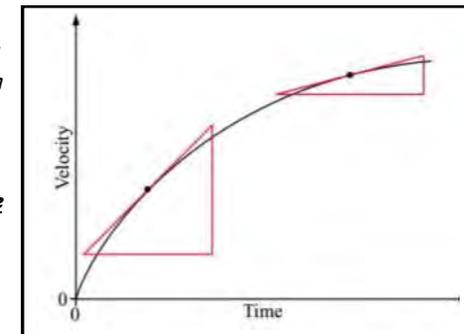
- 10 The diagram opposite shows a velocity-time graph for a vehicle travelling along a straight road for a time of **30 s**.



- (a) **Describe** the motion of the vehicle.
 (b) Use the graph to determine the **acceleration** of the vehicle over the **30 s period**.
 (c) Use the graph to determine the **displacement** of the vehicle over the **30 s period**.
 (d) Check your answer to part (c) by calculating the **displacement** using a suitable equation of motion.

- The **EQUATIONS OF MOTION** only apply to objects moving with **CONSTANT or UNIFORM ACCELERATION**.

- The v/t graph opposite shows the motion of an object which is moving with **non-uniform acceleration**.

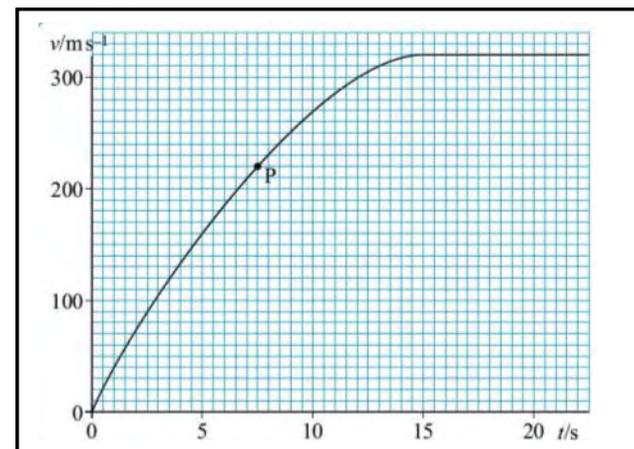


The **acceleration at any time** is given by the **gradient of the v/t graph** at that time.

To find the acceleration at Any given time :

- At the time in question, mark a point on the v/t graph.
- Draw a tangent to the curve at that point.
- Construct a large right-angled triangle and use it to calculate the gradient.

Use the procedure outlined above to calculate the acceleration at Point P in the v/t graph shown below.



Acceleration = _____ = m s^{-2}

HOW GALILEO'S EXPERIMENTS OVERTURNED ARISTOTLE'S IDEAS OF MOTION

The Greek philosopher **ARISTOTLE** thought that a force must act all the time in order to keep an object moving. Our own experience seems to support this idea in that a car, for example, will slow down and eventually stop when the engine is switched off. But, does this happen because the driving force has been switched off? The reality is that the slowing down and stopping occurs because there is an opposing **FRICTIONAL FORCE**.

Experiments carried out by **GALILEO** (about 1600 years after Aristotle) showed that **Constant force is not needed to maintain motion, but force is needed to :**

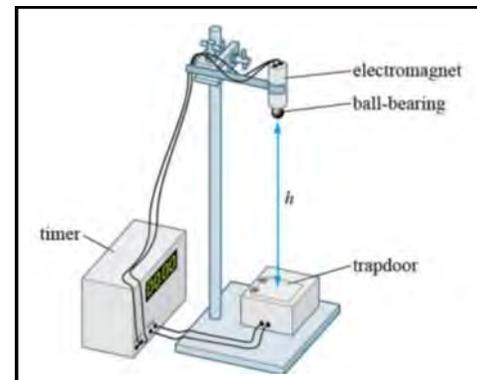
- Start and stop motion,
- Change the speed of an object,
- Change the direction of an object.

GALILEO'S EXPERIMENTS

Galileo simultaneously dropped two objects of different weight from the top of the **leaning Tower of Pisa** and found that they hit the ground at the same time. He concluded that **any two objects will fall at the same rate, regardless of their relative weights.**

Using a 'dripping water' clock which counted the volume of water drips as a measure of time, **Galileo** was able to measure the time taken by a ball to travel equal distances down a slope from rest. His results showed that the ball **accelerates as it rolls down the slope and that the greater the slope, the greater is the acceleration.** From this, he concluded that **an object falling vertically will accelerate.**

A steel ball-bearing is held by an electromagnet. When the current to the magnet is switched off, the ball is released and the timer is started. The ball strikes and opens a trapdoor which then stops the timer. The **time taken (t)** for the ball to fall through a given **height (h)** is recorded. The timing is repeated and an **average t-value** is calculated.



The procedure is repeated for several different **h-values** and the results are recorded in the table below :

h/m	t ₁ /s	t ₂ /s	t ₃ /s	t _{av} /s	t ² /s ²

$$h = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

And since $u = 0$, $ut = 0$

So $h = \frac{1}{2}gt^2$

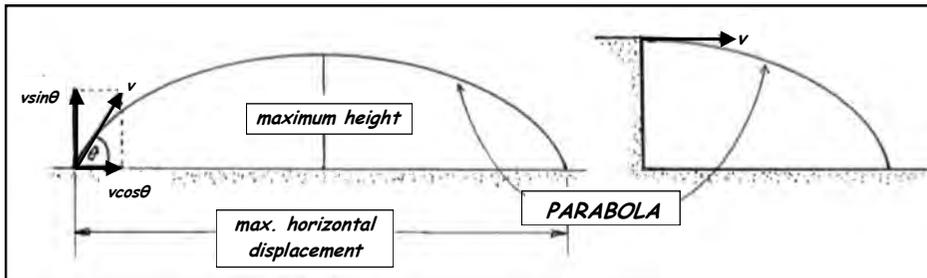
Compare with $y = mx + c$

Therefore, plotting a graph of **(h)** against **(t²)** gives a best-fit, straight line through the origin, whose **gradient = 1/2 g**

From which, **acceleration of free fall, g = 2 x gradient of h/t² graph**

$$= 2 \times \boxed{} \text{ m s}^{-2}$$

- MOTION DUE TO CONSTANT VELOCITY IN ONE DIRECTION AND A CONSTANT ACCELERATION IN A PERPENDICULAR DIRECTION



The motion of objects projected at an angle or horizontally from some height above the ground is called **PROJECTILE MOTION**.

All **PROJECTILES** have the following in common :

- They are given some initial velocity (by kicking, firing etc.)
- Throughout their flight, the only force acting (neglecting air resistance) is their **WEIGHT** due to gravity, which exerts a constant force acting vertically downwards.

This gives the projectile :

CONSTANT DOWNWARD ACCELERATION = g (9.81 m s^{-2})

- Neglecting air resistance, the **HORIZONTAL COMPONENT OF VELOCITY REMAINS CONSTANT THROUGHOUT THE MOTION** and the path followed is a **PARABOLA**.

SUMMARY FOR SOLVING PROJECTILE PROBLEMS

Resolve the initial velocity into :

HORIZONTAL and **VERTICAL** COMPONENTS.

Assume **NEGLIGIBLE AIR RESISTANCE**

For the Horizontal Direction :

The **HORIZONTAL COMPONENT** of velocity remains constant throughout the flight.

horizontal displacement = horizontal velocity \times flight time

For the Vertical Direction :

The acceleration is constant, equal to ' g '.

The equations of motion apply.

$$v = u + gt \qquad h = \frac{1}{2}(u + v)t$$

$$h = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2 \qquad v^2 = u^2 + 2gh$$

At the maximum height, vertical velocity = 0.

When the projectile has returned to the level of its launch point :

- Vertical displacement = 0
- Final vertical velocity is equal, but oppositely Directed to the initial vertical velocity.

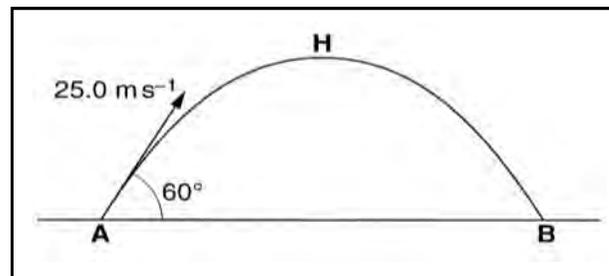
• Practice Questions (2)

1 A helicopter is flying in a straight line at a speed of 20 m s^{-1} and at a constant height of 180 m . A small object is released from the helicopter and falls to the ground. Assuming air resistance is negligible, calculate :

- The *time taken* for the object to reach the ground.
- The *vertical component of velocity* of the object when it hits the ground.
- The *horizontal component of velocity* of the object when it hits the ground.
- The *horizontal displacement* of the object in the time taken to reach the ground.

2 During a European Champions League match, a free kick was taken by Steven Gerrard and the ball was projected with a velocity of 20 m s^{-1} at an angle of 35° to the pitch. Assuming that air resistance is negligible, calculate :

- The *initial vertical and horizontal components of velocity*.
- The *time taken* for the ball to reach its maximum height.
- The *maximum height* reached by the ball.
- The *horizontal displacement* of the ball in the time taken to return to the ground.



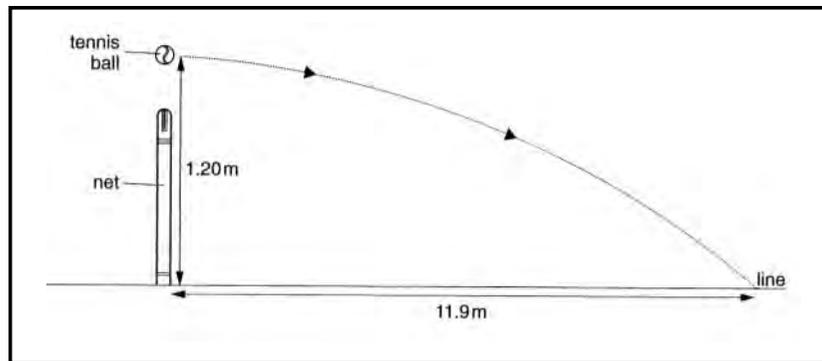
The diagram above shows the path of a ball that is thrown from *point A* to *point B*. The ball reaches its maximum height at *point H*. The ball is thrown with an initial velocity of 25.0 m s^{-1} at 60° to horizontal. Assume that there is no air resistance.

- Show that the *vertical component of the initial velocity* is 21.7 m s^{-1} .
 - Calculate the *time taken* for the ball to reach *point H*.
 - Calculate the *displacement* from *A* to *B*.
- For the path of the ball shown in the diagram, draw sketch graphs, with labelled axes but without numerical values, to show the variation of :
 - The *vertical component of the ball's velocity* against *time*.
 - The *distance travelled along its path* against *time*.

(OCR Physics AS - Module 2821 - May 2008)

UNIT G481	Module 1	1.1.4	Linear Motion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOMEWORK QUESTIONS 				<p>5 Traffic police investigators use the length of skid marks left on the road by a decelerating vehicle in order to determine whether or not the speed limit has been exceeded.</p> <p>If the skid marks at the scene of an accident are 52m long and other tests on the road surface show that the skidding car was decelerating at 6.5 m s⁻², was the car breaking the speed limit of 30 m s⁻¹?</p>
<p>1 When the brakes are applied in a car which is moving at 40 m s⁻¹, the velocity is reduced to 25 m s⁻¹ over a distance of 140 m. If the deceleration remains constant, what further distance will the car travel before coming to rest?</p> <p>Sketch a velocity-time graph for the whole motion showing numerical values on the axes.</p>	<p>6 A sandbag is dropped from a height of 180 m, from a helicopter that is moving vertically upwards with a velocity of 6 m s⁻¹. If air resistance is neglected, calculate :</p> <p>(a) The initial velocity of the sandbag.</p> <p>(b) The final velocity of the sandbag.</p> <p>(c) The time taken for the sandbag to reach the ground.</p>			
<p>2 Calculate the deceleration of a bullet initially travelling at 400 m s⁻¹, if it is brought to rest after travelling 10 cm through a wooden block.</p>	<p>7 An aid parcel is released from a plane flying horizontally at 65 m s⁻¹, at a height of 800 m above the ground.</p> <p>(a) Calculate the horizontal and vertical components of the parcel's initial velocity.</p> <p>(b) How long does it take for the parcel to reach the ground?</p> <p>(c) At what horizontal distance from the target should the plane be when the parcel is released?</p>			
<p>3 A hawk is hovering above a field at a height of 50 m. It sees a Mouse directly below it and dives vertically with an acceleration of 12 m s⁻². Calculate :</p> <p>(a) The hawk's velocity at the instant it reaches the mouse.</p> <p>(b) The time taken to reach the mouse.</p>				
<p>4 A train accelerates steadily from 4.0 m s⁻¹ to 24.0 m s⁻¹ in a time of 180 s. Calculate :</p> <p>(a) The train's acceleration.</p> <p>(b) The average velocity of the train.</p> <p>(c) The distance travelled by the train during the acceleration.</p>				

8



The diagram above shows the path of a tennis ball after passing over the net.

As it passes over the net, it is travelling at a height of **1.20 m**. The ball strikes the ground on a line which is **11.9 m** from the net.

(a) Assuming air resistance to be negligible,

(i) Show that the **time taken** for the ball to reach the line After passing over the net is **0.495 s**.

(ii) At the instant the ball strikes the line, calculate :

1. The **horizontal component of its velocity**.

2. The **vertical component of its velocity**.

(OCR Physics AS - Module 2821 - June 2007)