

Physics data booklet

For use during the course and in the examinations First assessment 2025

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Diploma Programme Physics data booklet

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Contents

Introduction	1
Mathematical equations	2
Uncertainties	3
Fundamental constants	3
Metric (SI) multipliers	4
Unit conversions	4
Electrical circuit symbols	5
Electromagnetic spectrum	5
A. Space, time and motion	6
B. The particulate nature of matter	8
C. Wave behaviour	0
D. Fields	2
F. Nuclear and quantum physics 1	3

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Introduction

This Diploma Programme (DP) *Physics data booklet* accompanies the DP *Physics guide* and DP *Physics teacher support material*. It contains electrical symbols, mathematics equations, constants, and physics equations relevant to the course.

Students must have access to a copy of this booklet for the duration of the course so that they can become familiar with its contents. Direct reference is made to relevant equations in the "Understandings" sections of the guide. This helps to maintain the emphasis on interpretation and application rather than memorization of symbols, constants and equations.

The *Physics data booklet* is split into two sections. The first includes information which is used throughout the teaching of DP physics and the second contains equations relevant to specific themes and topics. Note that all equations relate to the magnitude of the quantities only. Vector notation has not been used.

Each student must have access to a clean copy of the *Physics data booklet* during examinations. It is the responsibility of the school to download a copy of this booklet from IBIS or the Programme Resource Centre and to ensure that there are sufficient copies available for all students.

Physics data booklet

1

Mathematical equations

Area	of	а	triangle	
/ li Cu	O.	ч	ulaligic	

 $A = \frac{1}{2}(bh)$ where b is the base, h is the height

Area of a circle

 $A = \pi r^2$ where r is the radius

Circumference of a circle

 $C = 2\pi r$

Volume of a cuboid

V = lwh where l is the length, w is the width, h is the height

Volume of a cylinder

 $V = \pi r^2 h$

Volume of a prism

V = Ah where A is the area of cross-section

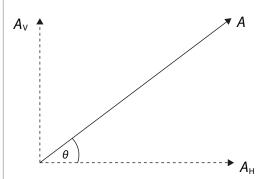
Volume of a sphere

$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

Area of the curved surface of a cylinder

 $A = 2\pi rh$

Vectors



$$A_{\rm H} = A\cos\theta$$

$$A_{V} = A \sin \theta$$

Trigonometric relationships

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}$$

$$\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$$

Uncertainties

If: $y = a \pm b$	then: $\Delta y = \Delta a + \Delta b$
If: $y = \frac{ab}{c}$	then: $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = \frac{\Delta a}{a} + \frac{\Delta b}{b} + \frac{\Delta c}{c}$
If: $y = a^n$	then: $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = \left n \frac{\Delta a}{a} \right $

Fundamental constants

Quantity	Symbol	Approximate value
Acceleration of free fall	g	9.8 m s ⁻² (Earth's surface)
Gravitational constant	G	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{Nm^2kg^{-2}}$
Avogadro constant	N _A	6.02×10 ²³ mol ⁻¹
Gas constant	R	8.31JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹
Boltzmann constant	K _B	1.38×10 ⁻²³ JK ⁻¹
Stefan-Boltzmann constant	σ	$5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$
Coulomb constant	k	8.99×10 ⁹ Nm ² C ⁻²
Permittivity of free space	\mathcal{E}_0	$8.85 \times 10^{-12} \mathrm{C}^2 \mathrm{N}^{-1} \mathrm{m}^{-2}$
Permeability of free space	μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7} \mathrm{TmA^{-1}}$
Speed of light in vacuum	С	$3.00 \times 10^8 \mathrm{ms^{-1}}$
Planck constant	h	6.63×10 ⁻³⁴ Js
Elementary charge	е	1.60×10 ⁻¹⁹ C
Electron rest mass	m _e	$9.110 \times 10^{-31} \text{kg} = 0.000549 \text{u} = 0.511 \text{MeV c}^{-2}$
Proton rest mass	$m_{_{ m p}}$	$1.673 \times 10^{-27} \text{kg} = 1.007276 \text{u} = 938 \text{MeV c}^{-2}$
Neutron rest mass	m _n	$1.675 \times 10^{-27} \text{kg} = 1.008665 \text{u} = 940 \text{MeV} \text{c}^{-2}$
(Unified) atomic mass unit	u	$1.661 \times 10^{-27} \text{kg} = 931.5 \text{MeV c}^{-2}$
Solar constant	S	1.36×10 ³ W m ⁻²
Fermi radius	R_0	1.20×10 ⁻¹⁵ m

Metric (SI) multipliers

Prefix	Abbreviation	Value
peta	Р	10 ¹⁵
tera	Т	10 ¹²
giga	G	10°
mega	M	10 ⁶
kilo	k	10 ³
hecto	h	10 ²
deca	da	10 ¹
deci	d	10 ⁻¹
centi	С	10 ⁻²
milli	m	10 ⁻³
micro	μ	10 ⁻⁶
nano	n	10 ⁻⁹
pico	р	10 ⁻¹²
femto	f	10 ⁻¹⁵

Unit conversions

1 radian (rad) =
$$\frac{180^{\circ}}{\pi}$$

Temperature (K) = temperature (°C) + 273

1 light year (ly) = 9.46×10^{15} m

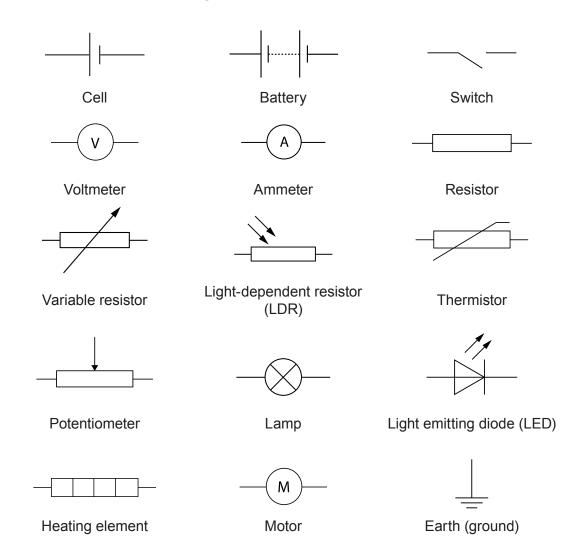
1 parsec (pc) = 3.26 ly

1 astronomical unit $(AU) = 1.50 \times 10^{11} \, \text{m}$

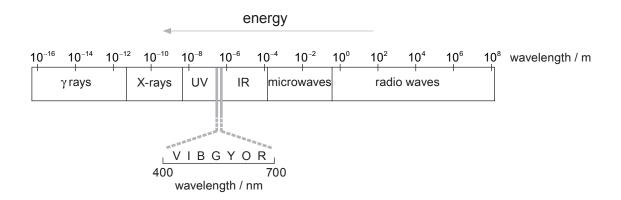
1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) = 3.60×10^6 J

 $hc = 1.99 \times 10^{-25} \,\text{Jm} = 1.24 \times 10^{-6} \,\text{eV} \,\text{m}$

Electrical circuit symbols



Electromagnetic spectrum



A. Space, time and motion

Standard level and higher level	
A.1 Kinematics	$s = \frac{u+v}{2}t$
	v = u + at
	$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$
	$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$
A.2 Forces and momentum	$F_{f} \leq \mu_{s} F_{N}$
	${m F_{_{ m f}}}=\mu_{ m d}{m F_{_{ m N}}}$
	$F_{H} = -kx$
	$F_{\rm d}=6\pi\eta r V$
	$F_{\rm b} = ho V g$
	$F_{g} = mg$
	p = mv
	$J = F\Delta t$
	$F = ma = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$
	$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \omega^2 r = \frac{4\pi^2 r}{T^2}$
	$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \omega r$
A.3 Work, energy and power	$W = Fs\cos\theta$
	$E_{k} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{p^2}{2m}$
	$\Delta E_{p} = mg\Delta h$
	$E_{H} = \frac{1}{2}k\Delta x^{2}$
	$P = \frac{\Delta W}{\Delta t} = Fv$
	$\eta = \frac{\text{useful work out}}{\text{total work in}} = \frac{\text{useful power out}}{\text{total power in}}$



Additional higher level

$$\tau = Fr \sin \theta$$

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{\omega_{\rm f} + \omega_{\rm i}}{2}t$$

$$\omega_{\rm f} = \omega_{\rm i} + \alpha t$$

$$\Delta\theta = \omega_i t + \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^2$$

$$\omega_{\mathsf{f}}^2 = \omega_{\mathsf{i}}^2 + 2\alpha\Delta\theta$$

$$I = \Sigma mr^2$$

$$\tau = I\alpha$$

$$L = I\omega$$

$$\Delta L = \tau \Delta t$$

$$\Delta L = \Delta(I\omega)$$

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2 = \frac{L^2}{2I}$$

$$x' = x - vt$$

$$t' = t$$

$$u' = u - v$$

$$x' = \gamma(x - vt)$$
 where $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$

$$t' = \gamma \left(t - \frac{vx}{c^2} \right)$$

$$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - \frac{uv}{c^2}}$$

$$(\Delta s)^2 = (c\Delta t)^2 - \Delta x^2$$
$$\Delta t = \gamma \Delta t_0$$

$$\Delta t = \gamma \Delta t_{c}$$

$$L = \frac{L_0}{\gamma}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{v}{c}$$

B. The particulate nature of matter

Standard level and higher level		
B.1 Thermal energy transfers	$\rho = \frac{m}{V}$ 3	
	$\overline{E_{k}} = \frac{3}{2}k_{B}T$	
	$Q = mc\Delta T$	
	Q = mL	
	$\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t} = kA \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta x}$	
	$L = \sigma A T^4$	
	$b = \frac{L}{4\pi d^2}$	
	$\lambda_{\text{max}}T = 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{mK}$	
B.2 Greenhouse effect	emissivity = $\frac{\text{power radiated per unit area}}{\sigma T^4}$	
	$albedo = \frac{total\ scattered\ power}{total\ incident\ power}$	
B.3 Gas laws	$P = \frac{F}{A}$	
	$n = \frac{N}{N_A}$	
	$\frac{PV}{T}$ = constant	
	$PV = nRT = Nk_{\rm B}T$	
	$P = \frac{1}{3}\rho v^{2}$ $U = \frac{3}{2}nRT = \frac{3}{2}Nk_{B}T$	
	$U = \frac{3}{2} nRT = \frac{3}{2} Nk_B T$	



B.5 Current and circuits

$$I = \frac{\Delta q}{\Delta t}$$

$$V = \frac{W}{q}$$

$$R = \frac{V}{I}$$

$$\rho = \frac{RA}{I}$$

$$P = IV = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R}$$

Series circuits	Parallel circuits
$I = I_1 = I_2 = \dots$	$I = I_1 + I_2 + \dots$
$V = V_1 + V_2 + \dots$	$V = V_1 = V_2 = \dots$
$R_s = R_1 + R_2 + \dots$	$\frac{1}{R_{p}} = \frac{1}{R_{1}} + \frac{1}{R_{2}} + \dots$

$$\varepsilon = I(R + r)$$

Additional higher level

$$Q = \Delta U + W$$

$$W = P\Delta V$$

$$\Delta U = \frac{3}{2} nR\Delta T = \frac{3}{2} N k_B \Delta T$$

$$\Delta S = \frac{\Delta Q}{T}$$

$$S = k_{\rm B} \ln \Omega$$

$$PV^{\frac{5}{3}} = \text{constant}$$

$$\eta = \frac{\text{useful work}}{\text{input energy}}$$

$$\eta_{\text{Carnot}} = 1 - \frac{T_{\text{c}}}{T_{\text{h}}}$$

C. Wave behaviour

Standard level and higher level		
C.1 Simple harmonic motion	$a = -\omega^2 x$	
	$T = \frac{1}{f} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$	
	$T=2\pi\sqrt{rac{m}{k}}$	
	$T=2\pi\sqrt{rac{l}{g}}$	
C.2 Wave model	$v = f\lambda = \frac{\lambda}{T}$	
C.3 Wave phenomena	$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{\sin \theta_1} = \frac{v_2}{v_1}$	
	Constructive interference: path difference = $n\lambda$	
	Destructive interference:	
	path difference = $(n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$	
	$s = \frac{\lambda D}{d}$	
C.5 Doppler effect	$\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} \approx \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}$	
Additional higher level		
C.1 Simple harmonic motion	$x = x_0 \sin(\omega t + \phi)$	
	$V = \omega x_0 \cos(\omega t + \phi)$	
	$V = \pm \omega \sqrt{{x_0}^2 - x^2}$	
	$E_{T} = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_0^2$	
	$E_{p} = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^{2}x^{2}$	



C.3 Wave phenomena	$\theta = \frac{\lambda}{b}$ $n\lambda = d\sin\theta$
C.5 Doppler effect	Moving source: $f' = f\left(\frac{v}{v \pm u_s}\right)$
	Moving observer: $f' = f\left(\frac{v \pm u_o}{v}\right)$

D. Fields

Standard level and higher level		
D.1 Gravitational fields	$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$	
	$g = \frac{F}{m} = G \frac{M}{r^2}$	
D.2 Electric and magnetic fields	$F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$ where $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}$ $E = \frac{F}{q}$	
	$E = \frac{V}{d}$	
D.3 Motion in electromagnetic fields	$F = qvB\sin\theta$	
	$F = BIL \sin \theta$	
	$\frac{F}{L} = \mu_0 \frac{I_1 I_2}{2\pi r}$	
Additional higher level		
D.1 Gravitational fields	$E_{p} = -G \frac{m_{1}m_{2}}{r}$ $V_{g} = -G \frac{M}{r}$	
	$V_{\rm g} = -G\frac{M}{r}$	
	$g = -\frac{\Delta V_{g}}{\Delta r}$	
	$W = m\Delta V_{g}$	
	$V_{\rm esc} = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r}}$	
	$V_{\text{orbital}} = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$	
D.2 Electric and magnetic fields	$E_{p} = k \frac{q_{1}q_{2}}{r}$ $V_{e} = \frac{kQ}{r}$ $E = -\frac{\Delta V_{e}}{\Delta r}$ $W = q\Delta V_{e}$	
	$V_{\rm e} = \frac{kQ}{r}$	
	$E = -\frac{\Delta V_{\rm e}}{\Delta r}$	
	$W = q\Delta V_{\rm e}$	



D.4 Induction	$\Phi = BA\cos\theta$
	$\varepsilon = -N \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta t}$
	$\varepsilon = BvL$

E. Nuclear and quantum physics

Standard level and higher level	
E.1 Structure of the atom	E = hf
E.3 Radioactive decay	$E = mc^2$
E.5 Fusion and stars	$d(parsec) = \frac{1}{p(arc-second)}$
Additional higher level	
E.1 Structure of the atom	$R = R_0 A^{\frac{1}{3}}$
	$R = R_0 A^{\frac{1}{3}}$ $E = -\frac{13.6}{n^2} \text{ eV}$
	$mvr = \frac{nh}{2\pi}$
E.2 Quantum physics	$E_{\text{max}} = hf - \Phi$
	$\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$
	$\lambda_{\rm f} - \lambda_{i} = \Delta \lambda = \frac{h}{m_{\rm e} c} (1 - \cos \theta)$
E.3 Radioactive decay	$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ $A = \lambda N = \lambda N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
	$A = \lambda N = \lambda N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
	$T_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$