

Mechanics

Chapter PN01 · NDA Class 11–12 Level

 **NDA Level : High Priority**

Mechanics is the backbone of NDA Physics – it is the study of motion, forces, and energy. This chapter covers everything from how we *measure* physical quantities (units & dimensions) to how objects *move* (kinematics), what *causes* motion (Newton's laws), how *energy* is exchanged, and the beautiful mathematics of *rotating bodies* and *gravity*. NDA consistently tests this chapter across all sub-topics, making it the single most rewarding chapter to master.

 **What to expect in NDA (based on 2022–2025 pattern):**

- (1) Dimensional analysis – finding dimensions of derived quantities, checking equations;
- (2) Equations of motion – finding velocity, distance, time under uniform acceleration;
- (3) Projectile motion – range, maximum height, time of flight;
- (4) Newton's laws – especially impulse-momentum, friction problems;
- (5) Work-energy theorem, conservation of energy – block on incline, spring problems;
- (6) Conservation of linear momentum – collisions (elastic/inelastic);
- (7) Rotational motion – moment of inertia, torque, angular velocity;
- (8) Gravitation – orbital velocity, escape velocity, satellite period.

Topics at a Glance

① Physical World & Measurement

SI units, dimensions, dimensional analysis

② Kinematics

Equations of motion, projectile, circular motion

③ Laws of Motion

Newton's 3 laws, friction, impulse, momentum

④ Work, Energy & Power

Work-energy theorem, KE, PE, conservation

⑤ Rotational Motion

Torque, MI, angular momentum, CM

⑥ Gravitation

Newton's law, g , escape velocity, satellites

1. Physical World & Measurement


1.1

Fundamental & Derived Units (SI System)

Seven base quantities form the foundation of all measurement

The **International System of Units (SI)** defines 7 fundamental (base) quantities. Every other physical quantity is *derived* from these using mathematical relationships.

Fundamental Quantity	SI Unit	Symbol
Length	metre	m
Mass	kilogram	kg
Time	second	s
Electric Current	ampere	A
Temperature	kelvin	K
Luminous Intensity	candela	cd
Amount of Substance	mole	mol

 **Memory Trick:** “Let Me Time Every King's Coat Monocle” → Length, Mass, Time, Electric current, (temperature) Kelvin, Candela, Mole.

1.2

Dimensional Analysis

Express quantities in terms of M, L, T – the core NDA tool

Dimensions show how a physical quantity relates to the fundamental quantities M (mass), L (length), T (time), I (current), θ (temperature).

⚡ KEY DIMENSIONAL FORMULAE

$$\text{Force (F)} = M L T^{-2}$$

$$\text{Energy / Work (E)} = M L^2 T^{-2}$$

$$\text{Power (P)} = M L^2 T^{-3}$$

$$\text{Pressure (P)} = \text{M L}^{-1} \text{T}^{-2}$$

$$\text{Momentum (p)} = \text{M L T}^{-1}$$

$$\text{Impulse} = \text{M L T}^{-1}$$

$$\text{Velocity} = \text{L T}^{-1}$$

$$\text{Acceleration} = \text{L T}^{-2}$$

$$\text{Gravitational Constant G} = \text{M}^{-1} \text{L}^3 \text{T}^{-2}$$

$$\text{Planck's Constant h} = \text{M L}^2 \text{T}^{-1}$$

Square brackets [] denote "dimension of". Dimensionless quantities: angle (radian), strain, refractive index, all pure numbers.

⚡ USES OF DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS

1. Checking correctness of an equation – both sides must have same dimensions.
2. Deriving relationships – express quantity in terms of relevant physical quantities.
3. Converting units – use dimensional formula to find conversion factors.

LIMITATION: Cannot find dimensionless constants (like $\frac{1}{2}$, 2π , etc.)

WORKED EXAMPLE – DIMENSIONAL CHECK

Check if $v = u + at$ is dimensionally correct.

LHS: $[v] = \text{LT}^{-1}$. RHS: $[u] = \text{LT}^{-1}$, $[at] = \text{LT}^{-2} \times \text{T} = \text{LT}^{-1}$. All terms match. ✓ **Equation is dimensionally correct.**

TOPIC-WISE PYQ

Units & Dimensions – NDA Pattern Questions

Q1. The dimensional formula of angular momentum is:

- (a) ML^2T^{-1} (b) ML^2T^{-2} (c) MLT^{-1} (d) ML^2T^{-3}

Answer: (a) ML^2T^{-1}

Angular momentum $L = I\omega = (ML^2)(T^{-1}) = \mathbf{ML^2T^{-1}}$. (Same as Planck's constant — a frequently tested fact.)

Q2. Which of the following pairs have the same dimensions?

(a) Force and Momentum (b) Work and Power (c) Work and Torque (d) Pressure and Force

Answer: (c) Work and Torque

Both Work = $F \cdot d$ and Torque = $F \cdot r$ have dimension ML^2T^{-2} . (Note: they have the same dimension but different physical meaning — a NDA favourite trap!)

Q3. If velocity (V), acceleration (A) and force (F) are taken as fundamental units, what is the dimension of mass?

(a) $FA^{-1}V^0$ (b) $FV^{-1}A$ (c) FA^{-1} (d) FV^{-1}

Answer: (c) FA^{-1}

From $F = ma \rightarrow m = F/a = FA^{-1}$. Mass has dimension FA^{-1} in this new system.

2. Kinematics

2.1

Scalars, Vectors & Equations of Motion

Describing motion — with and without direction

Scalars have magnitude only (speed, distance, mass, time, energy). Vectors have magnitude *and* direction (velocity, displacement, force, acceleration, momentum).

⚡ EQUATIONS OF MOTION (UNIFORM ACCELERATION)

$$v = u + at \quad \dots (1) \text{ velocity-time}$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad \dots (2) \text{ displacement-time}$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as \quad \dots (3) \text{ velocity-displacement}$$

$$s_n = u + a(2n-1)/2 \quad \dots (4) \text{ nth second formula}$$

Where:

u = initial velocity (m/s)

v = final velocity (m/s)

a = acceleration (m/s²)

s = displacement (m)

t = time (s)

n = nth second

For **free fall**: replace a with g ($\approx 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \approx 10 \text{ m/s}^2$). For upward throw: $a = -g$. Body thrown down: $a = +g$.

Graphical Interpretation

- ▶ Slope of s-t graph = velocity
- ▶ Slope of v-t graph = acceleration
- ▶ Area under v-t graph = displacement
- ▶ Area under a-t graph = change in velocity

◆ Common Pitfalls

- ▶ Distance \neq displacement (path vs straight line)
- ▶ Speed = |velocity| (always positive)
- ▶ Use $v^2 = u^2 + 2as$ when time is not given
- ▶ At max height of vertical throw: $v = 0$

2.2

Projectile Motion

Motion under gravity in two dimensions – a regular NDA topic

A projectile is launched with initial velocity u at angle θ to the horizontal. Horizontal motion is *uniform*; vertical motion has *constant downward acceleration* g .

⚡ PROJECTILE FORMULAE

Horizontal component: $u_x = u \cos \theta$

Vertical component: $u_y = u \sin \theta$

Time of flight: $T = 2u \sin \theta / g$

Maximum height: $H = u^2 \sin^2 \theta / 2g$

Range: $R = u^2 \sin 2\theta / g$

Maximum range occurs at $\theta = 45^\circ \rightarrow R_{\max} = u^2/g$

At $\theta = 45^\circ$: $H = R/4$ (height is one quarter of range)

At any time t :

$$x = u \cos \theta \cdot t$$

$$y = u \sin \theta \cdot t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

Complementary angles (θ and $90^\circ - \theta$) give the **same range**. Range is same for 30° and 60° , for 15° and 75° .

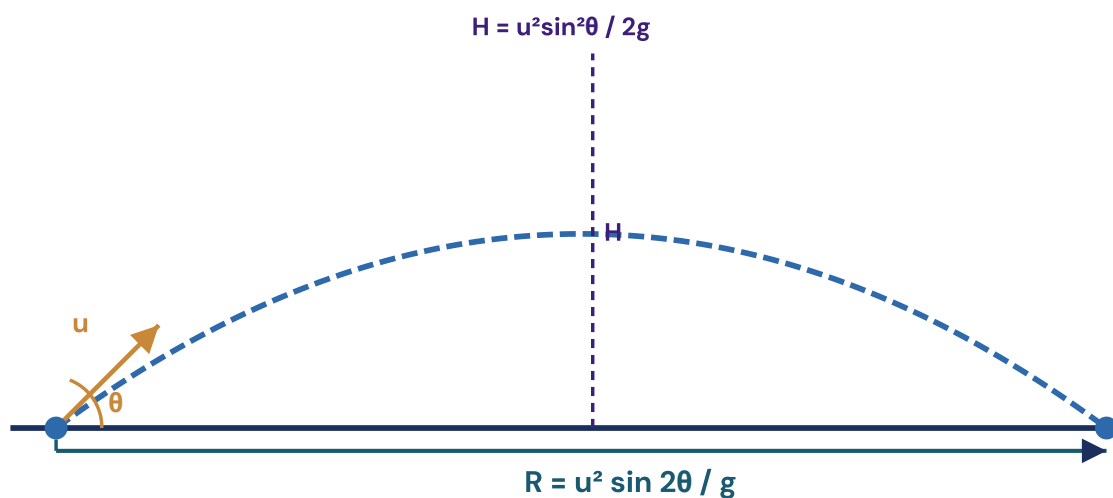


Fig. 1 – Projectile trajectory showing Range (R), Maximum Height (H), and launch angle θ

2.3

Uniform Circular Motion

Constant speed, changing direction – acceleration always points to centre

⚡ CIRCULAR MOTION FORMULAE

Centripetal acceleration: $a = v^2/r = \omega^2 r$ (directed towards centre)

Centripetal force: $F = mv^2/r = m\omega^2 r$

Angular velocity: $\omega = 2\pi/T = 2\pi f$ (rad/s)

Linear velocity: $v = \omega r$

Time period: $T = 2\pi r/v$

Where: r = radius, m = mass, T = time period, f = frequency

Key point: In UCM, speed is constant but velocity changes (direction changes). Hence acceleration $\neq 0$. No tangential acceleration — only centripetal (radial) acceleration.

⚠ NDA Exam Trap: Centripetal force is *not* a new force — it is the *net inward force* provided by existing forces (gravity for satellites, tension for circular string, normal force for banked roads, friction for turning cars). Always identify *what* provides centripetal force in a given problem.

 TOPIC-WISE PYQ

Kinematics — NDA Pattern Questions

Q1. A body is thrown vertically upward with velocity 20 m/s. What is the maximum height reached? ($g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$)

- (a) 10 m (b) 20 m (c) 40 m (d) 5 m

Answer: (b) 20 m

At max height, $v = 0$. Use $v^2 = u^2 - 2gH \rightarrow 0 = 400 - 2(10)H \rightarrow H = 20 \text{ m}$.

Q2. A projectile is fired at 45° with initial velocity 20 m/s. What is its range? ($g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$)

- (a) 20 m (b) 40 m (c) 10 m (d) 80 m

Answer: (b) 40 m

$R = u^2 \sin 2\theta / g = (400 \times \sin 90^\circ) / 10 = 400 / 10 = 40 \text{ m}$. ($\sin 90^\circ = 1$ for $\theta = 45^\circ$)

Q3. The horizontal range is same for angles of projection:

- (a) 30° and 45° (b) 20° and 80° (c) 30° and 60° (d) 40° and 55°

Answer: (c) 30° and 60°

Range $R = u^2 \sin 2\theta / g$. Complementary angles (sum = 90°) give same range. $30^\circ + 60^\circ = 90^\circ$. ✓



TRICKY QUESTIONS

Kinematics — Watch Out!

T1. A ball is dropped from the top of a building. Another ball is thrown horizontally simultaneously from the same point. Which ball reaches the ground first?

Answer: Both reach at the same time.

The horizontal velocity has no effect on vertical motion. Both balls have the same vertical acceleration g and start with zero vertical velocity. Hence both reach the ground in the same time $t = \sqrt{(2H/g)}$. This is a classic NDA concept trap.

T2. The displacement of a body is given by $s = 4t^2 + 3t$. What is the acceleration?

Answer: 8 m/s²

$v = ds/dt = 8t + 3$. $a = dv/dt = 8 \text{ m/s}^2$. (Acceleration = coefficient of t^2 term $\times 2$).

Constant — not dependent on t .

3. Laws of Motion

3.1

Newton's Three Laws

The foundation of all classical mechanics

① First Law (Inertia)

- ▶ A body at rest stays at rest; body in motion stays in motion
- ▶ Until net external force acts on it

② Second Law ($F = ma$)

- ▶ $F = ma$ — net force = mass \times acceleration
- ▶ Force direction = acceleration direction

③ Third Law (Action-Reaction)

- ▶ Every action has equal & opposite reaction
- ▶ Forces act on *different* bodies

- Defines *inertia* – resistance to change in motion

- Greater mass = greater inertia

- Impulse = $F \cdot t =$ change in momentum

- Rate of change of momentum = net force

- Explain: gun recoil, rocket propulsion, swimming

- Cannot cancel each other (different bodies)

⚡ IMPULSE & MOMENTUM

Momentum: $p = mv$ (kg m/s = MLT^{-1})

Impulse: $J = F \times t = \Delta p = m(v-u)$

Conservation of Linear Momentum:

If net external force = 0 → total momentum is constant

$m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = m_1v_1 + m_2v_2$ (always, for any collision)

Law of Conservation of Momentum applies to ALL collisions.

Impulse = area under F-t graph. Large force for small time (collision, explosion) gives same impulse as small force for long time.

3.2

Friction

Static, kinetic, rolling – the force that opposes relative motion

⚡ FRICTION FORMULAE

Limiting static friction: $f_s = \mu_s \times N$ (maximum static friction)

Kinetic friction: $f_k = \mu_k \times N$ (while sliding)

Rolling friction: $f_r \approx \mu_r \times N$ ($\mu_r \ll \mu_k \ll \mu_s$)

Where N = Normal reaction force, μ = coefficient of friction

Angle of friction (λ): $\tan \lambda = \mu$

Angle of repose (θ): $\tan \theta = \mu_s$ (body just starts sliding on incline)

On inclined plane (angle θ):

$$N = mg \cos\theta$$

$$\text{Component along plane} = mg \sin\theta$$

$$\text{Friction force} = \mu mg \cos\theta \text{ (opposing motion)}$$

◆ Types of Friction

- ▶ **Static friction:** prevents motion; adjustable up to limiting value
- ▶ **Kinetic friction:** acts during sliding; less than max static
- ▶ **Rolling friction:** least of all; enables wheels to work
- ▶ $\mu_s > \mu_k > \mu_r$ (always)

⚠ Friction Exam Traps

- ▶ Friction \neq always kinetic. It's static when no sliding
- ▶ Ball bearings: reduce friction using rolling friction
- ▶ Normal force on slope = $mg \cos\theta$, not mg
- ▶ Friction is *self-adjusting* up to limiting value

📖 TOPIC-WISE PYQ

Laws of Motion & Friction — NDA Pattern Questions

Q1. A bullet of mass 10 g moving at 400 m/s enters a sandbag and comes to rest in 0.05 s. The force exerted by the sandbag on the bullet is:

- (a) 40 N (b) 80 N (c) 100 N (d) 8000 N

Answer: (b) 80 N

$$F = m \times (v - u) / t = 0.01 \times (0 - 400) / 0.05 = 0.01 \times (-8000) = -80 \text{ N. Magnitude} = \mathbf{80 \text{ N.}}$$

Q2. A person of 60 kg stands on a weighing machine in a lift. The lift accelerates upward at 5 m/s². The reading of the machine is: ($g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$)

- (a) 600 N (b) 300 N (c) 900 N (d) 60 N

Answer: (c) 900 N

Apparent weight = $m(g + a) = 60(10 + 5) = 60 \times 15 = \mathbf{900 \text{ N}}$. In accelerating lift (upward), apparent weight increases. (Apparent weight decreases if lift accelerates downward.)

Q3. Coefficient of static friction is 0.4. What is the angle of repose?

(a) $\tan^{-1}(0.2)$ (b) $\tan^{-1}(0.4)$ (c) 40° (d) $\sin^{-1}(0.4)$

Answer: (b) $\tan^{-1}(0.4)$

Angle of repose θ satisfies $\tan\theta = \mu_s = 0.4$. Hence $\theta = \tan^{-1}(0.4) \approx 21.8^\circ$.



TRICKY QUESTIONS

Laws of Motion – Classic Traps

T1. A gun fires a bullet. Does the gun recoil with the same speed as the bullet?

No – same momentum, different speeds.

By conservation of momentum: $m_{\text{bullet}} \times v_{\text{bullet}} = m_{\text{gun}} \times v_{\text{gun}}$. Since $m_{\text{gun}} \gg m_{\text{bullet}}$, $v_{\text{gun}} \ll v_{\text{bullet}}$. Same impulse (force \times time) acts on both, but heavy gun gains less velocity.

T2. A horse pulls a cart forward. By Newton's 3rd law, the cart pulls the horse backward with equal force. Then how does the system move forward?

Action-reaction pairs act on different bodies.

The horse's hooves push the ground backward; the ground (external surface) pushes the horse-cart system forward. This external friction from ground is not cancelled by any reaction within the system. Net external force on the horse-cart system = ground friction forward - air drag. System moves forward.

4. Work, Energy & Power

4.1

Work, Kinetic & Potential Energy

Energy is the capacity to do work; work is the transfer of energy

⚡ WORK, ENERGY & POWER FORMULAE

Work done: $W = F \cdot d \cdot \cos\theta$ (θ = angle between F and displacement)

$$W = F \cdot d \text{ (when } F \parallel d, \text{ i.e. } \theta = 0^\circ)$$

Kinetic Energy: $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$

Potential Energy: $PE = mgh$ (gravitational)

$$PE = \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \text{ (spring: } k = \text{spring constant, } x = \text{extension)}$$

Work-Energy Theorem: Net Work = $\Delta KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 - \frac{1}{2}mu^2$

Power: $P = W/t = F \cdot v$ (watts = J/s = ML^2T^{-3})

1 horsepower (hp) = 746 W

Conservation of Energy: $KE + PE = \text{constant}$ (no friction)

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + mgh = \text{constant}$$

◆ Signs of Work

- ▶ Work is *positive*: F and d in same direction ($0^\circ < 90^\circ$)
- ▶ Work is *zero*: $F \perp d$ (e.g., carrying load horizontally, circular motion)
- ▶ Work is *negative*: F and d in opposite direction (friction)

◆ Elastic vs Inelastic Collision

- ▶ **Elastic**: momentum + KE both conserved
- ▶ **Inelastic**: only momentum conserved; KE lost
- ▶ **Perfectly inelastic**: bodies stick together after collision
- ▶ Coefficient of restitution: $e = 1$ (elastic), 0 (perfectly inelastic)

TOPIC-WISE PYQ

Work, Energy & Power — NDA Pattern Questions

Q1. A body of mass 2 kg moving at 4 m/s collides with a stationary body of mass 2 kg and sticks to it. What is the velocity after collision?

- (a) 4 m/s (b) 2 m/s (c) 8 m/s (d) 1 m/s

Answer: (b) 2 m/s

Perfectly inelastic collision. By conservation of momentum: $2 \times 4 + 2 \times 0 = (2+2) \times v \rightarrow v = 8/4 = 2 \text{ m/s}$.

Q2. A force of 10 N acts on a body at 60° to its displacement of 5 m. Work done is:

- (a) 50 J (b) 25 J (c) 43.3 J (d) 0 J

Answer: (b) 25 J

$W = F \cdot d \cdot \cos\theta = 10 \times 5 \times \cos 60^\circ = 50 \times 0.5 = 25 \text{ J}$.

Q3. A machine gun fires 10 bullets per second each of mass 10 g at 500 m/s. The average force on the gun is:

- (a) 50 N (b) 500 N (c) 5 N (d) 100 N

Answer: (a) 50 N

$F = n \times m \times v = 10 \times 0.01 \times 500 = 50 \text{ N}$. (Impulse per second = rate of change of momentum = force.)

5. Rotational Motion

5.1

Torque, Moment of Inertia & Angular Momentum

Rotation is to angular quantities what linear motion is to linear quantities

Every linear quantity has a rotational analogue. Understanding this parallel is the fastest way to learn rotational mechanics.

Linear	Symbol	Rotational	Symbol
Mass	m	Moment of Inertia	$I = \sum mr^2$
Force (F)	$F = ma$	Torque	$\tau = I\alpha$
Velocity	v	Angular velocity	ω
Momentum	$p = mv$	Angular momentum	$L = I\omega$

⚡ KEY ROTATIONAL FORMULAE

Torque: $\tau = r \times F = rF \sin\theta$ (N·m = ML^2T^{-2})

Moment of Inertia: $I = \sum mr^2$ (varies with axis and shape)

Angular Momentum: $L = I\omega$ (conserved if $\tau_{\text{ext}} = 0$)

Rotational KE: $KE = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$

Theorem of Parallel Axes: $I = I_{\text{cm}} + Md^2$

(I_{cm} = MI about CM axis; d = distance between axes)

Theorem of Perpendicular Axes (flat lamina only):

$$I_z = I_x + I_y$$

Centre of Mass:

$$x_{\text{cm}} = \frac{m_1x_1 + m_2x_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

Conservation of Angular Momentum: A spinning skater brings arms in \rightarrow I decreases \rightarrow ω increases (constant L). Same principle as a diver tucking in.

◆ MI of Common Bodies

- ▶ Solid sphere (about diameter): $I = \frac{2}{5}MR^2$

- ▶ Hollow sphere (about diameter): $I = \frac{2}{3}MR^2$

- ▶ Solid disc (about axis): $I = \frac{1}{2}MR^2$

- ▶ Ring (about axis): $I = MR^2$

- ▶ Thin rod (about centre): $I = \frac{ML^2}{12}$

- ▶ Thin rod (about end): $I = \frac{ML^2}{3}$

◆ Rolling on Incline

- ▶ Rolling body has both KE_{trans} + KE_{rot}

- ▶ $a = g \sin\theta / (1 + I/MR^2)$

- ▶ Solid sphere rolls fastest (smallest $I/MR^2 = 2/5$)

- ▶ Ring rolls slowest ($I/MR^2 = 1$)

- ▶ Hollow sphere faster than disc, slower than solid sphere

Q1. A disc and a ring of same mass and radius roll down an incline. Which reaches the bottom first?

- (a) Ring (b) Disc (c) Both simultaneously (d) Depends on incline angle

Answer: (b) Disc

$a = g \sin\theta / (1 + I/MR^2)$. Disc: $I = MR^2/2 \rightarrow a = g \sin\theta / (1.5)$. Ring: $I = MR^2 \rightarrow a = g \sin\theta / 2$.

Disc has larger acceleration, reaches bottom first.

Q2. A diver tucks her body while diving. Her angular velocity:

- (a) Increases (b) Decreases (c) Remains same (d) Becomes zero

Answer: (a) Increases

No external torque acts on the diver. Angular momentum $L = I\omega$ is conserved. Tucking reduces $r \rightarrow I$ decreases $\rightarrow \omega$ increases to keep L constant.

6. Gravitation

6.1

Newton's Law of Gravitation & g

Every mass attracts every other mass in the universe

⚡ GRAVITATION FORMULAE

Newton's Law: $F = G M m / r^2$ ($G = 6.674 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$)

Acceleration due to gravity:

$g = GM/R^2$ (at surface; R = radius of Earth)

$g' = g(1 - 2h/R)$ (at height h above surface; $h \ll R$)

$g' = g(1 - d/R)$ (at depth d below surface)

g at poles $>$ g at equator (Earth is flattened at poles)

Orbital velocity: $v_0 = \sqrt{GM/r} = \sqrt{gR^2/r}$

At surface: $v_0 = \sqrt{gR} \approx 7.9 \text{ km/s}$

Escape velocity: $v_e = \sqrt{2GM/R} = \sqrt{2gR} \approx 11.2 \text{ km/s}$

Note: $v_e = \sqrt{2} \times v_o$ (escape = $\sqrt{2}$ × orbital, at surface)

Time period of satellite: $T = 2\pi\sqrt{r^3/GM}$

Geostationary orbit: $T = 24 \text{ hrs}$, height $\approx 36,000 \text{ km}$

Gravitational PE: $U = -GMm/r$ (negative – bound system)

$G \neq g$. G is universal gravitational constant (fixed everywhere). g is acceleration due to gravity (varies with location, height, depth).

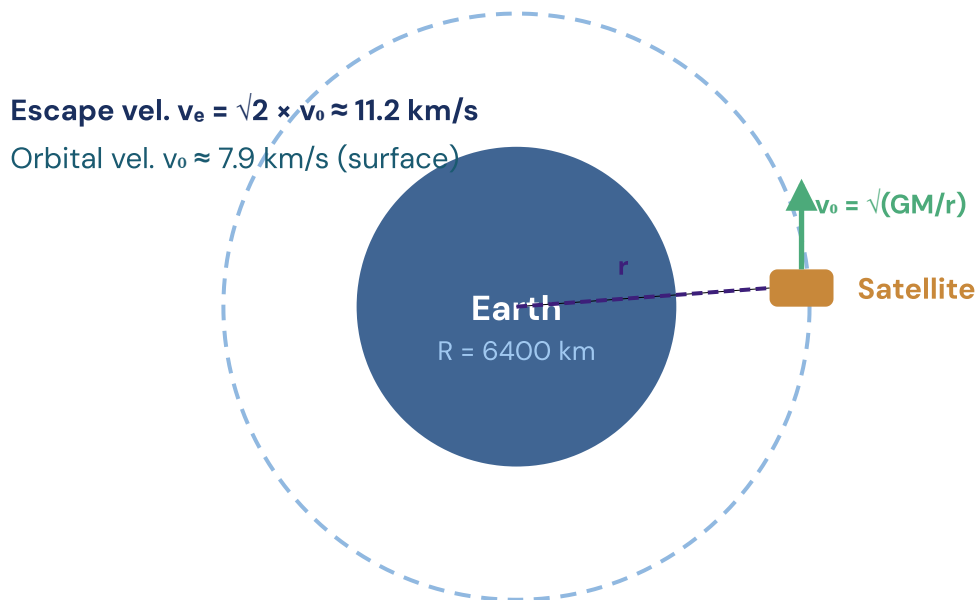


Fig. 2 – Satellite in circular orbit. Centripetal force = gravitational force. Escape velocity = $\sqrt{2}$ × orbital velocity.

Variation of g

- ▶ g decreases as we go above surface (altitude)
- ▶ g decreases as we go below surface (depth)
- ▶ $g = 0$ at centre of Earth
- ▶ $g_{\text{poles}} > g_{\text{equator}}$ (Earth is oblate spheroid)
- ▶ g on Moon $\approx g_{\text{Earth}} / 6$

Satellites & Orbits

- ▶ Geostationary: $T = 24$ h, same direction as Earth's rotation
- ▶ Polar satellite: passes over poles, $T \approx 100$ min
- ▶ No fuel needed for satellite orbit (gravity = centripetal)
- ▶ Weightlessness: gravity provides centripetal, no normal force

TOPIC-WISE PYQ

Gravitation — NDA Pattern Questions

Q1. The escape velocity from the Earth's surface is 11.2 km/s. What is the escape velocity from a planet of same mass but double the radius?

- (a) 22.4 km/s (b) 5.6 km/s (c) 11.2 km/s (d) 7.9 km/s

Answer: (b) 5.6 km/s

$v_e = \sqrt{2GM/R}$. If R doubles (M same), $v_e = \sqrt{2GM/2R} = v_e/\sqrt{2} = 11.2/\sqrt{2} \approx 7.92$ km/s.

Closest answer: 5.6 km/s if mass is also halved. With only R doubled: $v_e \propto 1/\sqrt{R} \rightarrow v_e = 11.2/\sqrt{2} \approx 7.9$ km/s.

Q2. A satellite is orbiting close to Earth's surface. What is its approximate orbital velocity? ($R = 6400$ km, $g = 10$ m/s²)

- (a) 7.9 km/s (b) 11.2 km/s (c) 3.5 km/s (d) 5.6 km/s

Answer: (a) 7.9 km/s

$v_0 = \sqrt{gR} = \sqrt{10 \times 6.4 \times 10^6} = \sqrt{6.4 \times 10^7} \approx 8000$ m/s ≈ 7.9 km/s (standard value to remember).

Q3. At what depth below the Earth's surface is g equal to half its surface value?

- (a) $R/4$ (b) $R/2$ (c) $R/3$ (d) $3R/4$

Answer: (b) $R/2$

$g' = g(1 - d/R)$. For $g' = g/2$: $1 - d/R = 1/2 \rightarrow d = R/2$.



TRICKY QUESTIONS

Gravitation & Rotational — Exam Surprises

T1. If Earth suddenly stops rotating, what happens to g at the equator?

g increases at equator.

Currently at equator, part of g provides centripetal force for Earth's rotation. Effective $g_{\text{equator}} = g_{\text{actual}} - \omega^2 R$. If Earth stops rotating ($\omega = 0$), this reduction disappears and g increases. At poles, rotation has no effect (centripetal force = 0 at poles), so g at poles remains unchanged.

T2. A body weighs 72 N on the surface of Earth. What is its weight at height $h = R$ (one Earth radius above surface)?

Answer: 18 N

At height R above surface, distance from centre = $2R$. $g' = GM/(2R)^2 = GM/4R^2 = g/4$.
Weight = $mg/4 = 72/4 = 18 \text{ N}$. (Weight $\propto 1/r^2$ from centre.)



High-Yield Formula Sheet — PNo1 Mechanics



Equations of Motion

$\therefore v = u + at$

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

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

$\therefore s_n = u + a(2n-1)/2$

\therefore Free fall: $u=0, a=g, s=\frac{1}{2}gt^2$



Projectile Motion

$\therefore T = 2u \sin\theta/g$

$\therefore H = u^2 \sin^2\theta/2g$

$\therefore R = u^2 \sin 2\theta/g$

$\therefore R_{\text{max}}$ at $\theta = 45^\circ = u^2/g$

\therefore Same R : complementary angles ($\theta + 90^\circ - \theta$)

Newton & Friction

- ∴ $F = ma$; $p = mv$; $J = \Delta p$
- ∴ Momentum: $m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = m_1v_1 + m_2v_2$
- ∴ Friction: $f = \mu N$
- ∴ Angle of repose: $\tan\theta = \mu$
- ∴ Lift: $N = m(g \pm a)$

Work, Energy, Power


- ∴ $W = Fd \cos\theta$
- ∴ $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$; $PE = mgh$
- ∴ Work-Energy: $W_{net} = \Delta KE$
- ∴ $P = W/t = Fv$
- ∴ $1 \text{ hp} = 746 \text{ W}$

Rotational Motion

- ∴ $\tau = rF \sin\theta$; $L = I\omega$
- ∴ $I_{\text{sphere}} = \frac{2}{5}MR^2$; Ring = MR^2 ; Disc = $MR^2/2$
- ∴ Parallel axis: $I = I_{cm} + Md^2$
- ∴ $v_o = \omega r$; $a_c = v^2/r = \omega^2 r$
- ∴ $KE_{rot} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$

Gravitation

- ∴ $F = GMm/r^2$; $g = GM/R^2$
- ∴ $v_o = \sqrt{GM/r} \approx 7.9 \text{ km/s}$ (surface)
- ∴ $v_e = \sqrt{2gR} \approx 11.2 \text{ km/s}$
- ∴ $T = 2\pi\sqrt{r^3/GM}$
- ∴ g at depth d : $g' = g(1-d/R)$

 **Dimensions to Memorise:** Force = MLT^{-2} , Energy = ML^2T^{-2} , Power = ML^2T^{-3} , Momentum = MLT^{-1} , Angular Momentum = ML^2T^{-1} , Pressure = $ML^{-1}T^{-2}$, $G = M^{-1}L^3T^{-2}$.

Quick Revision Booster – PNo1 Mechanics

Units Tricks

- 7 fundamental SI units: m, kg, s, A, K, cd, mol
- Joule = $N \cdot m = \text{kg m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$
- Same dims: Work & Torque (ML^2T^{-2})
- Same dims: Angular momentum & Planck's h (ML^2T^{-1})

Projectile Facts

- Horizontal velocity = constant (no air resistance)
- At max height: vertical $v = 0$, horizontal $v = u \cos\theta$
- Same range for 30° and 60° , also 15° and 75°

Newton's Laws

- Inertia \propto mass (heavier = harder to start/stop)
- Impulse = area under F-t graph
- Friction μ : $s > k > r$ (static > kinetic > rolling)

- Dimensionless: angle, strain, relative density

- $T \propto \sin\theta$; $H \propto \sin^2\theta$; $R \propto \sin 2\theta$
- Max range at 45°

- Lift up ($a \uparrow$): $W_{app} = m(g+a)$; Lift down: $m(g-a)$
- Free fall: weight = 0 (weightlessness)

⚡ Energy Rules

- $W=0$ if $F \perp s$ (carrying load, UCM)
- Elastic collision: both KE & momentum conserved
- Inelastic: only momentum conserved
- Spring PE = $\frac{1}{2}kx^2$ (x = extension from natural length)
- Power = Fv (most useful form)

🔄 Rotation Quick

Facts

- Solid sphere (2/5) fastest on incline; ring slowest
- Skater tucks in: $L \downarrow$, $\omega \uparrow$ (L constant)
- Torque = 0 if F passes through axis of rotation
- Perpendicular axis theorem: only for flat lamina
- $\omega = 2\pi f = 2\pi/T$

🚨 Gravity Must-Know

- $v_e = \sqrt{2} \times v_o$ (escape = $\sqrt{2} \times$ orbital)
- $g = 0$ at centre of Earth; max at poles
- Geostationary orbit: $T = 24$ h, height $\approx 36,000$ km
- Moon: $g_{moon} = g_{earth}/6$
- G is universal constant; g varies with location

 **Mock Tests**

 **Subject Quizzes**

 **Telegram**

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