

Higher Physics

Particles and Waves

Study Guide



At the end of section **2.1 Forces on Charged Particles** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 state that, in an electric field, a charge experiences a force.
- ☐ 2 state that electric fields exist around charged particles and between charged parallel plates.
- ☐ 3 sketch electric field patterns for single-point charges and systems of two-point charges.
- ☐ 4 sketch electric field patterns between two charged parallel plates.
- ☐ 5 identify the direction of free electric charges in an electric field.
- ☐ 6 state that an electric field applied to a conductor causes the free electric charges in it to move.
- ☐ 7 state that work is done when a charge is moved in an electric field.
- ☐ 8 state that the potential difference (V) between two points in an electric field is a measure of the work done (W) in moving one coulomb of charge (Q) between the two points.
- ☐ 9 state that if one joule of work is done moving one coulomb of charge between two points, the potential difference between the two points is one volt.
- ☐ 10 carry out calculations involving the relationship between potential difference, work and charge.

$$W = QV$$

- ☐ 11 use the conservation of energy principle to calculate the speed of a charged particle in an electric field.

$$QV = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

- ☐ 12 understand that a moving charge produces a magnetic field.
- ☐ 13 determine the direction of the force on a charged particle moving in a magnetic field.
- ☐ 14 state the three types of particle accelerator.
- ☐ 15 state that high energy collisions of charged particles produce other particles.
- ☐ 16 describe the basic operation of three different types of particle accelerator in terms of acceleration, deflection and collision of charged particles.

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At the end of section **2.2 The Standard Model** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 define the standard model as a model of fundamental particles and interactions.
- ☐ 2 state that the range of orders of magnitude studied in Physics range from the very small to the very large.
- ☐ 3 place objects in order in relation to their relative size.
- ☐ 4 state that fundamental particles are not composed of any other particles.
- ☐ 5 state that all particles are either Fermions or Bosons.
- ☐ 6 name the three generations of Quark pairs.
- ☐ 7 explain that evidence for the existence of quarks comes from high energy collisions between electrons and nucleons.
- ☐ 8 name the three generations of Lepton pairs.
- ☐ 9 describe beta decay as the first evidence for the neutrino.
- ☐ 10 state that Fermions are the matter particles and consist of quarks and leptons.
- ☐ 11 state that hadrons are composite particles made of quarks.
- ☐ 12 state that Baryons are made from three Quarks.
- ☐ 13 state that Mesons are made from two Quarks, one Quark and an anti-Quark.
- ☐ 14 give some examples of sub atomic particles.
- ☐ 15 explain that every particle has an antiparticle and that the production of energy in the annihilation of particles is evidence for the existence of antimatter.
- ☐ 16 state that antimatter is a particle which has the same mass as their equivalent particle but opposite charge.
- ☐ 17 state that bosons are the force mediating particles.
- ☐ 18 state that the Strong and Weak Forces only act over short distances relative to the size of an atom.
- ☐ 19 state that the force mediating particle for the Strong Force is the Gluon.

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- ☐ 20 state that the force mediating particles for the Weak Force are the W- and Z- boson.
- ☐ 21 state that the Electromagnetic Force is responsible for all electrical and magnetic phenomena.
- ☐ 22 state that the force mediating particle for the Electromagnetic Force is the Photon.
- ☐ 23 state that the Gravitational Force is responsible for the large scale structure of the Universe.
- ☐ 24 state that the force mediating particle for the Gravitational Force is the Graviton.

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At the end of section **2. 3 Nuclear Reactions** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 describe how Rutherford showed that:
 - a) the nucleus has a relatively small diameter compared with that of the atom
 - b) most of the mass of the atom is concentrated in the nucleus.
- ☐ 2 state what is meant by alpha, beta and gamma decay of radionuclides.
- ☐ 3 identify the processes occurring in nuclear reactions written in symbolic form.
- ☐ 4 state that in fission a nucleus of large mass number splits into two nuclei of smaller mass numbers, usually with the release of neutrons.
- ☐ 5 state that fission may be spontaneous or induced by neutron bombardment.
- ☐ 6 state that in fusion two nuclei combine to form a nucleus of larger mass number.
- ☐ 7 explain, using $E = mc^2$, how the products of fission and fusion acquire large amounts of kinetic energy.
- ☐ 8 carry out calculations involving the relationship between energy (E) and mass (m) loss for fission and fusion reactions.

$$E = mc^2$$

- ☐ 9 state that nuclear fusion reactors require charges at a very high temperature (plasma).
- ☐ 10 state that magnetic fields are used to contain charged particles in nuclear fusion reactors.
- ☐ 11 state that in a fusion reactor the coolant must be **contained** so that it doesn't vaporise and cool the reaction down.
- ☐ 12 state that in a fusion reactor the coolant must be **confined** to ensure that more energy is given out than is absorbed.

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At the end of section **2. 4 Inverse Square Law** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 state that the irradiance at a surface on which radiation is incident is the power per unit area.
- ☐ 2 carry out calculations involving irradiance, the power of radiation incident on a surface and the area of the surface.

$$I = \frac{P}{A}$$

- ☐ 3 describe the principles of a method for showing that the irradiance is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from a point source.
- ☐ 4 carry out calculations involving the relationship between irradiance and distance.

$$I_1 d_1^2 = I_2 d_2^2$$

- ☐ 5 explain that if N photons per second are incident per unit area on a surface, the irradiance at the surface is given by $I = Nh\nu$.

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At the end of section **2. 5 Wave Particle Duality** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 state that the photoelectric effect is evidence for the particle model of light.
- ☐ 2 state that photoelectric emission from a surface occurs only if the frequency of the incident radiation (f) is greater than some threshold frequency (f_o) which depends on the nature of the surface.
- ☐ 3 state that for frequencies smaller than the threshold value, an increase in the irradiance of the radiation at the surface will not cause photoelectric emission.
- ☐ 4 state that for frequencies greater than the threshold value, the photoelectric current produced by monochromatic radiation is directly proportional to the irradiance of the radiation at the surface.
- ☐ 5 state that a beam of radiation can be regarded as a stream of individual energy bundles called photons, each having an energy (E) dependent on the frequency of the radiation (f).
- ☐ 6 carry out calculations involving the relationship between the energy (E), Planck's constant (h) and the frequency of photons (f).

$$E = hf$$

- ☐ 7 state that photoelectrons are ejected with a maximum kinetic energy which is given by the difference between the energy of the incident photon and the work function of the surface.
- ☐ 8 carry out calculations involving the maximum kinetic energy (E_k), the threshold frequency of the material (f_o) and the frequency of the photons (f).

$$E_k = hf - hf_o$$

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At the end of section **2.6 Interference and Diffraction** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 state that interference is the test for a wave.
- ☐ 2 use correctly in context the terms: 'in phase', 'out of phase' and 'coherent', when applied to waves.
- ☐ 3 explain the meaning of: 'constructive interference' and 'destructive` interference', in terms of superposition of waves.
- ☐ 4 state that reflection, refraction, diffraction and interference are characteristic behaviours of all types of waves.
- ☐ 5 state the conditions for maxima and minima in an interference pattern formed by two coherent sources in the form:

$$\text{Path difference} = m\lambda \text{ for maxima, and}$$
$$\text{Path difference} = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda \text{ for minima, where } m \text{ is an integer.}$$

- ☐ 6 carry out calculations using the relationships for maxima and minima in an interference pattern formed by two coherent sources.
- ☐ 7 carry out calculations involving the grating spacing, wavelength, order number and the angle to the maximum.

$$m\lambda = d\sin\theta$$

- ☐ 8 describe the effect of grating on a monochromatic light beam.
- ☐ 9 carry out calculations involving the relationship between wavelength, order, slit separation and angle for gratings.
- ☐ 10 describe the principles of a method for measuring the wavelength of a monochromatic light source, using a grating.
- ☐ 11 state approximate values for the wavelengths of red, green and blue light.
- ☐ 12 describe and compare the white light spectra produced by: a grating and a prism.

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At the end of section **2.7 Spectra** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 state that electrons in a free atom occupy discrete energy levels (the Bohr model of the atom).
- ☐ 2 draw a diagram which represents qualitatively the energy levels of a hydrogen atom.
- ☐ 3 use the following terms correctly in context: ground state, excited state, ionisation level.
- ☐ 4 state that an emission line in a spectrum occurs when an electron makes a transition between an excited energy level and a lower level.
- ☐ 5 state that an absorption line in a spectrum occurs when an electron in a lower energy level absorbs radiation and is excited to a higher energy level.
- ☐ 6 carry out calculations involving energy level transitions, photon energy and photon frequency.

$$E_2 - E_1 = hf$$

- ☐ 7 explain the occurrence of absorption lines (Fraunhofer lines) in the spectrum of sunlight.

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At the end of section **2. 8 Refraction of Light** you should be able to :

- ☐ 1 state that the ratio $\frac{\sin\theta_1}{\sin\theta_2}$ is a constant when light passes obliquely from medium 1 to medium 2.
- ☐ 2 state that the refractive index of air is treated the same as that of a vacuum.
- ☐ 3 state that the absolute **refractive index, n** , of a medium is the ratio $\frac{\sin\theta_1}{\sin\theta_2}$ where θ_1 is in a vacuum (or air as an approximation) and θ_2 is in the medium.
- ☐ 4 describe an experiment to determine the refractive index of a medium.
- ☐ 5 state that when light enters an optically more dense medium the speed decreases, the wavelength decreases but the **frequency** remains **unchanged**.
- ☐ 6 state that the refractive index is the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum (air) to the speed of light in the material. It is also the ratio of the wavelengths.
- ☐ 7 state that the refractive index depends on the frequency of the incident light.
- ☐ 8 carry out calculations involving the relationships between refractive index, angle, wavelength, speed and frequency.

$$\frac{\sin\theta_1}{\sin\theta_2} = \frac{v_1}{v_2} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}$$

- ☐ 9 explain what is meant by total internal reflection.
- ☐ 10 explain what is meant by critical angle θ_c .
- ☐ 11 describe the principles of a method for measuring a critical angle.
- ☐ 12 derive the relationship between critical angle and absolute refractive index of a medium.
- ☐ 13 carry out calculations involving the relationship between critical angle and absolute refractive index of a medium.

$$\sin\theta_c = \frac{1}{n}$$

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