

Formulae for relationships between physical quantities

The relationships listed below should not be provided for AS and A level candidates.

(i) the relationship between speed, distance and time: $v = \frac{s}{t}$

(ii) the relationship between force, mass and acceleration:

force = mass x acceleration

$$F = m a$$

(iii) the relationship between density, mass and volume: $D = \frac{m}{V}$

(iv) the concept of momentum and its conservation:

momentum = mass x velocity

$$p = m v$$

(v) the relationships between force, distance, work, power and time:

work done = force x distance moved in direction of force

(vi) the relationships between mass, weight, potential energy and kinetic energy:

weight = mass x gravitational field strength

kinetic energy = $\frac{1}{2} m v^2$

change in potential energy = mass x gravitational field strength x change in height

(vii) the relationship between an applied force, the area over which it acts and the resulting pressure:

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

(viii) the Gas Law:

pressure x volume = number of moles x molar gas constant x absolute temperature

$$p V = n R T$$

(ix) the relationships between charge, current, potential difference, resistance and electrical power:

charge = current x time

$$\Delta Q = I \Delta t$$

potential difference = current x resistance

$$V = I R$$

electrical power = potential difference x current

$$P = V I$$

(x) the relationship between potential difference, energy and charge:

$$V = \frac{E}{Q}$$

(xi) the relationship between resistance and resistivity:

$$R = \frac{\rho l}{A}$$

(xii) the relationship between charge flow and energy transfer in a circuit:

energy = potential difference \times current \times time

$$E = V I t$$

(xiii) the relationship between speed, frequency and wavelength:

wave speed = frequency \times wavelength

$$v = f \lambda$$

(xiv) the relationship between centripetal force, mass, speed and radius:

$$F = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

(xv) the inverse square laws for force in radial electric and gravitational fields:

$$F = \frac{kQ_1Q_2}{r^2}$$

$$F = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$$

(xvi) the relationship between capacitance, charge and potential difference:

$$C = \frac{Q}{V}$$

(xvii) the relationship between the potential difference across the coils in a transformer and the number of turns in them:

$$\frac{\text{pd across primary coil}}{\text{pd across secondary coil}} = \frac{\text{number of turns on primary coil}}{\text{number of turns on secondary coil}}$$