



Physics
Leaving Certificate
Higher Level

Past Exam Questions on
Circular Motion

Q6 Section B 2013

6. (i) State Newton's law of universal gravitation. (6)
- (ii) Explain what is meant by angular velocity. Derive an equation for the angular velocity of an object in terms of its linear velocity when the object moves in a circle. (9)

The International Space Station (ISS), shown in the photograph, functions as a research laboratory and a location for testing of equipment required for trips to the moon and to Mars. The ISS orbits the earth at an altitude of 4.13×10^5 m every 92 minutes 50 seconds.



- (iii) Calculate (a) the angular velocity, (b) the linear velocity, of the ISS. (12)
- (iv) Name the type of acceleration that the ISS experiences as it travels in a circular orbit around the earth. What force provides this acceleration? (6)
- (v) Calculate the attractive force between the earth and the ISS. Hence or otherwise, calculate the mass of the earth. (15)
- (vi) If the value of the acceleration due to gravity on the ISS is 8.63 m s^{-2} , why do occupants of the ISS experience apparent weightlessness? (3)
- (vii) A geostationary communications satellite orbits the earth at a much higher altitude than the ISS. What is the period of a geostationary communications satellite? (5)
- (mass of ISS = 4.5×10^5 kg; radius of the earth = 6.37×10^6 m)

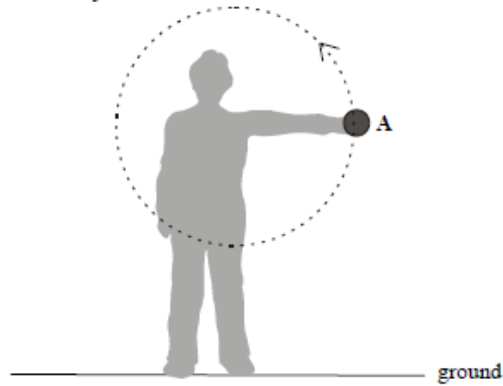
Q5 Part (b) Section B 2009

- (b) The moon orbits the earth. What is the relationship between the period of the moon and the radius of its orbit? (7)

Q6 Section B 2006

6. Define (i) velocity, (ii) angular velocity. (12)

Derive the relationship between the velocity of a particle travelling in uniform circular motion and its angular velocity. (12)



A student swings a ball in a circle of radius 70 cm in the vertical plane as shown. The angular velocity of the ball is 10 rad s^{-1} .

What is the velocity of the ball? How long does the ball take to complete one revolution? (9)

Draw a diagram to show the forces acting on the ball when it is at position A. (6)

The student releases the ball when it is at A, which is 130 cm above the ground, and the ball travels vertically upwards.

Calculate

- (i) the maximum height, above the ground, the ball will reach;
- (ii) the time taken for the ball to hit the ground after its release from A.

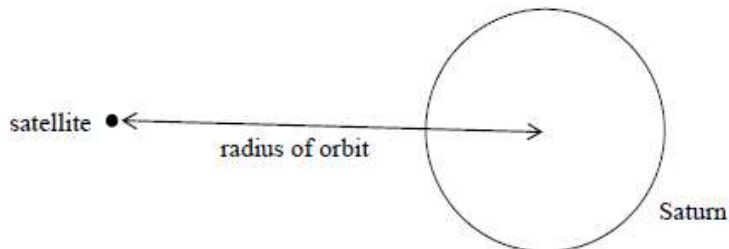
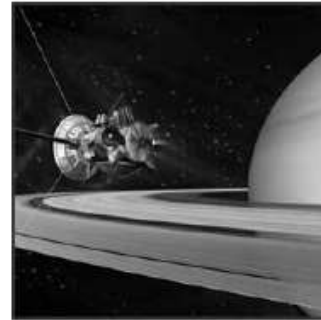
(17)

(acceleration due to gravity = 9.8 m s^{-2})

Q6 Section B 2005

6. Define (i) angular velocity, (ii) centripetal force.
State Newton's Universal Law of Gravitation (18)

A satellite is in a circular orbit around the planet Saturn. Derive the relationship between the period of the satellite, the mass of Saturn and the radius of the orbit. (15)



The period of the satellite is 380 hours. Calculate the radius of the satellite's orbit around Saturn. (9)

The satellite transmits radio signals to earth. At a particular time the satellite is 1.2×10^{12} m from earth. How long does it take the signal to travel to earth? (9)

It is noticed that the frequency of the received radio signal changes as the satellite orbits Saturn. Explain why. (5)

(universal gravitational constant = $6.7 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$ mass of Saturn = $5.7 \times 10^{26} \text{ kg}$;
speed of light = $3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$)