



Government of **Western Australia**  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



**PHYSICS**  
**ATAR COURSE YEAR 12**  
**FORMULAE AND DATA BOOKLET**  
**2023**

Note: the variable  $t$  refers to the 'time taken', sometimes referred to as the 'change in time' or  $\Delta t$ .

### Gravity and motion

---

Average velocity

$$v_{\text{av}} = \frac{s}{t}$$

Equations of motion

$$v = u + at \quad s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad v^2 = u^2 + 2as \quad p = mv$$

Force

$$F_{\text{net}} = ma$$

Weight force

$$F_{\text{weight}} = mg$$

Kinetic energy

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

Gravitational potential energy

$$E_p = mg\Delta h$$

Work done

$$W = Fs \quad W = \Delta E$$

Equations of circular motion

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} \quad a_c = \frac{v^2}{r} \quad \text{resultant } F_c = ma_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

Newton's law of universal gravitation

$$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Kepler's 3rd law

$$\frac{T^2}{r^3} = \frac{4\pi^2}{GM}$$

Gravitational field strength

$$g = \frac{F_g}{m} = G \frac{M}{r^2}$$

Moment of a force

$$\tau = rF \sin \theta \quad \text{where } \theta = \text{angle between the force } F \text{ and the lever arm}$$

### Wave particle duality and the quantum theory

---

Wave period

$$T = \frac{1}{f}$$

Wave equation

$$c = f\lambda$$

Energy of photon

$$E = hf \quad E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

Energy transitions

$$\Delta E = hf \quad \Delta E = E_2 - E_1$$

Photoelectric effect

$$E_k = hf - W$$

de Broglie wavelength

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$$

See next page

**Electromagnetism**

---

Coulomb's law  $F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1q_2}{r^2}$

Electric field strength  $E = \frac{F}{q} = \frac{V}{d}$

Magnetic flux density  $B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r}$

Magnetic force on a charged particle  $F = qvB\sin\theta$  where  $\theta =$  angle between the field  $B$  and the velocity  $v$

Magnetic force on a current-carrying conductor  $F = I\ell B\sin\theta$  where  $\theta =$  angle between the field  $B$  and the conductor length  $\ell$

Particle motion in a magnetic field  $r = \frac{mv}{qB}$

Torque on a coil  $\tau = rF\sin\theta$  where  $\theta =$  angle between the force  $F$  and the lever arm

Magnetic flux  $\Phi = BA_{\perp}$  where  $A =$  area perpendicular to the field  $B$

Electromagnetic induction induced emf :  $\varepsilon = \ell v B \sin\theta$   
 where  $\theta =$  angle between the field  $B$  and the conductor length  $\ell$

induced emf :  $\varepsilon = -N \frac{(\Phi_2 - \Phi_1)}{t} = -N \frac{\Delta\Phi}{t} = -N \frac{\Delta(BA_{\perp})}{t}$

where  $A =$  area perpendicular to the field  $B$

$\varepsilon_{\max} = 2N\ell v B = 2\pi N B A f$   $\varepsilon_{\text{rms}} = \frac{\varepsilon_{\max}}{\sqrt{2}}$

Ohm's law  $V = IR$

Electric current  $I = \frac{q}{t}$  Work and energy  $W = Vq$

Ideal transformer turns ratio  $\frac{V_p}{V_s} = \frac{N_p}{N_s}$  Power  $P = VI = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R}$

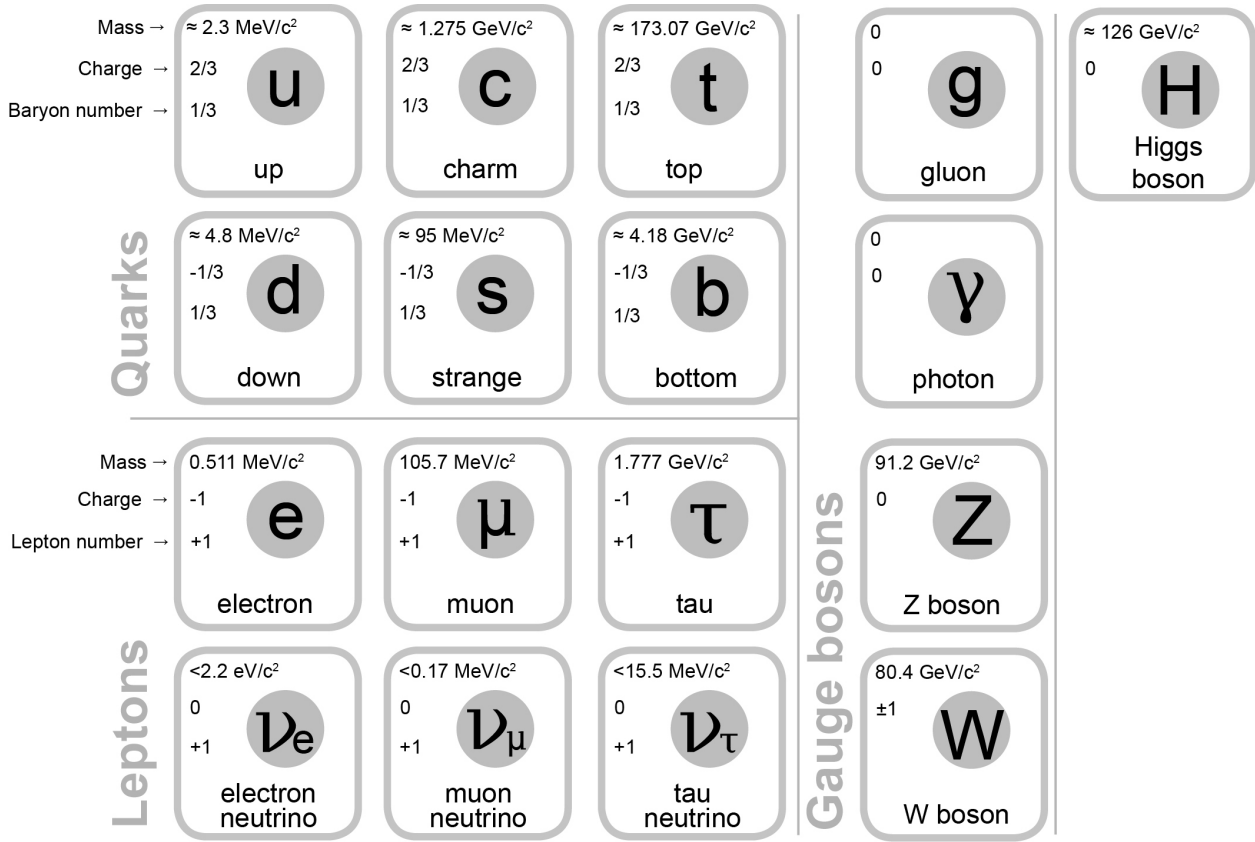
**Special relativity**


---

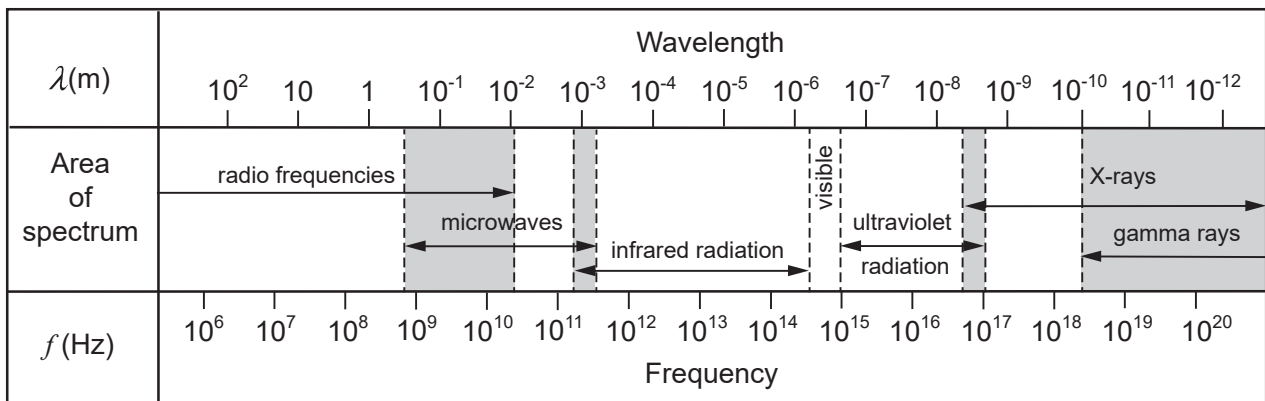
Relativistic effects	$\ell = \ell_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$	$t = \frac{t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$	
	$u = \frac{v + u'}{1 + \frac{vu'}{c^2}}$	$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - \frac{uv}{c^2}}$	
Relativistic momentum	$p_v = \frac{mv}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$	Hubble's law	$v = H_0 d$
		Rest energy	$E_{\text{rest}} = mc^2$
Mass-energy equivalence	$E_t = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$	Total energy	$E_t = E_k + E_{\text{rest}}$

The Standard Model

Elementary particles



Electromagnetic spectrum



Note: shaded areas represent regions of overlap.

See next page

**Physical data**

---

Mean acceleration due to gravity on the Earth.. $g$	=	$9.80 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
Mean acceleration due to gravity on the Moon.. $g_M$	=	$1.62 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
Mean radius of the Earth .....	$R_E$	= $6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$
Mass of the Earth .....	$M_E$	= $5.97 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
Mean radius of the Sun .....	$R_S$	= $6.96 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$
Mass of the Sun.....	$M_S$	= $1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$
Mean radius of the Moon.....	$R_M$	= $1.74 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$
Mass of the Moon .....	$M_M$	= $7.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg}$
Mean Earth-Moon distance .....		= $3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$
Mean Earth-Sun distance .....		= $1.50 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
.....		= 1.00 astronomical unit (AU)
Mass (at rest) of electron .....	$m_e$	= $9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
Mass (at rest) of proton .....	$m_p$	= $1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
Tonne.....	1.00 t	= $10^3 \text{ kg}$

**Physical constants**

---

Speed of light in vacuum or air .....	$c$	=	$3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
Electron charge .....	$e$	=	$-1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
Planck constant .....	$h$	=	$6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
Newtonian constant of gravitation .....	$G$	=	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$
Electric constant .....	$\epsilon_0$	=	$8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
Magnetic constant .....	$\mu_0$	=	$4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ N A}^{-2} = 1.26 \times 10^{-6} \text{ N A}^{-2}$

**Conversions**

---

Electron volt.....	1.00 eV	=	$1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$
Light year.....	1.00 ly	=	$9.46 \times 10^{12} \text{ km}$
Megaparsec.....	1.00 Mpc	=	$3.09 \times 10^{19} \text{ km} = 3.26 \times 10^6 \text{ ly}$

**Prefixes of the metric system**

---

Factor	Prefix	Symbol	Factor	Prefix	Symbol
$10^{12}$	tera	T	$10^{-3}$	milli	m
$10^9$	giga	G	$10^{-6}$	micro	$\mu$
$10^6$	mega	M	$10^{-9}$	nano	n
$10^3$	kilo	k	$10^{-12}$	pico	p

**Mathematical expressions**

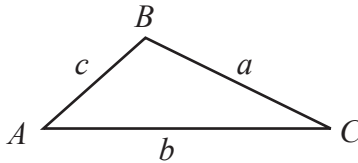
---

**Quadratic equations**

Given  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ ,  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

**Triangles**

The following expressions apply to the triangle ABC as shown:



$$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$$

$$a = \sqrt{b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A}$$

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Elementary particles

Adapted from Standard Model image: MissMJ. (2006). *File:Standard Model of Elementary Particles.svg*. Retrieved June, 2016, from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Standard\\_Model\\_of\\_Elementary\\_Particles.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Standard_Model_of_Elementary_Particles.svg)  
Used under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported licence.

### Copyright

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2022

This document – apart from any third party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that it is not changed and that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the Creative Commons [Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) licence.

An *Acknowledgements variation* document is available on the Authority website.

This document is valid for teaching and examining until 31 December 2023.