

# Circular Motion

## Question Paper

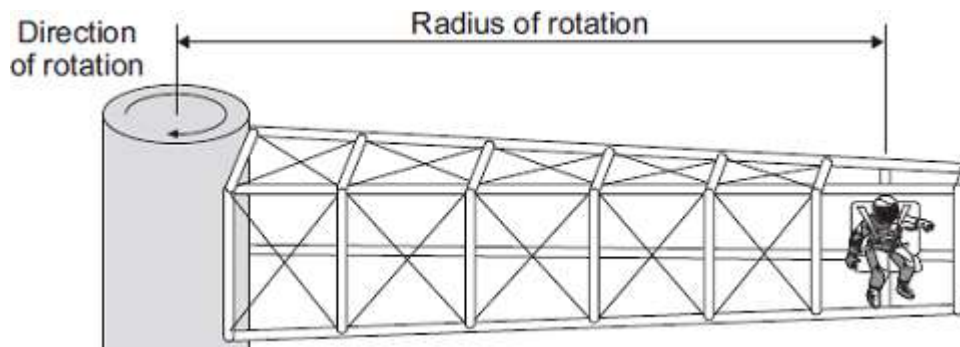
Level	GCSE
Subject	Physics
Exam Board	AQA
Unit	P3
Topic	Circular Motion
Difficulty Level	Gold Level
Booklet	Question Paper

**Time Allowed:** 33 minutes

**Score:** /33

**Percentage:** /100

Q1. The diagram shows a 'G-machine'. The G-machine is used in astronaut training.



The G-machine moves the astronaut in a horizontal circle.

- (a) When the G-machine is rotating at constant speed, the astronaut is accelerating.

State the name and direction of the force causing the astronaut to accelerate.

Name of force .....

Direction of force .....

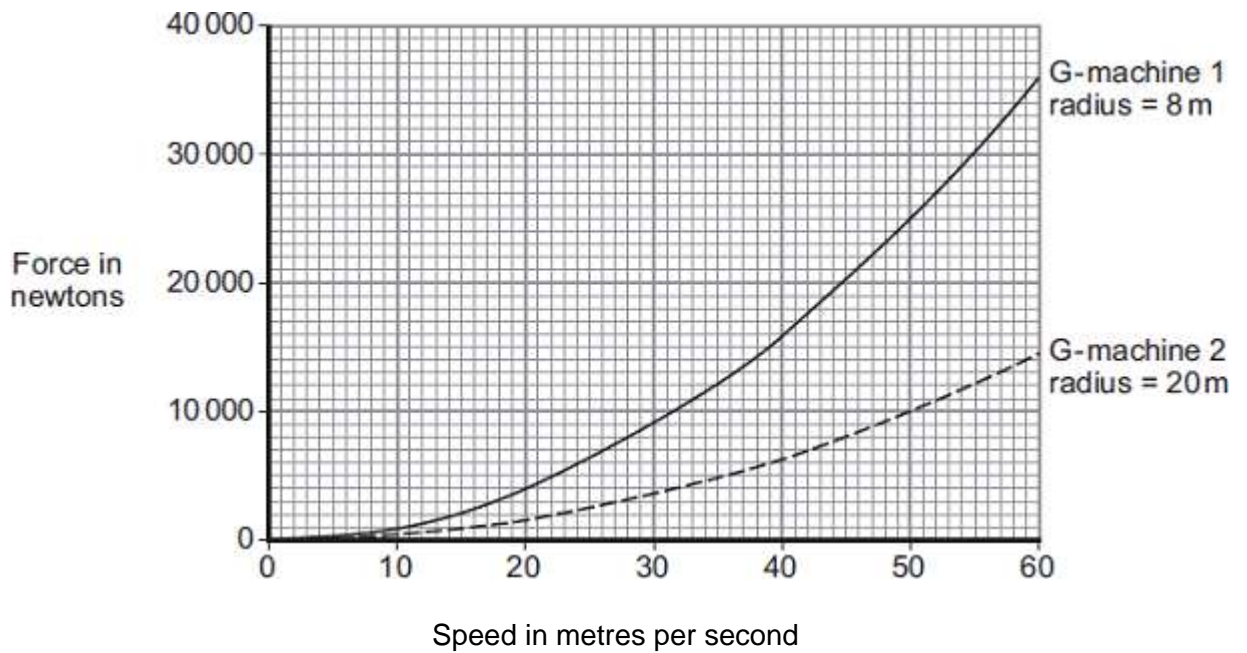
.....

(2)

- (b) The force causing the astronaut to move in a circle is measured.

The graph shows how the speed of the astronaut affects the force causing the astronaut to move in a circle for two different G-machines.

The radius of rotation of the astronaut is different for each G-machine.



(i) State **three** conclusions that can be made from the graph.

- 1 .....
- .....
- 2 .....
- .....
- 3 .....
- .....

(3)

(ii) The speed of rotation of G-machine 1 is increased from 20 m/s to 40 m/s.

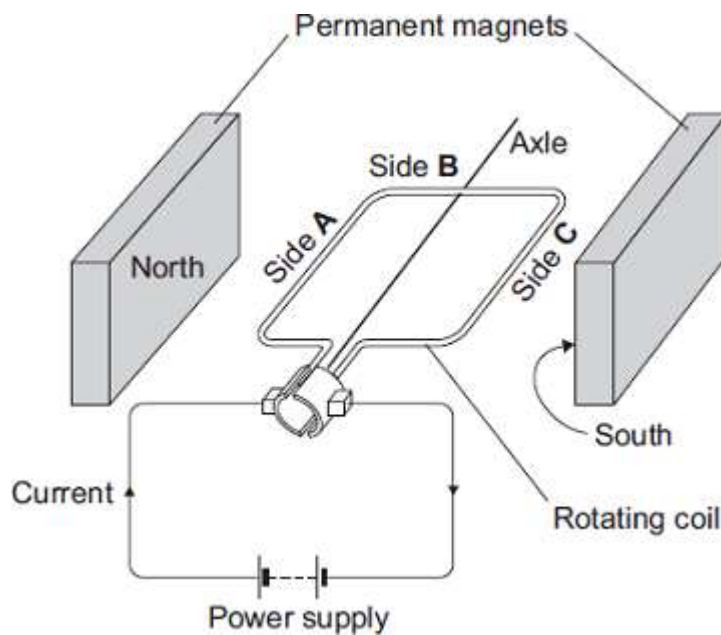
Determine the change in force on the astronaut.

.....

Change in force = ..... N

(1)

(c) Each G-machine is rotated by an electric motor. The diagram shows a simple electric motor.



(i) A current flows through the coil of the motor.

Explain why side **A** of the coil experiences a force.

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(2)

(ii) Draw arrows on the diagram to show the direction of the forces acting on side **A** of the coil and side **C** of the coil.

(1)

(iii) When horizontal, side **B** experiences no force.

Give the reason why.

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(1)

(d) While a G-machine is rotating, the operators want to increase its speed.

What can the operators do to make the G-machine rotate faster?

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(1)

(e) The exploration of space has cost a lot of money.

Do you think spending lots of money on space exploration has been a good thing?

Draw a ring around your answer.

**Yes**      **No**

Give a reason for your answer.

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(1)  
(Total 12 marks)

**Q2.**The London Eye is one of the largest observation wheels in the world.



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The passengers ride in capsules. Each capsule moves in a circular path and accelerates.

- (a) Explain how the wheel can move at a steady speed and the capsules accelerate at the same time.

.....  
.....  
.....

(2)

- (b) In which direction is the resultant force on each capsule?

.....

(1)

- (c) The designers of the London Eye had to consider **three** factors which affect the resultant force described in part (b).

Two factors that increase the resultant force are:

- an increase in the speed of rotation
- an increase in the total mass of the wheel, the capsules and the passengers.

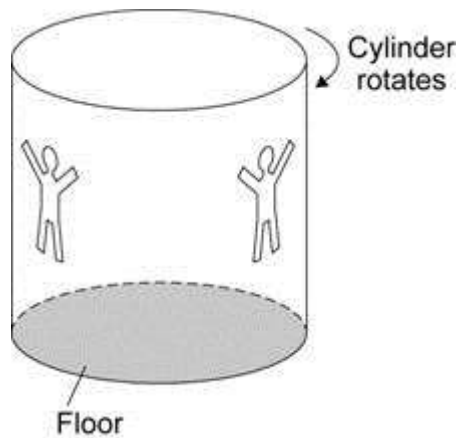
Name the other factor that affects the resultant force and state what effect it has on the resultant force.

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(1)

(Total 4 marks)

- Q3.** The fairground ride called 'The Rotor' is a large cylinder which rotates. When the cylinder reaches its maximum speed the floor drops away and the riders inside the cylinder are left against the cylinder wall.



- (a) Explain how the cylinder is rotating at a constant speed but at the same time the riders inside the cylinder are accelerating.

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(3)

- (b) In which direction do the riders accelerate?

.....

(1)

- (c) What name is given to the resultant force that causes the riders to accelerate?

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(1)

- (d) At the end of the ride the floor goes back into place and the cylinder slows down and stops.

How does the resultant force on the riders change as the cylinder slows down?

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(1)  
(Total 6 marks)

**Q4.** This page is from a science magazine.

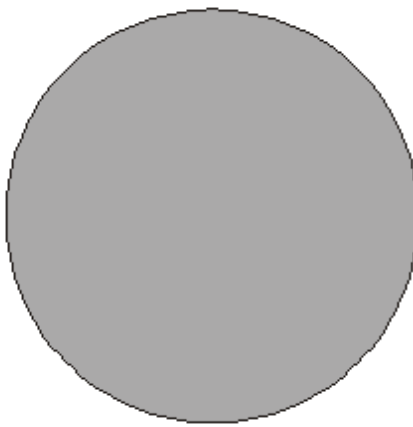
**The Red Planet**

The two natural satellites, or moons, of Mars are Phobos (fear) and Deimos (terror). They are named after the horses which pulled the chariot of Mars, the god of war in the mythology of Ancient Greece.

Phobos takes less than eight hours to orbit Mars and gets slightly closer every time it does so. Scientists predict that in about 100 million years time it will either be ripped apart by the gravitational force or will crash onto the surface of Mars.

● Deimos

● Phobos



Not to scale

(a) Suggest how scientists have arrived at their prediction of about 100 million years.



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(2)

(b) The centripetal force on Phobos is gradually changing as it orbits Mars.

Is the force increasing or decreasing?

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Explain your answer.

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(2)

(c) Scientists expect that the mass of Mars and the mass of Phobos will not increase.

Explain what will happen to the gravitational force on Phobos as it orbits Mars.

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(2)

(Total 6 marks)

**Q5.** The London Eye is the largest observation wheel in the world.



The passengers ride in capsules. Each capsule moves in a circular path and accelerates.

- (a) Explain how the wheel can move at a steady speed and the capsules accelerate at the same time.

.....  
.....  
.....

(2)

- (b) In which direction does each capsule accelerate?

.....

(1)

- (c) What is the name of the resultant force that causes the capsules to accelerate?

.....

(1)

- (d) The designers of the London Eye had to consider **three** factors which affect the resultant force described in part (c).

Two factors that increase the resultant force are

- an increase in the speed of rotation
- an increase in the total mass of the wheel, the capsules and the passengers.

Name the other factor that affects the resultant force and state what effect it has on the resultant force.

.....  
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(1)  
(Total 5 marks)