AP Physics 2 Syllabus

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Please note: this syllabus is subject to change due to COVID-19!

Q1 - Particle Physics

I. Nuclear Physics

- a. atomic number, mass & mass number
- b. nuclear processes
- c. mass-energy equivalence

II. Atomic Physics

- a. the electron & atomic nucleus
- b. photons & photoelectric effect
- c. quantum effects
- d. DeBroglie wavelength
- e. x-rays & Compton scattering

III. Thermal Physics

- a. temperature & heat
- b. kinetic theory (gas laws)
- c. thermodynamic processes
- d. First & Second Laws of Thermodynamics

Q3 – Optics & Fluid Physics

I. Optics

- a. waves (review)
- b. Michelson-Morley experiment
- c. physical optics: slits & filters
- d. electromagnetic spectrum
- e. interference & diffraction
- f. geometric optics: lens & mirrors
- g. reflection & refraction

II. Fluid Mechanics

- a. density & specific gravity
- b. pressure, Pascal's Law & Bernoulli's Equation
- c. buoyancy, Archimedes' Principle
- d. fluid flow continuity

Q2 - Electricity & Magnetism

I. Electricity

- a. electrostatics & Coulomb's Law
- b. electric fields & electric potential
- c. capacitors
- d. electric current
- e. Ohm's Law & resistance
- f. DC circuits, schematic diagrams & Kirchhoff's Laws

II. Magnetism

- a. magnetostatics & magnetic fields
- b. magnetic flux, Faraday's Law & Lenz's Law
- c. induced emf & induced current

Q4 - Review for the AP Exam

I. Review for the AP Exam

The AP Physics 2 Exam is Wednesday, May 7th, 2021 at noon.

"Big Ideas" for AP Physics - from the AP College Board

Big Idea 1: Systems

 Objects and systems have properties such as mass and charge. Systems may have internal structure.

Big Idea 2: Fields

Fields existing in space can be used to explain interactions.

Big Idea 3: Forces

The interactions of an object with other objects can be described by forces.

Big Idea 4: Interactions

Interactions between systems can result in changes in those systems.

Big Idea 5: Conservation

Changes that occur as a result of interactions are constrained by conservation laws.

Big Idea 6: Waves

 Waves can transfer energy and momentum from one location to another without the permanent transfer of mass and serve as a mathematical model for the description of other phenomena.

Big Idea 7: Probability

 The mathematics of probability can be used to describe the behavior of complex systems and to interpret the behavior of quantum mechanical systems.

Science Practices for AP Physics – from the AP College Board

- Science Practice 1: The student can use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
- Science Practice 2: The student can use mathematics appropriately.
- Science Practice 3: The student can engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course.
- Science Practice 4: The student can plan and implement data collection strategies in relation to a particular scientific question.
- Science Practice 5: The student can perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
- Science Practice 6: The student can work with scientific explanations and theories.
- Science Practice 7: The student is able to connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.