

Exam time



Preparing for the exam

- Practice, practice, practice!
- Set aside time with past VCAA exams (2013 - 2014 at least), complete under exam conditions.
- (Past years had two separate exams: you'll need to both.)
- Read the assessors reports to find explanations and comments on the quality of answers.
- Complete exam solutions can be found at itute.com and vicphysics.org.
- Know what is on the exam. Use the study design dot points, not necessarily your text-book.
- Complete your own A3 summary sheet. Include definitions of key terms, examples of questions, ball-park figures.



<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/physics/exams.html>

Going into the exam

- Double check the time of your exam. Get there at least 15 minutes early.
- 2015 exam: Wednesday November 11th, 2.00 to 4.45.
- Know your VCAA student number.
- One scientific calculator only. Bring spare batteries.
- Blue or black pen for written answers.
- Use a dark (2B+) pencil for multi-choice answer sheet. (Bring an eraser!)
- One single A3 summary page or two bound (taped together) A4 sheets (may be double sided, but NOT STAPLED).
- These can be written, typed, photocopied. (Best if it's your work.)

The exam

- The exam goes for 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- There is 15 minutes of reading time.
- The exam contributes 60% of your study score.
- Section A (Short answer and numerical calculations, 128 marks):
 - Motion in one and two dimensions: 30–40 marks
 - Electronics and photonics: 20–30 marks
 - Electric power: 30–40 marks
 - Interactions of light and matter: 20–30 marks
- Section B (11 Multiple choice questions, 22 marks):
 - Einstein's special relativity OR
 - Materials and their use in structures OR
 - Further electronics OR
 - Synchrotron and its applications OR
 - Photonics OR
 - Sound

Reading time

- Use your reading time wisely.
- Aim to read the exam three times.
- First, **skim** over the exam to get an overview.
- Second, **read** each question in detail to get an idea of exactly what is required.
- Third, **focus** on the more difficult questions - especially explanatory questions.
- Don't mark the paper in any way in this time.

During the exam

- You don't need to do the questions in order.
- Indicate your detailed study on the separate sheet.
- Correctly fill out the answer sheets (only one answer). Don't leave any blank!
- Pace yourself. There are 150 marks & 150 minutes:
1 mark per minute.

Calculation questions

- Carefully read the question. Highlight key words.
- Show full workings in calculation questions for consequential marks.
- Two marks: one mark for substitution into formula, one mark for correct answer.
- Scientific notation - 2×10^9 is not the same as 2^9 .
- Always use degrees in calculations.
- Make any corrections obvious - only one answer can be marked.
- Neat writing - if it can't be read, it can't be marked.
- Only write inside the borders - exams are computer scanned.
- Make sure that any required answers are written in the box.

Explanatory questions

- Carefully read the question. Highlight key words.
- Don't just recycle a definition from the text / summary sheet.
- Often you will be required to support your statement with a calculation or comparison of numerical values.
- Draw relevant diagrams to assist in explanations. (Include correct forces - named & in the correct position.)

Multiple choice questions

- MAKE SURE THAT YOU INDICATE YOUR DETAILED STUDY!
- 2 marks / question.
- Work out your answer without looking at the possible answers given.
- Avoid the distractors - correct statements, but not actually answers to that actual questions.
- Be sure to rub out any changes to your answers - only one circle should be filled.
- Don't ever leave any answers blank!

Exam grades

- These grades will vary from year to year, depending on the exam difficulty & the students.
- ~7000 students, ~10 get 100% mark.
- Exam 2014 grades:

Grade	Mark (%)	% of students
A+	85	10
A	77	12
B+	68	12
B	58	15
C+	46	15
C	35	13
D+	24	10
D	16	6
E+	9	4
E	5	1