## AP Physics 1- Momentum, Impulse, and Collisions Practice Problems 2018-2019

**FACT:** The product of mass and velocity is a vector quantity known as momentum  $(\vec{p})$ . The equation for linear momentum is  $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$  and has the units kg $\cdot \frac{m}{s}$ , which can also be written as a newton-second (N·s). Now take Newton's second law  $\vec{F}_{net} = m\vec{a}$  and substitute  $\frac{vf-vo}{\Delta t}$  for the acceleration  $(\vec{a})$ . You will now have the equation  $\vec{F} = m(\frac{vf-vo}{\Delta t})$ . Next, distribute the mass (m) and you will get  $\vec{F} = (\frac{mvf-mvo}{\Delta t})$ . Finally, you should realize that since  $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$ , that  $\vec{F} = (\frac{\Delta \vec{p}}{\Delta t})$ .

**Q1.** A golfer strikes a golf ball of mass 0.05 kg, and the time of impact between the golf club and the ball is 1.0 ms. If the ball acquires a velocity of magnitude 70 m/s, calculate the average force exerted on the ball.

**Q2.** Two trains, Big Red and Little Blue, have the same velocity. Big Red, however, has twice the mass of Little Blue. Compare their momenta.

**FACT**: The product of the force and the time during which it acts is known as *impulse*. This is a vector quantity denoted with a (J). Therefore, Impulse = J = F $\Delta$ t and the units are still kg $\cdot \frac{m}{c}$ , which can also be written as a newton-second (N·s).

**FACT:** Impulse is equal to change in linear momentum. In terms of impulse we can rearrange the equation  $\vec{F} = \left(\frac{\Delta \vec{p}}{\Delta t}\right)$  to solve for  $\Delta p$ , we find that J =  $\Delta p$ , because F $\Delta t$  =  $\Delta p$ . These relationships are referred to as the *impulse-momentum theorem; J* =  $\Delta p$  = F $\Delta t$ .

**Q3**. A football team's kicker punts the ball (mass = 0.4 kg) and gives it a launch speed of 30 m/s. Find the impulse delivered to the football by the kicker's foot and the average force exerted by the kicker on the ball, given that the impact time was 8 ms.

**Q4**. An 80 kg stuntman jumps out of a window that is 45 m above the ground. (a) How fast is he falling when he reaches the ground? (b) He lands on a large, air-filled target coming to rest in 1.5 s. What average force does he feel while coming to rest? (c) What if he had instead landed on the hard ground with an impact time of 10 ms?

**Q5.** Calculate the magnitude of the impulse applied to a 0.75 kg cart to change its velocity from 0.50 m/s east to 2.00 m/s east.

**Q6.** A 6.0 kg block is sliding to the east across a horizontal, frictionless surface with a momentum of 30 kg. $\frac{m}{s}$ . It strikes an obstacle. The obstacle exerts an impulse of 10 N.s to the west on the block. Find the speed of the block after the collision.

**Q7.** A 1000 kg car is traveling east at 15 m/s and is hit from behind and receives a forward impulse of 6000 N.s. Determine the magnitude of the car's change in momentum due to this impulse and find the final velocity.

**Q8.** Two speedboats are moving at constant speeds on a straight stretch of a racecourse. At the instant shown, Speedboat A has more momentum than Speedboat B. Is the net force on Speedboat A greater than, less than, or equal to the net force on Speedboat B? Explain.



**Q9.** The two speedboats in question 8 are moving at constant speeds on a straight stretch of a racecourse. Speedboat A has more mass than Speedboat B. At the instant shown, the two speedboats have the same kinetic energy. Is the momentum of Speedboat A greater than, less than, or equal to the momentum of Speedboat B?

**FACT:** The area under a force as a function of time graph is equal to the impulse (J). Impulse calculations should be the *net force* on an object. Remember you are not required to use calculus in this course, so approximations will satisfy the College Board requirements.

**Q10.** A small block of mass 0.07 kg, which is initially at rest is struck by an impulsive force (F) of duration 10 ms. The strength of the force varies according to the following graph. What is the resulting speed of the block?

**Q11.** A teacher whose weight is 900 N jumps vertically from rest while standing on a platform scale. The scale reading as a function of time is shown to the right. (a) Find the impulse given to the teacher. (b) Find the speed at which the teacher leaves the scale.

**Q12.** The following carts are moving to the right across a frictionless surface with the specified initial velocity. A force is applied to each cart for a set amount of time as shown in the diagram below. Rank the four carts from least to greatest in terms of: 1. Initial momentum, 2. Impulse applied, 3. Final momentum, 4. Final velocity





F(N) 20-

15

10

5

2 4 6 8 10

time, t (ms)

Q10



**Q13.** A 2.0 kg object is moving to the right with a speed of 1.0 m/s when it experiences the force shown in the graph. What is the object's speed and direction after the force ends? (same question on ballistic lab).

**FACT:** The Law of Conservation of Momentum states that in a system in which the only forces acting are between objects in that system, momentum is conserved. This can be expressed as: *total* p<sub>initial</sub> = *total* p<sub>final</sub>. This is a direct outcome of Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law. Therefore, an external force is required to change the motion of the object's center of mass. This also means that momentum is conserved in *all* collisions and most explosions.

**Q14.** A 2000-kg car traveling at 20 m/s collides with a 1000-kg car at rest at a stop sign. If the 2000-kg car has a velocity of 6.67 m/s after the collision, find the velocity of the 1000-kg after the collision

**Q15.** An astronaut is floating in space near her shuttle when she realizes that the cord that is supposed to attach her to the ship has become disconnected. Her total mass (including a metal tool) is 91 kg. She reaches into her pocket, finds a 1-kg metal tool, and throws it out into space with a velocity of 9 m/s directly away from the ship. If the ship is 10 m away, how long will it take her to reach it?

**Q16.** On a snow covered road, a car with a mass of 1100 kg collides head-on with a van having a mass of 2500 kg traveling 8 m/s. As a result of the collision, the vehicles lock together and immediately come to rest. Calculate the speed of the car immediately before the collision ( $\mu$  = 0).

**Q17.** A 70-kg hockey player skating east on an ice rink is hit by a 0.1-kg puck moving west. The puck exerts a 50-N westward force on the player. Determine the force that the player exerts on the puck during the collision.

**Q18.** A 4-kg rifle fires a 20-g bullet with a velocity of 300 m/s. Find the recoil velocity of the rifle.

**FACT:** There are three types of collisions. The main distinction is that kinetic energy is **not** conserved after inelastic collisions, as some of the energy is converted into heat and sound energy. Refer to the diagram to the right  $\rightarrow$ 

**Q19.** A wooden block of mass  $m_1$  sits on a floor attached to a spring in its equilibrium position. A bullet of mass  $m_2$  is fired with a velocity of v into the wooden block, where it remains. Derive an equation for the maximum displacement of the spring if the floor is frictionless and the spring has a spring constant of k.



**Q20.** An open tub slides across a frictionless surface. As it slides, rain falls vertically into the tub. What will happen to the tub's momentum and velocity? Answer using both qualitative and quantitative reasoning.

Refer to the figure below for the follow three questions (Q21-Q23):



**Q21.** A 2-kg object accelerates as a net external force is applied to it. During the 5-second interval that the force is applied, the object's velocity changes from 3 m/s east to 7 m/s west. A student states: *"The change in momentum of this object during these 5 seconds was 8 kg·m/s so the impulse applied to this object during these 5 seconds was 8/s kg·m/s."* What, if anything, is wrong with this statement? If something is wrong, identify and explain how to correct it. If this statement is correct, explain why.

**Q22.** A 2-kg object accelerates as a net external force is applied to it. During the 5-second interval that the force is applied, the object's velocity changes from 3 m/s east to 7 m/s west. A student says: *"The change in velocity for this 2 kg object was 4 m/s, so the change in momentum, and also the impulse, was 8 kg·m/s."* What, if anything, is wrong with this statement? If something is wrong, identify and explain how to correct it. If this statement is correct, explain why.

**Q23.** A 2-kg object accelerates as a net external force is applied to it. During the 5-second interval that the force is applied, the object's velocity changes from 3 m/s east to 7 m/s west. Several students discussing the impulse on this object state the following:

Lorenzo: "The impulse is equal to the change in momentum, which is  $(2 \text{ kg})(3 \text{ m/s} + 7 \text{ m/s}) = 20 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}$ ."

Romano: "But the change in velocity is 4 m/s. We multiply by the mass to get the change in momentum, and also the impulse, which is 8 kg·m/s."

Amedeo: "The change in momentum of this object during these 5 seconds was 8 kg·m/s so the impulse applied to this object during these 5 seconds was 8/5 kg·m/s."

Carlo: "The impulse is the force F times the time t and since we don't know the force, we can't find the impulse for this situation."

Which, if any, of these three students do you agree with and why?

**Q24.** Cart A of mass 0.5 kg, moves to the right at a speed of 60 cm/s. Cart B, of mass 1.0 kg, is at rest. The carts collide and stick together. (a) What is the final velocity of the two-cart system?

**Q25.** Two identical balls are dropped from the same height above the ground, such that they are traveling 50 cm/s just before they hit the ground. Ball A rebounds with speed 50 cm/s; Ball B rebounds with a speed of 10 cm/s. Each is in contact with the ground for the same amount of time. (a)Use quantitative and qualitative reasoning to explain if the momentum of either ball A, or ball B, is conserved. (b) If momentum was not conserved explain which ball had the greater change in momentum, again using quantitative and qualitative reasoning (c) Which ball exerts a larger force on the ground during its collision?

**Q26.** Two carts of equal mass move toward each other with identical speeds of 30 cm/s. After colliding, the carts bounce off each other, each regaining 30 cm/s, but now moving in opposite directions. (a) Is momentum conserved in the collision? (b) Is kinetic energy conserved in the collision? Support each answer using quantitative and qualitative reasoning.

**Q27.** Two balls roll toward each other. The red ball has a mass of 0.5 kg and a speed of 4 m/s just before impact. The green ball has a mass of 0.2 kg and a speed of 2 m/s. After the head-on collision, the red ball continues forward with a speed of 2 m/s. Find the speed of the green ball after the collision. Was the collision elastic?

**Q28.** Two balls roll toward each other. The red ball has a mass of 0.5 kg and a speed of 4 m/s just before impact. The green ball has a mass of 0.3 kg and a speed of 2 m/s. If the collision is completely inelastic, determine the velocity of the two-ball system after the collision.

**FACT:** When objects move in both the x- and the y-direction (2-D collision), analyze the collision with the momentum conservation *separately* in each direction.

**Q29.** A 500 kg car travels 20 m/s due north. It hits a 500 kg car traveling due west at 30 m/s. The cars lock bumpers and stick together. What is the velocity the instant after impact?

**Q30.** Maggie, of mass 50 kg glides to the right on a frictionless frozen pond with a speed of 2.5 m/s. She collides with a 20 kg penguin. After the collision, the directions of the penguin's and Maggie's motion is shown in the figure below. Answer the follow (a-c) from a conceptual perspective. (a) Who has the greater magnitude of momentum in the y-direction after the collision? (b) Who has the greater magnitude of momentum in the x-direction after the collision? (c) Who has the greater velocity in the y-direction after the collision?



**Q31.** [Video Analysis] Visit the Unit 4 webpage on www.PedersenScience.com and scroll down to the problem set for this unit. You will find an accompanying video of a blow dart (28 g) colliding with a cart (250 g). Watch the video twice before answering the following questions. (a) Calculate the momentum of the dart before the collision. (b). Calculate the momentum of the dart/cart system after the collision. (c) Do your answers suggest conservation of momentum? Please justify. If not, where do you think momentum was lost or gained?

**Q32.** A 10-kg box, initially at rest, moves along a frictionless horizontal surface. A horizontal force to the right is applied to the box. The magnitude of the force changes as a function of time as shown on the left. A student draws the graph on the right for the momentum of this 10-kg box as a function of time during this 10-second interval. What, if anything, is wrong with this graph? If anything is wrong, identify it and explain how to correct it. If this graph is correct, explain why.



**Q33.** In each of the six figures on the next page, two carts traveling in opposite directions are about to collide. The carts are all identical in size and shape, but they carry different loads and are initially traveling at different speeds. The carts stick together after the collision. There is no friction between the carts and the ground. Rank these situations on the basis of the speed of the two-cart systems after the collision.



**FACT:** The center of mass of a system of objects obeys Newton's second law-  $F = Ma_{cm}$ . Usually the location of the center of mass (cm) is obvious, but for several objects is expressed as:  $Mx_{cm} = m_1x_1 + m_2x_2 + ...$ , where M is the sum of the masses in the expression. In some cases the center of mass is not located on the body of the object. Some examples would be a torus, hoop, horseshoe, etc. Take a look at the example of a wrench in projectile motion to help conceptualize this idea:

The acceleration of the center of mass of the wrench is g at all points of the trajectory. Center of mass

**Q34.** An astronaut on a spacewalk throws a rope around a small asteroid and then pulls it toward him. Where will the astronaut and the asteroid collide?

**Q35.** A toy rocket is in projectile motion, so that it is on track to land 30 m from its launch point. While in the air, the rocket explodes into two identical pieces, one lands 35 m from the launch. Where does the other piece land?

**Q36**. A bullet of mass  $m_1$  with velocity  $v_1$  is fired into a block of mass  $m_2$  attached by a string of length L in a device known as a ballistic pendulum. The ballistic pendulum records the maximum angle the string is displaced ( $\theta$ ). Derive an expression for the initial velocity of the bullet ( $v_1$ ) in terms of  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$ , L, g, and  $\theta$ .

