AQA GCSE Physics – Equations & Formulae (specification 8463 & 8464)

Unit 1: Energy

Equations to Learn	
kinetic energy = $\frac{1}{2}$ × mass × speed^2	$E_K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
GPE = mass × gravitational field strength × height	$E_P = mgh$
power = $\frac{\text{work done}}{\text{time taken}} = \frac{\text{energy transferred}}{\text{time taken}}$	$P = \frac{W}{t} = \frac{E}{t}$
efficiency = $\frac{\text{useful energy output}}{\text{total energy input}}$ efficiency = $\frac{\text{useful power output}}{\text{total power input}}$	
Equations given in the exam	
elastic potential energy = 0.5 × spring constant × (extension)^2	$E_e = \frac{1}{2}ke^2$
change in thermal energy = mass × specific heat capacity × temperature change	$\Delta E = mc\Delta\theta$

Unit 2: Electricity

Equations to Learn	
charge flow = current × time	$Q = I\,t$
potential difference = current × resistance	$V = I\,R$
total resistance = resistance of component 1 + resistance of component 2	$R_T = R_1 + R_2$
power = current × potential difference	$P = I\,V$
power = (current)^2 × resistance	$P = I^2R$
energy transferred = power × time	$E = Pt$
energy transferred = charge flow × potential difference	$E = QV$

* Higher tier only

^ Separate Physics only

Unit 3: Particle Model of Matter

Equations to Learn	
density = $\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$	$\rho = \frac{m}{V}$
Equations given in the exam	
change in thermal energy = mass × specific heat capacity × temperature change	$\Delta E = mc\Delta\theta$
thermal energy for a change in state = mass × specific latent heat	$E = mL$
^ for a gas: pressure × volume = constant	$pV = constant$

Unit 6: Waves

Equations to Learn	
wave speed = frequency × wavelength	$v = f\,\lambda$
Equations given in the exam	
time period = $\frac{1}{\text{frequency}}$	$T = \frac{1}{f}$
^ magnification = $\frac{\text{image height}}{\text{object height}}$	$M = \frac{h_{image}}{h_{object}}$

Unit 7: Magnetism and Electromagnetism

Equations given in the exam	
* Force = magnetic flux density × current × length of conductor in magnetic field	$F = BIl$
* $\frac{\text{potential difference across primary coil}}{\text{potential difference across secondary coil}} = \frac{\text{number of turns in primary coil}}{\text{number of turns in secondary coil}}$	$\frac{V_P}{V_S} = \frac{N_P}{N_S}$
* ^ p.d across primary × current in primary = p.d. across secondary x current in secondary	$V_P I_P = V_S I_S$

Unit 5: Forces

Equations to Learn	
weight = mass × gravitational field strength	$W = m\,g$
work done = force × distance (moved along the line of action of the force)	$W = Fs$
force = spring constant × extension	$F = ke$
moment of a force = force × distance (perpendicular to the direction of the force)	$M = Fd$
pressure = $\frac{\text{force normal to a surface}}{\text{area of that surface}}$	$p = \frac{F}{A}$
distance travelled = speed × time	$s = vt$
acceleration = $\frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{time taken}}$ = $\frac{\text{final velocity-initial velocity}}{\text{time taken}}$	$a = \frac{\Delta v}{t}$ = $\frac{v-u}{t}$
resultant force = mass × acceleration	$F = ma$
* momentum = mass × velocity	$p = mv$
Equations given in the exam	
* ^ Pressure = height of column × density of liquid × gravitational field strength	$p = h\,\rho\,g$
^ (final velocity)^2 – (initial velocity)^2 = 2 × acceleration × distance	$v^2 - u^2 = 2as$
* ^ Force = $\frac{\text{change in momentum}}{\text{time taken}}$	$F = \frac{m\,\Delta v}{t}$

Unit 4: Atomic Structure & Unit 8: Space

There are no equations in these sections of the course