6.3 Angular Momentum and Angular Impulse

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 9 marks**

KEY WORDS angular momentum • angular impulse

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **angular momentum and angular impulse**.

You must be able to:

- define **angular momentum** of a rigid body as $L = I\omega$
- define **angular impulse** as $\Delta L = \tau\,\Delta t$
- relate a net angular impulse to the change in a system's angular momentum

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

Angular momentum

$L = I\omega$, measured in kg m^2 s^{-1} – the rotational partner of $p = mv$.

Angular impulse

$\Delta L = \tau\,\Delta t$: a net torque acting for a time changes the angular momentum, just as $\vec{J} = \vec{F}\,\Delta t$ changes linear momentum.

Example

A disc with $I = 2.0$ kg m^2 at $\omega = 3.0$ rad s^{-1} has $L = 6.0$ kg m^2 s^{-1}.

2 Practice

2.1 A disc of $I = 0.50$ kg m^2 spins at $\omega = 8.0$ rad s^{-1}. Find its angular momentum. [1]

2.2 A torque of 4.0 N m acts for 3.0 s. Find the angular impulse. [1]

2.3 A wheel's angular momentum changes by 12 kg $m^2 s^{-1}$ in 2.0 s. Find the net torque. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The angular momentum of a rotating rigid body is [1]

- **A** $I\alpha$
- **B** $I\omega$
- **C** $\frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$
- **D** $\tau\omega$

3.2 Angular impulse is equal to [1]

- **A** $\tau\,\Delta t$
- **B** $I\alpha$
- **C** Fd
- **D** $\frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$

3.3 A flywheel of $I = 0.20$ kg m^2 spins at 30 rad s^{-1}. A constant friction torque of 0.60 N m acts on it.

(a) Find its initial angular momentum. [1]

(b) Find the time for friction to bring it to rest. [2]