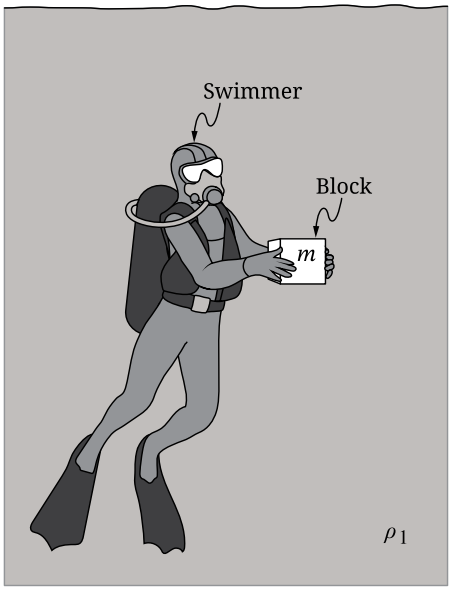
Question 4

4. In Scenario 1, a swimmer holds a block of mass m at rest in a tank of freshwater with density ρ_1, as shown in Figure 1. The block is released from rest and accelerates upward with an initial acceleration a_1. All frictional forces are negligible.

Figure 1



In Scenario 2, the swimmer holds the same block at rest in a tank of salt water with density ρ_2, where $\rho_2 > \rho_1$. The swimmer again releases the block from rest, and the block accelerates upward with initial acceleration a_2. All frictional forces are negligible.

A. Indicate whether a_1 is greater than, less than, or equal to a_2 by writing one of the following in your answer booklet.

- $a_1 > a_2$
- $a_1 < a_2$
- $a_1 = a_2$

Justify your answer in terms of ALL forces exerted on the block in each scenario. Use qualitative reasoning beyond referencing equations.

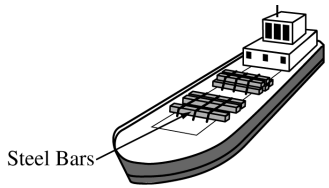
B. Consider the general case where a block of mass m and volume V is completely submerged in a fluid of density ρ.

Starting with Newton's second law, **derive** an expression for the initial upward acceleration a of the block when the block is released from rest. Express your answer in terms of m, V, ρ, and physical constants, as appropriate. Begin your derivation by writing a fundamental physics principle or an equation from the reference information.

C. Indicate whether the expression for the acceleration a you derived in part B is or is not consistent with the claim made in part A. Briefly **justify** your answer by referencing your derivation in part B.

STOP

END OF EXAM



4. (10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

A large boat like the one shown above has a mass M_b and can displace a maximum volume V_b. The boat is floating in a river with water of density ρ_{water} and is being loaded with steel beams each of density ρ_{steel} and volume V_{steel}. The boat owners want to be able to carry as many beams as possible.

(a) Derive an expression for the maximum number N of steel beams that can be loaded on the boat without exceeding the maximum displaced volume, in terms of the given quantities and physical constants, as appropriate.

(b) The captain realizes that oil is leaking from the boat, creating a thin film of oil on the water surface. In one area of the oil film the surface looks mostly green. Explain in detail how constructive interference contributes to the green appearance. Assume the index of refraction of the oil is greater than the index of refraction of the water.

(c) Later the boat is floating down the river with the water current, heading for a town. The river has a width of 60 m and a constant depth and flows at a speed of $5\ \text{km/hr}$. Partway to the town, the river narrows to a width of 30 m while its depth remains the same. Calculate the speed of the water in the narrow section.

STOP

END OF EXAM