Gravitational fields

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Physics · SL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
Kepler's laws	**Kepler's laws** describe how planets move round the Sun.
ellipse /ɪ'lɪps/	This **ellipse** is wider than it is tall.
focus /'fəʊkəs/	The Sun is at one **focus** of a planet's elliptical orbit.
• **point mass** /pɔɪnt mæs/	Treat the planet as a **point mass** at its centre.
Newton's universal law of gravitation	**Newton's universal law of gravitation** gives the pull between any two masses.
gravitational field /ˌgrævɪ'teɪʃənl fi:ld/	The Earth's **gravitational field** pulls the Moon.
gravitational field strength /ˌgrævɪ'teɪʃənl fi:ld streŋθ/	The **gravitational field strength** on Earth is 9.8 N/kg. $9.8\ \mathrm{N/kg}$
field line /fi:ld laɪn/	Each **field line** shows the direction of the force.
uniform field /'ju:nɪfɔ:m fi:ld/	In a **uniform field**, the field lines are parallel and evenly spaced.
orbit /'ɔ:bɪt/	The Moon's **orbit** takes about 27 days. 27
centripetal force /sen'trɪpɪtl fɔ:s/	The string gives the **centripetal force** to the spinning ball.
geostationary orbit /ˌdʒi:əʊ'steɪʃənəri 'ɔ:bɪt/	A TV satellite is in **geostationary orbit**.

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apparent weightlessness	Astronauts feel **apparent weightlessness** because they are falling freely.