

Definition questions want the syllabus wording, not your own words. Each one below is written the way a mark scheme accepts it. Learn the whole sentence – the second half is usually the second mark. 定义题要求用大纲的表述, 整句都要背。

Motion, forces and energy

- Speed** 速率 — distance travelled per unit time
- Velocity** 速度 — speed in a given direction
- Acceleration** 加速度 — change in velocity per unit time
- Scalar** 标量 — a quantity that has magnitude (size) only
- Vector** 矢量 — a quantity that has magnitude and direction
- Mass** 质量 — a measure of the quantity of matter in an object at rest
- Weight** 重力 — the gravitational force on an object that has mass
- Density** 密度 — mass per unit volume
- Resultant force** 合力 — the single force that has the same effect as all the forces acting on the object
- Newton’s third law** 牛顿第三定律 — when object A exerts a force on object B, B exerts an equal and opposite force on A
- Moment of a force** 力矩 — force times the perpendicular distance from the pivot
- Principle of moments** 力矩原理 — for an object in equilibrium, the total clockwise moment about a point equals the total anticlockwise moment about that point
- Centre of gravity** 重心 — the point at which the whole weight of the object may be considered to act
- Momentum** 动量 — mass times velocity
- Work done** 功 — force times distance moved in the direction of the force
- Power** 功率 — work done per unit time, or energy transferred per unit time
- Efficiency** 效率 — useful energy output divided by total energy input, usually as a percentage
- Principle of conservation of energy** 能量守恒 — energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transferred from one store to another
- Pressure** 压强 — force per unit area

Thermal physics

- Brownian motion** 布朗运动 — the random movement of small particles suspended in a fluid, caused by collisions with fast-moving molecules
- Internal energy** 内能 — the total energy of the molecules of a substance – the kinetic energy of their motion plus the potential energy of their separation
- Temperature** 温度 — a measure of the average kinetic energy of the molecules
- Specific heat capacity** 比热容 — the energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a substance by 1 °C
- Melting / boiling point** 熔点与沸点 — the temperature at which a solid changes to a liquid, or a liquid changes to a gas, at constant temperature
- Evaporation** 蒸发 — the escape of the more energetic molecules from the surface of a liquid, which cools the liquid left behind
- Conduction** 热传导 — the transfer of thermal energy through a substance without the substance itself moving
- Convection** 对流 — the transfer of thermal energy by the movement of a heated fluid, which is less dense and rises
- Thermal radiation** 热辐射 — the transfer of energy by infrared waves, which needs no medium
- Waves**
- Wavefront** 波前 — a line joining points on a wave that are in phase
- Amplitude** 振幅 — the maximum distance a point moves from its undisturbed position
- Wavelength** 波长 — the distance between two adjacent points in phase, for example crest to crest
- Frequency** 频率 — the number of waves passing a point per second
- Transverse wave** 横波 — a wave in which the vibrations are at right angles to the direction of travel
- Longitudinal wave** 纵波 — a wave in which the vibrations are along the direction of travel
- Reflection** 反射 — the bouncing back of a wave at a surface, with the angle of incidence equal to the angle of reflection
- Refraction** 折射 — the change in direction of a wave when its speed changes as it passes from one medium to another
- Critical angle** 临界角 — the angle of incidence in the denser medium for which the angle of refraction is 90°
- Total internal reflection** 全反射 — when light travelling in a denser medium meets the boundary at an angle greater than the critical angle, all of it is reflected
- Refractive index** 折射率 — the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to its speed in the medium, or $\sin i$ divided by $\sin r$
- Focal length** 焦距 — the distance from the centre of a lens to its principal focus

Electricity and magnetism

Electric current 电流 — the charge passing a point per unit time

Potential difference 电势差 — the work done by a unit charge passing from one point to another

Electromotive force 电动势 — the electrical work done by a source in moving a unit charge around a complete circuit

Resistance 电阻 — potential difference divided by current

Ohm's law 欧姆定律 — for a metallic conductor at constant temperature, the current is proportional to the potential difference

Series circuit 串联电路 — components connected one after another, so the current is the same everywhere and the p.d.s add

Parallel circuit 并联电路 — components connected across each other, so the p.d. is the same across each and the currents add

Magnetic field 磁场 — a region in which a magnetic pole experiences a force

Electromagnetic induction 电磁感应 — the production of an e.m.f. when a conductor cuts magnetic field lines, or when the field through a coil changes

Transformer 变压器 — a device that changes the voltage of an alternating supply, in the ratio of the numbers of turns on its two coils

Nuclear and space physics

Nucleon number / proton number 核子数与质子数 — the total number of protons and neutrons in a nucleus; the number of protons in a nucleus

Isotope 同位素 — atoms of the same element with the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons

Background radiation 本底辐射 — the ionising radiation always present from natural and man-made sources, which must be subtracted from a count rate

Radioactive decay 放射性衰变 — the spontaneous and random breakdown of an unstable nucleus, emitting radiation

Half-life 半衰期 — the time taken for half the nuclei of a sample to decay, or for the count rate to fall to half its value

Ionising radiation 电离辐射 — radiation that removes electrons from atoms, forming ions – alpha ionises most, gamma least

Redshift 红移 — the increase in the observed wavelength of light from a galaxy moving away from us

Hubble constant 哈勃常数 — the ratio of the speed at which a galaxy recedes to its distance from Earth; its reciprocal estimates the age of the Universe