P2 Chapter 1: Forces
Knowledge organiser

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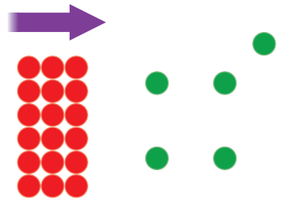
Friction and drag

- **Friction** is a force which will slow down a moving object due to two surfaces rubbing on one another
- The greater the friction, the faster an object will slow down, or the greater the force it will need to overcome the force of friction. For example, it is easier to push a block on ice than on concrete, as the ice is smoother and causes less friction

- When an object is moving through a fluid, either liquid or gas, the force which slows it down is known as **drag**
- The fluid particles will collide with the moving object and slow it down, meaning that more force is needed to overcome this
- Both drag and friction are **contact forces** as the two surfaces in friction, and the object and fluid particles in drag, come into contact with one another
- Both drag and friction are forces so they are measured in **Newtons** (N)



A solid moves through a gas.

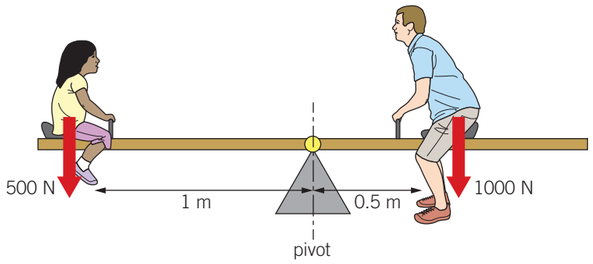
A solid moves through a liquid.

Turning forces

- A **moment** is the turning effect of a force, it is measured in Newton meters
- We can calculate a moment with the equation:

moment (Nm) = force (N) × distance from the pivot (m)

- The size of the moment will increase as the distance from the **pivot** or the size of the force increases
- When an object, such as a seesaw, is balanced, the clockwise and the anticlockwise moments will be equal and opposite, which is known as **equilibrium**
- When forces are equal and opposite to each other, there is no **resultant force**

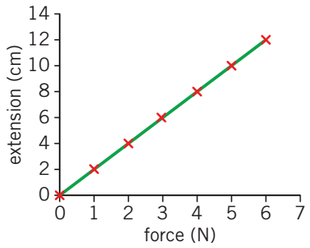


clockwise moment = force × distance on the right
= 1000 N × 0.5 m
= 500 Nm

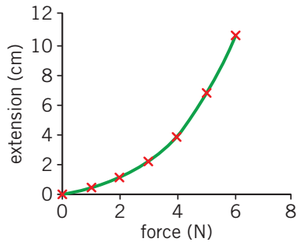
anticlockwise moment = force × distance on the left
= 500 N × 1 m
= 500 Nm

Hooke's law

- Some objects, like springs, can be stretched, the amount that they stretch is known as their **extension**
- A force needs to be applied to the spring for it to be stretched, we can achieve this by adding masses which exert the force weight
- A spring will continue to stretch until it passes it's **elastic limit**
- If an object obeys **Hooke's law** it will have a **linear relationship**: if the force applied to the spring is doubled, the extension will double too
- If an object does not obey Hooke's law, it will not have a linear relationship



This graph shows how the extension of a spring changes as you pull it



This graph shows the relationship between force and extension

Gas pressure

- **Gas pressure** is caused by the particles of a gas colliding with the wall of the container which they are in
- The more often that the particles collide with the wall of the container, the higher the pressure of the gas will be
- Gas pressure can be increased by:
  - Heating the gas so the particles move more quickly and collide with the container with a higher energy
  - Compressing the gas so there are the same amount of particles within a smaller volume meaning that there are more collisions
  - Increasing the amount of particles within the same volume so there are more collisions

- **Atmospheric pressure** is the pressure which the air exerts on you all of the time, nearer the ground there are more particles weighing down on you so the pressure is greater
- The higher you go, the smaller the atmospheric pressure, this is because there will be less particles weighing down on you

Pressure in solids

- The pressure which is exerted on a solid is known as **stress**
- The greater the area over which the force is exerted over, the lower the pressure, this is why snowshoes have a large area to prevent you sinking into the snow
- **Pressure** can be calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{pressure} = \frac{\text{force}}{\text{area}}$$

Pressure in liquids

- Liquids are **incompressible**
- The particles in a liquid are already touching, meaning that there is little space between them to compress
- Liquids will transfer the pressure applied to them, this is seen in hydraulic machines
- As the ocean gets deeper, the pressure will increase, this is because the pressure depends on the weight of the water above
- The greater the number of water molecules above, the higher the pressure will be

Key terms

Make sure you can write definitions for these key terms.

air resistance *atmospheric pressure* *contact force* *drag* *elastic limit* *equilibrium* *extension* *friction* *gas pressure* *Hooke's law* *incompressible* *linear relationship* *moment* *newton* *pivot* *pressure* *resultant force* *stress*