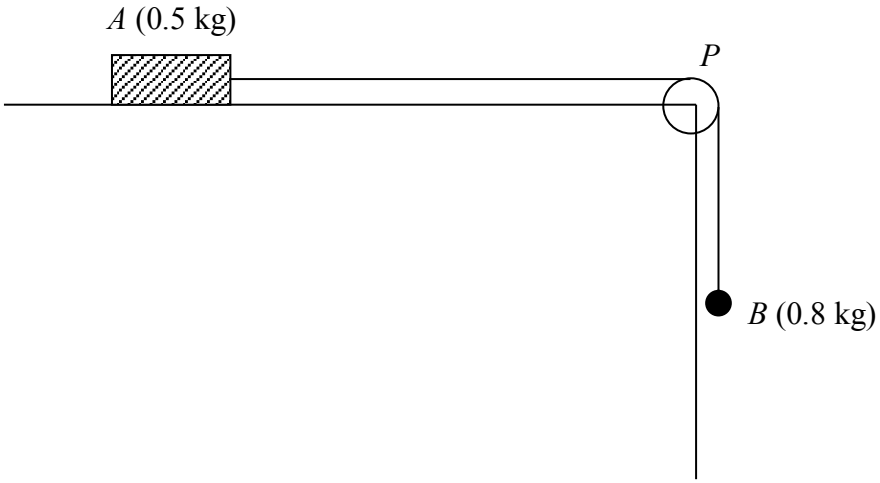
Pulleys - Edexcel Past Exam Questions

1.



A block of wood A of mass 0.5 kg rests on a rough horizontal table and is attached to one end of a light inextensible string. The string passes over a small smooth pulley P fixed at the edge of the table. The other end of the string is attached to a ball B of mass 0.8 kg which hangs freely below the pulley, as shown in Figure 4. Block A experiences a frictional force of 3.68 N. The system is released from rest with the string taut. After release, B descends a distance of 0.4 m in 0.5 s. Modelling A and B as particles, calculate

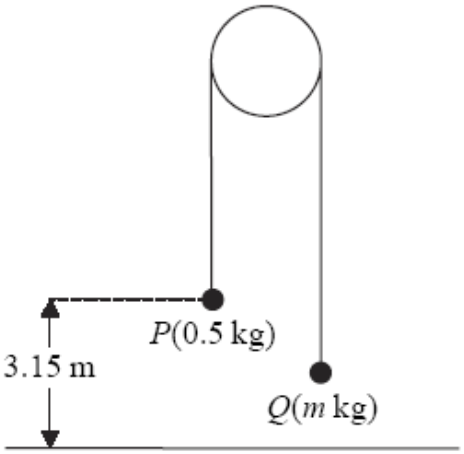
(a) the acceleration of B, **(3)**

(b) the tension in the string, **(4)**

(c) State how in your calculations you have used the information that the string is inextensible. **(1)**

Jan 05 Q5 ***(edited)***

2.



Two particles P and Q have mass 0.5 kg and m kg respectively, where $m < 0.5$. The particles are connected by a light inextensible string which passes over a smooth, fixed pulley. Initially P is 3.15 m above horizontal ground. The particles are released from rest with the string taut and the hanging parts of the string vertical, as shown in Figure 4. After P has been descending for 1.5 s, it strikes the ground. Particle P reaches the ground before Q has reached the pulley.

(a) Show that the acceleration of P as it descends is 2.8 m s^{-2}.

(3)

(b) Find the tension in the string as P descends.

(3)

(c) Show that $m = \frac{5}{18}$.

(4)

(d) State how you have used the information that the string is inextensible.

(1)

When P strikes the ground, P does not rebound and the string becomes slack. Particle Q then moves freely under gravity, without reaching the pulley, until the string becomes taut again.

(e) Find the time between the instant when P strikes the ground and the instant when the string becomes taut again.

(6)

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3.

Two particles A and B, of mass m and $2m$ respectively, are attached to the ends of a light inextensible string. The particle A lies on a rough horizontal table. The string passes over a small smooth pulley P fixed on the edge of the table. The particle B hangs freely below the pulley, as shown in Figure 3. Particle A experiences a frictional force of $\frac{2}{3}mg$. The particles are released from rest with the string taut. Immediately after release, the magnitude of the acceleration of A and B is $\frac{4}{9}g$. By writing down separate equations of motion for A and B,

(a) find the tension in the string immediately after the particles begin to move, **(3)**

When B has fallen a distance h, it hits the ground and does not rebound. Particle A is then a distance $\frac{1}{3}h$ from P.

(b) Find the speed of A as it reaches P. **(6)**

(c) State how you have used the information that the string is light. **(1)**

Jan 08 Q7 ***(edited)***

4.

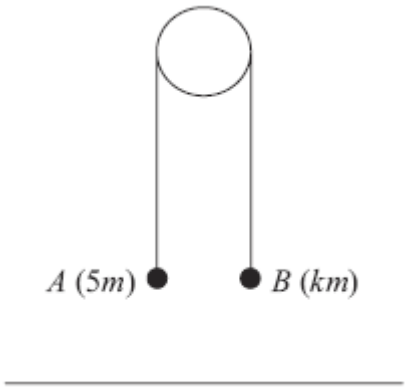

Figure 4

Two particles A and B have masses $5m$ and km respectively, where $k < 5$. The particles are connected by a light inextensible string which passes over a smooth light fixed pulley. The system is held at rest with the string taut, the hanging parts of the string vertical and with A and B at the same height above a horizontal plane, as shown in Figure 4. The system is released from rest. After release, A descends with acceleration $\frac{1}{4}g$.

(a) Show that the tension in the string as A descends is $\frac{15}{4}mg$.

(3)

(b) Find the value of k.

(3)

(c) State how you have used the information that the pulley is smooth.

(1)

After descending for 1.2 s, the particle A reaches the plane. It is immediately brought to rest by the impact with the plane. The initial distance between B and the pulley is such that, in the subsequent motion, B does not reach the pulley.

(d) Find the greatest height reached by B above the plane.

(7)

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5.

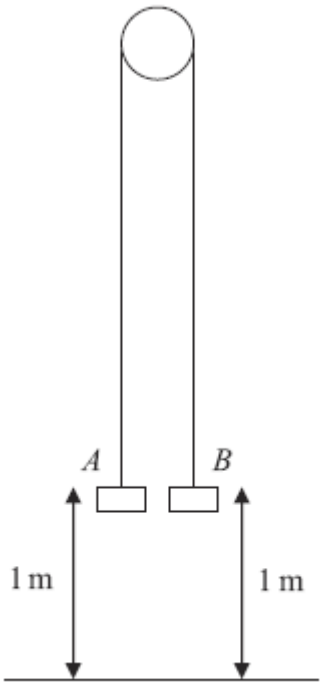

Figure 3

Two particles A and B have mass 0.4 kg and 0.3 kg respectively. The particles are attached to the ends of a light inextensible string. The string passes over a small smooth pulley which is fixed above a horizontal floor. Both particles are held, with the string taut, at a height of 1 m above the floor, as shown in Figure 3. The particles are released from rest and in the subsequent motion B does not reach the pulley.

(a) Find the tension in the string immediately after the particles are released.

(6)

(b) Find the acceleration of A immediately after the particles are released.

(2)

When the particles have been moving for 0.5 s, the string breaks.

(c) Find the further time that elapses until B hits the floor.

(9)

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