

# Physics A Level - Personal Learning Checklist

## OCR Physics A Topics 21 to 27

### Topic 21 - Capacitance

R A G

Capacitance

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 6.1.1 a - Can you explain capacitance, $C = \frac{Q}{V}$ ?  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1a Can you define the unit farad?   |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1b Can you describe charging and discharging of capacitors in terms of the flow of electrons?                                 |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1c Can you demonstrate the total capacitance of capacitors in series, $\frac{1}{C} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \dots$ ? |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1d Can you demonstrate the total capacitance of capacitors in parallel, $C = C_1 + C_2 + \dots$ ?                             |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1.ei Can you describe an analysis of circuits containing capacitors?  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1.eii Can you understand an investigation of circuits containing capacitors?  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.2 a Can you understand p.d.-charge graphs for capacitors?   |  |  |  |
| 6.1.2 b Can you describe how energy is stored by capacitors?  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.2 b Can you demonstrate that $W = \frac{1}{2}QV = \frac{1}{2}\frac{Q^2}{C} = \frac{1}{2}V^2C$ ?                               |  |  |  |
| 6.1.2 c Can you describe the use of capacitors to store energy?   |  |  |  |
| 6.1.3 a i Can you describe discharging a capacitor through a resistor?  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.3 a ii Can you investigate the charge and the discharge of a capacitor?   |  |  |  |
| 6.1.3 b Can you explain the time constant CR of a capacitor-resistor circuit?   |  |  |  |
| 6.1.3 c Can you demonstrate $x = x_0 e^{-\frac{t}{CR}}$ and $x = x_0 (1 - e^{-\frac{t}{CR}})$ for a discharging capacitor?        |  |  |  |
| 6.1.3 e Can you explain exponential decay and the constant-ratio property of decay graphs?  |  |  |  |

### Topic 22 - Electric Fields

R A G

Electric Fields

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 6.2.1.a Can you explain electric fields being due to charges?   |  |  |  |
| 6.2.1 b Can you understand a uniformly charged sphere modelled as a point charge at its centre?   |  |  |  |
| 6.2.1 c Can you describe using electric field lines to map electric fields  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.1d Can you demonstrate that electric field strength is $E = \frac{F}{Q}$ ?  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.2a Can you demonstrate Coulomb's law, $F = \frac{Qq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$ for the force between two point charges?  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.2b Can you calculate electric field strength, $E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$ for a point charge?  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.2c Can you describe the similarities and differences between the gravitational field of a point mass and the electric field of a point charge?            |  |  |  |
| 6.2.3a Can you calculate uniform electric field strength, $E = \frac{V}{d}$ ?   |  |  |  |
| 6.2.3b Can you explain parallel-plate capacitor and permittivity: $C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$ , $C = \frac{\epsilon A}{d} \Rightarrow \epsilon_r \epsilon_0$ |  |  |  |
| 6.2.3c Can you describe the motion of charged particles in a uniform electric field?  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.4a Can you describe electric potential as the work done in bringing a unit charge from infinity to a point?   |  |  |  |
| 6.2.4b Can you calculate electric potential, $V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$   |  |  |  |
| 6.2.4c Can you calculate capacitance, $C = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}{d}$ for an isolated sphere?  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.4d Can you demonstrate force-distance graphs for point or spherical charges?  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.4e Can you calculate electric potential energy, $E = Vq = \frac{Qq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$ ?  |  |  |  |

| Topic 23 - Magnetic fields  |  | R | A | G |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Magnetic fields             | 6.3.1a Can you explain moving charges or permanent magnets as causes of magnetic fields?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.1b Can you demonstrate using magnetic field lines to map magnetic fields?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.1c Can you describe magnetic field patterns for a long straight current carrying conductor, a flat coil, and a long solenoid?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.1d Can you define Fleming's left-hand rule?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.1ei Can you calculate the force on a current-carrying conductor, $F = BIL \sin\theta$ ?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.1e ii Can you describe the techniques and procedures used to determine the uniform magnetic flux density between the poles of a magnet using a current-carrying wire and digital balance?                                    |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.1f Can you define magnetic flux density and the unit tesla?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.2a Can you calculate the force on a charged particle travelling at right angles to a uniform magnetic field, $F = BQv$   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.2 b Can you describe the movement of charged particles in a uniform magnetic field?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.2c Can you describe the movement of charged particles moving in a region occupied by both electric and magnetic fields?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.2c Can you define velocity selector?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3a Can you explain magnetic flux $\Phi$ , the unit weber and $\Phi = BA \cos\theta$ ?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3b Can you define magnetic flux linkage?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3c Can you describe Faraday's law of electromagnetic induction?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3c Can you define Lenz's law?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3d Can you demonstrate that e.m.f. = - rate of change of magnetic flux linkage, $\varepsilon = - \frac{\Delta(N\Phi)}{\Delta t}$ and explain techniques and procedures used to investigate magnetic flux using search coils? |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3e Can you describe a simple a.c. generator?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3fi Can you describe a simple laminated, iron-cored transformer?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3fii Can you explain $\frac{n_s}{n_p} = \frac{v_s}{v_p} = \frac{I_s}{I_p}$ for an ideal transformer?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.3.3fii Can you explain the techniques and procedures used to investigate transformers?   |   |   |   |
| Topic 24 - Particle physics |  | R | A | G |
| Particle physics            | 6.4.1a Can you explain the alpha-particle scattering experiment?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.1b Can you describe the simple nuclear model of the atom; protons, neutrons, and electrons?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.1c Can you describe the relative sizes of the atom and the nucleus?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.1d Can you define proton number, nucleon number and isotopes, and explain the notation for the representation of nuclei?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.1e Can you explain the strong nuclear force and its short-range nature?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.1f Can you calculate the radius of nuclei, $R = r_0 A^{\frac{1}{3}}$ ?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.1g Can you calculate the mean densities of atoms and nuclei?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2a Can you define particles and antiparticles, including electron-positron, proton-antiproton, neutron-antineutron, and neutrino-antineutrino?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2b Can you describe relative masses and charges of particles and their corresponding antiparticles?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2c Can you describe the classification, examples, and behaviour of hadrons?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2d Can you describe the classification, examples, and behaviour of leptons?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2e Can you explain the simple quark model of hadrons in terms of up and down, and strange quarks and their anti-quarks?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2f Can you explain the quark model of the proton and the neutron?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2g Can you explain the charges of the up, down, strange, anti-up, anti-down, and anti-strange quarks as fractions of the elementary charge e?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2 h Can you describe beta-minus ( $\beta^-$ ) and betaplus ( $\beta^+$ ) decay, and the quark models for these decays?   |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2 k Can you demonstrate quark transformation equations balanced in terms of charge?  |   |   |   |
|                             | 6.4.2l Can you explain decay of particles in terms of the quark model?   |   |   |   |

| Topic 25 - Radioactivity   |  | R | A | G |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Radioactivity              | 6.4.3a Can you define radioactive decay?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3 a Can you describe the spontaneous and random nature of decay?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3bi Can you define $\alpha$ -particles, $\beta$ -particles and $\gamma$ -rays?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3bii Can you describe the nature, penetration and range of these radiations, and the techniques used to investigate their absorption?                  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3c Can you demonstrate the nuclear decay equations for alpha, beta-minus and beta-plus decays?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3c Can you demonstrate balancing nuclear transformation equations?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3d Can you define activity of a source?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3d Can you calculate the decay constant $\lambda$ of an isotope, $A = \lambda N$ ?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3ei Can you calculate the half-life of an isotope, $\lambda = \frac{\ln(2)}{t_{1/2}}$ ?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3 eii Can you describe the techniques used to determine the half-life of an isotope?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3fi Can you explain the equations $A = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ and $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ ?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3fii Can you understand a simulation of radioactive decay?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3g Can you demonstrate the graphical methods and spreadsheet modelling of the equation $\frac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} = -\lambda N$ for radioactive decay? |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.3h Can you define radioactive dating, such as carbon-dating?   |   |   |   |
| Topic 26 - Nuclear physics |  | R | A | G |
| Nuclear physics            | 6.4.4a Can you demonstrate Einstein's mass-energy equation, $\Delta E = \Delta mc^2$   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4 b Can you understand how energy is released or absorbed in simple nuclear reactions?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4c Can you describe the creation and annihilation of particle-antiparticle pairs?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4d Can you define mass defect; binding energy; and binding energy per nucleon?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4 e Can you explain the binding energy per nucleon against nucleon number curve; and energy changes in reactions?                                      |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4 f Can you calculate the binding energy of nuclei using and $\Delta E = \Delta mc^2$ calculate the masses of nuclei?                                  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4g Can you define induced nuclear fission and chain reaction?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4h Can you describe the basic structure of a fission reactor (components: fuel rods, control rods and moderator)?                                      |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4i Can you explain the environmental impact of nuclear waste?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4j Can you define nuclear fusion, fusion reactions and temperature?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.4.4k Can you demonstrate balancing nuclear transformation equations?   |   |   |   |
| Topic 27 - Medical imaging |  | R | A | G |
| Medical imaging            | 6.5.1a Can you describe the basic structure of an X-ray tube (components heater (cathode), anode, target metal and high-voltage supply)?                   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1b Can you describe the production of X-ray photons from an X-ray tube?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1c Can you define these X-ray attenuation mechanisms: simple scatter, photoelectric effect, Compton effect, and pair production?                       |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1d Can you explain the attenuation of X-rays?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1d Can you demonstrate that $I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$ ?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1e Can you describe X-ray imaging with contrast media?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1f Can you describe computerised axial tomography (CAT) scanning and the necessary components?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.1g Can you explain the advantages of a CAT scan over an X-ray image?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.2a Can you describe the medical tracers technetium-99m and fluorine-18?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.2b Can you describe the gamma camera and its components, and the formation of gamma camera images?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.2c Can you explain diagnosis using the gamma camera?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.2d Can you define positron emission tomography (PET)?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.2e Can you explain diagnosis using PET scanning?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3a Can you explain ultrasound frequency?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3b Can you define the piezoelectric effect?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3b Can you define ultrasound transducers?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3c Can you describe ultrasound A-scans and B-scans?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3d Can you calculate the acoustic impedance of a medium, $Z = \rho c$ ?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3e Can you explain the reflection of ultrasound at a boundary?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3e Can you explain the reflection of ultrasound at a boundary?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3e Can you demonstrate that $\frac{I_r}{I_0} = \left( \frac{z_2 - z_1}{z_2 + z_1} \right)^2$ ?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3f Can you describe impedance (acoustic) matching?   |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3f Can you explain the use of gel in ultrasound scanning?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3g Can you describe the Doppler effect in ultrasound?  |   |   |   |
|                            | 6.5.3g Can you calculate the speed of blood $v$ in the body: $\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{2v \cos \theta}{c}$ ?   |   |   |   |