



Physics 2009–2012

Written examination – November

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 90 minutes writing time.

VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 33 per cent to the Study Score.

Content

All outcomes of Unit 4 will be assessed. All the key knowledge and the skills are examinable. Questions will require students to apply the knowledge of Physics undertaken in areas of study from Unit 4.

Format

The total for the examination will be approximately 90 marks.

The exam paper will consist of two sections.

- Section A will cover Area of Study 1: Electric power and Area of Study 2: Interactions of light and matter.
- Section B will cover Area of Study 3: the Detailed Studies.

Questions based on Area of Study 1: Electric power will contribute approximately 40% of the examination total, questions based on Area of Study 2: Interactions of light and matter will contribute approximately 30% of the total. Questions based on the Detailed Studies will also contribute approximately 30% of the total.

Examination questions will be presented in a question and answer book. Answers to Section A, the core Areas of Study, are to be answered on the spaces provided in the question and answer book. Answers to Section B on the chosen Detailed Study will be recorded on a multiple-choice answer sheet.

All questions in Section A will be compulsory.

Students will answer questions on only one Detailed Study.

All questions for each Detailed Study in Section B will be multiple-choice questions.

Questions in Section A on the compulsory/core Areas of Study will be a mix of short answer questions and questions requiring numerical calculations.

Some questions in both Section A and Section B may be built around a scenario or experiment.

There may be a limited number of multiple-choice questions in Section A of the examination. Should there be multiple-choice questions in Section A of the examination they will be answered in the question and answer book.

Approved materials and equipment

Calculators

Students doing the examination will be allowed to have one scientific calculator.

Notes

Students will be allowed to bring into the examination up to two pages (one A4 sheet) of pre-written notes. These notes may be typed or handwritten. They may be from any source. Commercially available notes are acceptable.

Data Sheets

A Data Sheet will be provided in the examination.

Pencils

Students must use a pencil for marking the Section B mark-sensitive multiple-choice answer sheet.

Advice

During the 2009–2012 accreditation period for VCE Physics, examinations will be prepared according to the Examination specifications above. Each examination will be an interpretation of these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and skills.

The examination paper from 2008 gives a good indication of the format for the examinations in the period 2009–2012. The content of the revised Study Design is not greatly different from that of the previous Study Design and the examination papers from the period 2004–2008 give a good indication of the type of questions that will be asked.