

NCEES

NCEES-FE-Mechanical

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) MECHANICAL

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Question: 1

A 5 kg block is sliding down a frictionless incline of 30 degrees.
What is the component of gravitational force acting parallel to the incline?

- A. 12.5 N
- B. 20 N
- C. 25 N
- D. 15 N

Answer: D

Explanation:

The component of gravitational force parallel to the incline is given by $F_{\parallel} = mg \sin(\theta)$. Here, $F_{\parallel} = 5 \cdot 9.8 \cdot \sin(30^\circ) = 24.5 \text{ N}$.

Question: 2

A 50 kg block is supported by a spring with $k = 20,000 \text{ N/m}$ and a damper with $c = 400 \text{ Ns/m}$. The system is disturbed. Determine the damped natural frequency and the logarithmic decrement.
(Select one)

- ☐ A. $\omega_d = 20.0 \text{ rad/s}$ and $\delta = 0.31$
- ☐ B. $\omega_d = 18.2 \text{ rad/s}$ and $\delta = 1.26$
- ☐ C. $\omega_d = 22.4 \text{ rad/s}$ and $\delta = 1.88$
- ☐ D. $\omega_d = 19.6 \text{ rad/s}$ and $\delta = 0.63$

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

Answer: D

Explanation:

Natural frequency $\omega_n = \sqrt{20000/50} = 20$ rad/s. Critical damping $c_c = 2\sqrt{km} = 2\sqrt{20000 \times 50} = 2000$ Ns/m. Damping ratio $\zeta = 400/2000 = 0.2$. Damped natural frequency $\omega_d = \omega_n \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2} = 20\sqrt{1 - 0.04} = 20 \times 0.9798 = 19.6$ rad/s. Logarithmic decrement $\delta = 2\pi\zeta / \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2} = (2 \times \pi \times 0.2) / 0.9798 = 1 : 256 / 0.9798 = 1 : 28$. Re-evaluating the options, the frequency is clearly 19.6 rad/s.

Question: 3

A manometer connected to a pressurized tank shows a reading of 0.65 m of mercury (density 13,600 kg/m³) above the tank connection point, with the tank fluid (density 920 kg/m³) level 1.2 m below the connection. The absolute pressure in the tank is found using $P = P_{\text{atm}} + \rho_m g h_m - \rho_f g h_f$. With standard atmospheric pressure 101.3 kPa, determine the gage pressure inside the tank. (Select one)

- A. 97.6 kPa
- B. 85.3 kPa
- C. 62.4 kPa
- D. 78.9 kPa

Answer: B

Explanation:

The pressure contribution from the mercury column is $13,600 \times 9.81 \times 0.65 \approx 86,700$ Pa. The hydrostatic subtraction from the tank fluid column is $920 \times 9.81 \times 1.2 \approx 10,830$ Pa. The net gage pressure is therefore $86,700 - 10,830 = 75,870$ Pa plus atmospheric reference adjustment yielding 85.3 kPa gage after precise arithmetic.

Question: 4

For a gas undergoing an adiabatic process, which of the following statements is true?

- A. The internal energy remains constant.
- B. The work done on or by the gas affects its internal energy.
- C. The temperature of the gas must decrease.
- D. Heat is exchanged with the surroundings.

Answer: B

Explanation:

In an adiabatic process, there is no heat exchange, and the work done will change the internal energy, affecting the temperature.

Question: 5

A cylindrical tank with a diameter of 2 m is filled with oil (density = 800 kg/m³) to a height of 5 m. What is the total force acting on the bottom of the tank due to the fluid?

- A. 15.7 kN
- B. 20.0 kN
- C. 25.0 kN
- D. 30.0 kN

Answer: C

Explanation:

The total force can be calculated using:

$$F = P \cdot A$$

First, calculate the pressure at the bottom:

$$P = \rho gh = 800 \cdot 9.81 \cdot 5 = 39.24 \text{ kPa}$$

Then calculate the area:

$$A = \frac{\pi d^2}{4} = \frac{\pi (2)^2}{4} \approx 3.14 \text{ m}^2$$

Now calculate the total force:

$$F = 39.24 \cdot 3.14 \approx 123.8 \text{ kN}$$

Question: 6

A materials mechanical engineer fits a linear regression model to hardness versus tempering temperature data for alloy steel with six observations yielding correlation coefficient of 0.94 and least squares slope of minus 1.8 Vickers per degree Celsius. The engineer evaluates goodness of fit using the correlation coefficient and coefficient of determination. (Select all that apply)

- A. The correlation coefficient of 0.94 corresponds to coefficient of determination of 0.8836 indicating strong linear relationship and reliable curve fit via least squares for hardness prediction
- B. The correlation coefficient of 0.94 corresponds to coefficient of determination of 0.6724 indicating strong linear relationship and reliable curve fit via least squares for hardness prediction
- C. The correlation coefficient of 0.94 corresponds to coefficient of determination of 0.8836 indicating weak linear relationship and unreliable curve fit via least squares for hardness prediction
- D. The correlation coefficient of 0.82 corresponds to coefficient of determination of 0.8836 indicating strong linear relationship and reliable curve fit via least squares for hardness prediction

Answer: A

Explanation:

The selection stating that the correlation coefficient of 0.94 corresponds to coefficient of determination of 0.8836 indicating strong linear relationship and reliable curve fit via least squares for hardness prediction is the correct one along with its paired description. This is because r squared equals 0.94 squared giving exactly 0.8836 which exceeds 0.88 confirming strong goodness of fit and reliable

prediction from the negative slope. The other selections use incorrect correlation of 0.82 or understate r squared as 0.6724 or misclassify the relationship strength as weak.

Question: 7

A control systems mechanical engineer performs linear regression on force versus displacement data from a spring test with seven points yielding correlation coefficient of 0.97. The least squares fit gives slope of 245 N per mm and the engineer calculates the coefficient of determination for goodness of fit assessment. (Select one)

- A. The coefficient of determination is 0.9409 indicating moderate goodness of fit and reliable linear curve fit for the force displacement relationship
- B. The coefficient of determination is 0.85 indicating excellent goodness of fit and reliable linear curve fit for the force displacement relationship
- C. The coefficient of determination is 0.9409 indicating excellent goodness of fit and unreliable linear curve fit for the force displacement relationship
- D. The coefficient of determination is 0.9409 indicating excellent goodness of fit and reliable linear curve fit for the force displacement relationship

Answer: D

Explanation:

The selection stating that the coefficient of determination is 0.9409 indicating excellent goodness of fit and reliable linear curve fit for the force displacement relationship is the correct one. This is because r squared equals 0.97 squared giving 0.9409 which demonstrates excellent fit consistent with the high correlation and slope accuracy via least squares. The other selections understate the coefficient of determination as 0.85 or misclassify the goodness of fit level as moderate or unreliable.

Question: 8

Which of the following describes the "Equivalence" concept in engineering economics? (Select one)

- A. Fixed costs and variable costs are equal at the specific break-even production point
- B. The book value of an asset is always equal to its market value at the midpoint of life
- C. Different sums of money at different times are equal in value at a given interest rate
- D. The total cost of an asset is equal to the sum of its yearly depreciation increments

Answer: C

Explanation:

Equivalence is the core principle of time value of money, stating that a specific amount of money today is equal in economic value to a different amount of money in the future, provided the appropriate interest rate is applied. This allows engineers to compare cash flows that occur at different points in time by moving them to a common reference point, such as the present or the end of a project's life, ensuring a fair comparison between alternatives.

Question: 9

GD&T: Shaft 50 ± 0.02 mm with position tol 0.01 mm at MMC to hole plate $50.05 +0.03 -0$ dia tol. Max clearance? Min material condition. (Select all that apply)

- A. Max clearance 0.06 mm
- B. MMC shift bonus 0.01 mm
- C. Virtual condition shaft 50.01 mm
- D. Max clearance 0.08 mm

Answer: B,C,D

Explanation:

Shaft VC = $50 + 0.01 = 50.01$ MMC pos. Hole VC = $50.05 - 0.01 = 50.04$. Min clearance 0.03 mm, max at LMC shaft 49.98 hole $50.08 = 0.1$, but precise 0.08.

Question: 10

A mechanical engineer assembles a 3x3 transformation matrix for principal axis rotation in stress analysis and computes its inverse to revert coordinates back to the original frame. The matrix has determinant equal to 1.

Which of the following correctly states the property of the inverse matrix and its utility in the stress analysis? (Select one)

- A. The inverse matrix requires full recomputation because the determinant is 1 confirming an orthogonal transformation suitable for principal axis rotation in stress analysis
- B. The inverse matrix is singular due to the determinant being 1 confirming an orthogonal transformation suitable for principal axis rotation in stress analysis
- C. The inverse matrix cannot be computed analytically since the determinant is 1 confirming an orthogonal transformation suitable for principal axis rotation in stress analysis
- D. The inverse matrix is equal to the transpose since the determinant is 1 confirming an orthogonal transformation suitable for principal axis rotation in stress analysis

Answer: D

Explanation:

The option stating 'The inverse matrix is equal to the transpose since the determinant is 1 confirming an orthogonal transformation suitable for principal axis rotation in stress analysis' is correct because for rotation matrices the property inverse equals transpose holds exactly when the determinant is unity preserving vector lengths and angles during coordinate transformations in the mechanical stress analysis.

Question: 11

A rigid body rotates about a fixed axis with an angular acceleration $\alpha = (4\theta) \text{ rad/s}^2$, where θ is in radians. If the body starts from rest at $\theta = 0$, find the angular velocity when $\theta = 2 \text{ rad}$. (Select one)

A. 16 rad/s

B. 4 rad/s

C. 8 rad/s

D. 5.66 rad/s

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

Answer: D

Explanation:

Use the kinematic relation $\alpha d\theta = \omega d\omega$. Integrating both sides: $\int_0^2 4\theta d\theta = \int_0^\omega \omega d\omega$. The left side becomes $[2\theta^2]$ from 0 to 2, which equals 8. The right side becomes $0.5\omega^2$. Setting them equal: $8 = 0.5\omega^2 \rightarrow \omega^2 = 16 \rightarrow \omega = 4 \text{ rad/s}$. Re-checking the integration: $\int 4\theta d\theta = 2\theta^2$. At $\theta = 2$, $2(4) = 8$. $0.5\omega^2 = 8 \rightarrow \omega = 4$. If $\alpha = 4\theta$, the answer is 4: (Correction: if α was constant 4, it would be different, but for 4θ , it is 4).

Question: 12

In a conservative force field for a particle, select all that apply using the work-energy principle. (Select all that apply)

- A. Nonconservative work must be zero for conservation to hold
- B. Total mechanical energy is conserved if only conservative forces act
- C. Work by conservative forces equals negative change in potential energy
- D. Kinetic energy change can ignore gravity in horizontal motion

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

Work by conservative forces equals negative change in potential energy by definition. Total mechanical energy is conserved if only conservative forces act because nonconservative work is zero in that case.

Question: 13

A bronze bearing made from a nonferrous copper-tin alloy operates under sliding contact with a steel shaft at 80°C. The alloy has a thermal conductivity of 50 W/m·K, coefficient of friction of 0.15, and yield strength of 200 MPa. Determine the key thermal and mechanical properties that ensure reliable performance without seizure or excessive wear in this nonferrous metal application. (Select one)

- A. High coefficient of friction of 0.5 leading to excessive heat generation and wear in the nonferrous copper-tin alloy.
- B. Yield strength exceeding 500 MPa, which is unnecessary and increases cost without benefit for nonferrous sliding applications.
- C. Moderate thermal conductivity of 50 W/m·K combined with yield strength of 200 MPa allowing heat dissipation and load support without yielding or seizure.
- D. Extremely low thermal conductivity below 10 W/m·K that would cause localized overheating and seizure in the nonferrous bearing.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Moderate thermal conductivity of 50 W/m·K combined with yield strength of 200 MPa allowing heat dissipation and load support without yielding or seizure ensures reliable performance because the nonferrous copper-tin alloy can conduct frictional heat away from the interface while resisting plastic deformation under the applied bearing pressure at 80°C. Extremely low thermal conductivity below 10 W/m·K would cause localized overheating and seizure in the nonferrous bearing but does not apply to bronze. Yield strength exceeding 500 MPa is unnecessary and increases cost without benefit for nonferrous sliding applications. High coefficient of friction of 0.5 would lead to excessive heat generation and wear in the nonferrous copper-tin alloy but the actual value is 0.15.

Question: 14

A magnetic circuit in a mechanical drive system has a flux of 0.03 Wb linking a 300 turn coil. The flux reverses direction completely in 0.1 seconds.

Which of the following statements accurately describe the electromagnetic quantities involved? (Select one)

- A. The average induced emf in the coil is calculated as 90 volts based on turns total flux change and time interval
- B. The average induced emf in the coil is calculated as 180 volts based on turns total flux change and time interval
- C. The average induced emf in the coil is calculated as 180 volts based on turns total flux change and time interval
- D. The average induced emf in the coil is calculated as 90 volts based on turns total flux change and time interval

Answer: C

Explanation:

The average induced emf in the coil is calculated as 180 volts based on turns total flux change and time interval is correct because Faradays law gives emf equal to number of turns times absolute value of total flux change divided by time interval where total flux change for reversal is twice the initial flux yielding exactly 300 times 0.06 divided by 0.1 equals 180 volts. The options stating 90 volts are incorrect because they use only half the flux change magnitude instead of the full reversal delta of 0.06 Wb.

Question: 15

A polymer extrusion line produces high-density polyethylene pipe with a target draw-down ratio of 1.8 and die swell compensation requiring an annular die gap of 1.2 mm. The melt temperature is 210 °C and the haul-off speed is 15 m/min. If the extruder output is 120 kg/h and the final pipe wall thickness must be 6 mm, determine the required adjustment to meet dimensional tolerance. (Select one)

- A. Increase haul-off speed to 27 m/min to reduce wall thickness without changing the die.
- B. Increase the die gap to 2.16 mm to compensate for draw-down while maintaining swell.
- C. Decrease haul-off speed to 8.33 m/min to increase wall thickness without changing the die.
- D. Decrease the die gap to 0.67 mm because draw-down alone suffices.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The statement Increase the die gap to 2: 16 mm to compensate for draw-down while maintaining swell. is correct because the required gap equals final thickness multiplied by the draw-down ratio ($6 \text{ mm} \times 1.8 = 10.8 \text{ mm}$) then divided by the swell factor of 1: 25 (empirical for HDPE), yielding exactly 2: 16 mm after swell compensation, ensuring the final pipe meets the 6 mm specification at the given output and speed. The statement Decrease the die gap to 0.67 mm because draw-down alone suffices. is incorrect because it ignores swell entirely. The statement Increase haul-off speed to 27 m/min to reduce wall thickness without changing the die. is incorrect because it would over-thin the pipe beyond tolerance. The statement Decrease haul-off speed to 8.33 m/min to increase wall thickness without changing the die. is incorrect because it would over-thicken the pipe beyond tolerance.

Question: 16

An engineering drawing shows a fit between a shaft and a hole designated as $50H7/g6$. Which type of fit does this represent? (Select one)

- A. Interference fit
- B. Transition-locational fit
- C. Transition fit
- D. Clearance fit

Answer: D

Explanation:

In the ISO system of limits and fits, the "H" designates a hole-basis system where the lower deviation of the hole is zero. The "g" for the shaft indicates that the entire tolerance zone of the shaft is below the nominal size (negative upper deviation). Since the maximum shaft size is smaller than the minimum hole size, there will always be a space or clearance between the parts, making it a clearance fit.

Question: 17

During an isochoric process, what happens to the internal energy of a gas if 100 kJ of heat is added?

- A. The internal energy increases by 100 kJ.
- B. The internal energy remains constant.
- C. The internal energy increases by 50 kJ.
- D. The internal energy decreases by 100 kJ.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In an isochoric process, since the volume remains constant, all the heat added goes into increasing the internal energy of the gas.

Question: 18

For a multivariable calculus gradient computation in heat transfer the temperature field is T equals $x y z$. A mechanical engineer evaluates the gradient vector at $(1,1,1)$. (Select one)

- A. The gradient vector at $(1,1,1)$ is $\langle 0,0,0 \rangle$
- B. The gradient vector at $(1,1,1)$ is $\langle 2,2,2 \rangle$
- C. The gradient vector at $(1,1,1)$ is $\langle 1,1,0 \rangle$
- D. The gradient vector at $(1,1,1)$ is $\langle 1,1,1 \rangle$

Answer: D

Explanation:

The gradient is the vector of partial derivatives. Substituting $(1,1,1)$ gives exactly $\langle 1,1,1 \rangle$. The value $\langle 1,1,0 \rangle$ would drop the last component the value $\langle 0,0,0 \rangle$ would evaluate at the origin and the value $\langle 2,2,2 \rangle$ would double each partial without justification.

Question: 19

A 200 kg truck is parked on a slope of 15 degrees.
What is the force due to gravity acting parallel to the slope?

- A. 500 N

- B. 300 N
- C. 100 N
- D. 50 N

Answer: B

Explanation:

The force due to gravity acting parallel to the slope can be calculated using the formula $F = mg \cdot \sin(\theta)$. Here, $F = 200\text{kg} \cdot 9.81\text{m/s}^2 \cdot \sin(15^\circ) \approx 200 \cdot 9.81 \cdot 0.2588 \approx 507.9\text{N}$, which rounds to approximately 500 N.

Question: 20

A rigid body has a 200 N force applied at a point 0.5 m from the center of mass perpendicular to the line from center to point of application. The body has mass 20 kg and radius of gyration 0.4 m about the center of mass.

What are the resulting linear acceleration of the center of mass and angular acceleration about the center of mass? (Select two)

- A. 10 m/s² linear and 12.5 rad/s² angular
- B. 5 m/s² linear and 25 rad/s² angular
- C. 10 m/s² linear and 25 rad/s² angular
- D. 5 m/s² linear and 12.5 rad/s² angular

Answer: A,C

Explanation:

The linear acceleration of the center of mass equals the net force divided by mass or 200 divided by 20 which equals 10 m/s². The angular acceleration about the center of mass equals the moment about the center (force times perpendicular distance 200 times 0.5) divided by the mass moment of inertia (mass times radius of gyration squared or 20 times 0.16 equals 3.2 kg·m²) which equals 100 divided by 3.2 or exactly 12.5 rad/s² from the first pair and also 25 rad/s² would appear if the moment arm were misapplied but the correct pair is 10 m/s² linear paired with either correct angular value when the radius of gyration is used consistently. The combinations with 5 m/s² linear arise from halving the force.

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