

CHAPTER 5: WORK, ENERGY & POWER

Work • Kinetic Energy • Potential Energy

1. Work Done by Constant Force

If the force makes an angle θ with the displacement, then

$$W = Fs \cos \theta$$

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In vector form,

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{s}$$

Where

- W = Work (Joule)
- F = Force (Newton)
- s = Displacement (metre)
- θ = Angle between Force and Displacement

2. Special Cases

(i) $\theta = 0^\circ$

$$W = Fs$$

(ii) $\theta = 90^\circ$

$$W = 0$$

(iii) $\theta = 180^\circ$

$$W = -Fs$$

3. SI Unit of Work

$$1 J = 1 Nm$$

4. Kinetic Energy

Definition

Energy possessed due to motion.

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

5. Relation between Work and Kinetic Energy

$$W = \Delta KE$$

This is known as the **Work-Energy Theorem**.

6. Change in Kinetic Energy

$$W = \frac{1}{2}m(v^2 - u^2)$$

7. Potential Energy

Gravitational Potential Energy

$$PE = mgh$$

8. Change in Potential Energy

$$\Delta PE = mg(h_2 - h_1)$$

9. Mechanical Energy

$$E = KE + PE$$

10. Law of Conservation of Mechanical Energy

$$KE + PE = \text{Constant}$$

(Only when non-conservative forces are absent.)

11. Conservative Force

Examples

- Gravitational Force
- Spring Force

For Conservative Force

$$W = -\Delta PE$$

12. Non-Conservative Force

Examples

- Friction
- Air Resistance

Mechanical Energy is **not conserved**.

Power • Spring Energy • Variable Force • Energy Graphs

13. Power

Power = Rate of doing work

$$P = \frac{W}{t}$$

SI Unit

$$1\text{Watt} = 1\text{J/s}$$

14. Average Power

The ratio of total work done to the total time taken is called average power.

$$P_{av} = \frac{\text{Total Work}}{\text{Total Time Taken}}$$

Average Power between the given time interval can also be calculated, if Power is a function of time or constant power as:

$$P_{av} = \frac{\int_{t_1}^{t_2} p dt}{\int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt}$$

15. Instantaneous Power

$$P = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v}$$

Special Case

If Force and Velocity are in same direction,

$$P = Fv$$

16. Horse Power

$$1\text{HP} = 746\text{W}$$

17. Spring Potential Energy

Using Hooke's Law

Spring Energy

$$F = -kx$$
$$U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

where

- K = Spring Constant

- x = Extension/Compression

18. Variable Force

Work done by a variable force equals the **area under the Force–Displacement (F–x) graph**.

$$W = \int F \, dx$$

19. Spring Work

For a spring,

$$W = \frac{1}{2} kx^2$$

20. Mechanical Energy

$$E = \frac{1}{2} mv^2 + mgh$$

21. Conservation of Mechanical Energy

$$\frac{1}{2} mv_1^2 + mgh_1 = \frac{1}{2} mv_2^2 + mgh_2$$

22. Efficiency

$$\eta = \frac{\text{Useful Output}}{\text{Input}} \times 100\%$$

23. Energy Conversion

Gravitational PE $\rightarrow$ KE

Spring PE $\rightarrow$ KE

Electrical Energy $\rightarrow$ Mechanical Energy

24. Energy Graphs

Force–Displacement Graph

Area under graph = Work Done

Potential Energy–Position Graph

Slope of curve

$$F = -\frac{dU}{dx}$$

25. Equilibrium Position: Stable, Unstable & Neutral Positions

For Equilibrium Position,

$$F = 0$$

For Stable Equilibrium Position,

$$U \text{ should be Minimum}$$

To find Minimum Position,

$$\frac{d^2U}{dx^2} > 0$$

Then, the point at which unstable equilibrium can be obtained by putting

$$F = -\frac{dU}{dx} = 0$$

For Unstable Equilibrium Position,

$$U \text{ should be Maximum}$$

And to find maximum position,

$$\frac{d^2U}{dx^2} < 0$$

Then, the point at which unstable equilibrium can be obtained by putting

$$F = -\frac{dU}{dx} = 0$$

Exam Tips

- ☐ If force and displacement are in same direction → Work Positive
 - ☐ If both are in opposite direction → Work Negative
 - ☐ If both are perpendicular → Work Zero
 - ☐ Area under F-x graph = Work Done
 - ☐ Slope of U-x graph = Force
 - ☐ For conservative force only, mechanical energy is always conserved.
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