



January Monthly Math Challenge Solutions Middle School Level

Question 1:

An automobile is traveling at 22.5 m/sec when the brakes are applied. The car decelerates at a rate of 2.5 m/s^2 for 5.0 sec. What is the speed of the car at the end of 5.0 sec?

Question 2:

The same automobile travels through North Dakota at a speed of 60 mph when they cross the border to Canada. They see a speed limit sign which indicates the speed limit is 60 (kilometers/hour). If they maintain their original speed, how much are they exceeding the speed limit (in km/hour)?

Question 3:

If the driver realizes they are exceeding the speed limit and decelerates to a complete stop, how long does it take to stop if the driver decelerates at a rate of $19,320 \text{ km/hour}^2$?

Question 1: 10.0 m/sec

Problem 1 uses typical equations of motion. Given:

$$v_0 = 22.5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$a = -2.5 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$t = 5.0 \text{ sec}$$

$$v = v_0 + at = 22.5 \text{ m/s} + (-2.5 \text{ m/s}^2)(5 \text{ sec}) = 10 \text{ m/sec}$$

Question 2: 36.6 km/hr

60 mph = 96.56 km/hour, therefore, they are exceeding the speed limit by

36.6 km/hr

Question 3: 18 sec

$$v = v_0 + at$$

$$v = 0$$

$$v_0 = 96.6$$

$$a = -19320$$

$$t = (v - v_0) / a = 96.6 / 19320 = 0.005 \text{ hour} = 18 \text{ sec}$$