



Science Department

KNOWLEDGE & VOCABULARY

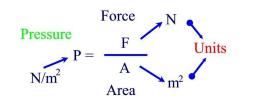
ORGANISER

Physics - Motion and Forces



Pressure

Pressure is a measure of how concentrated (or spread out) a force is. The amount of pressure exerted on an object depends on the force applied and the surface area it is spread over. We can calculate the amount of pressure on an object using a simple formula:



Pressure at Depth

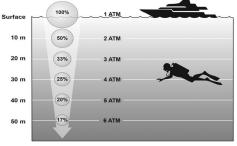
The amount of pressure exerted depends on both the density of the liquid and the depth of the liquid. The deeper you go: the greater the weight of liquid above the object. the greater the liquid pressure. The Mariana Trench in the western Pacific is the deepest part of the ocean and is nearly 11 km below sea level. The pressure at that depth is estimated to be around 1.1×10^8 Pa (110,000,000 Pa).

Atmospheric Pressure

Earth's atmosphere is a mixture of gases, mainly nitrogen and oxygen. These particles are constantly colliding with us at a pressure of 100,000 Pascals at sea level. These particles are attracted to earth's gravity, so you get less the higher up you go.



DEPTH GAS VOLUME PRESSURE



Pressure and buoyancy

An object in a liquid experiences a force called **upthrust**. This is due to the particles in the liquid colliding with the surface of the object, which exerts pressure. An object placed in a liquid will begin to sink. As it sinks, the liquid pressure on it increases and so the upthrust increases. For a floating object, the upthrust is equal and opposite to the object's weight. An object will continue to sink if its weight is greater than the maximum upthrust.

