

Work – Mechanical Energy Conservation
Student Work

A 15kg Block is lifted up by a student to the top of a 3m shelf in 10 seconds. After 1 minute on the shelf the box falls back down to the floor. Answer the following questions.

- a. How much work is done by the student?

$$mgh = PE (U_g) \quad 15 \cdot 10 \cdot 3 = 450J$$

- b. How much work is done by the shelf during the 1 minute the box spent on the shelf?

Zero

- c. How much mechanical energy does the box have while on the shelf?

$$\text{Only PE} = 450J$$

- d. How fast is the box moving just before it reaches the ground?

$$PE = KE \quad 450 = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = 450 = \frac{1}{2}(15)(v)^2$$

$$\boxed{v = 7.7 \text{ m/s}}$$

- e. Using energy calculate how much of each of these the box has when the box is 2 meters high.

- Potential Energy:

$$mgh = U \quad 15 \cdot 10 \cdot 2 = 300$$

- Kinetic Energy:

$$450 - 300 = 150$$

A bicycle and rider (100kg) rides at 5 m/s for 10 meters. The friction on the surface was 0.05 prior to a ramp. Which allowed the rider to jump vertically in the air? Answer the following questions.

- a. How much energy was done by friction during the ride?

$$mg\mu d = TE \quad 5 \cdot 10 \cdot .05 \cdot 10 = 25 \frac{J}{s}$$

- b. How much work is being done by the rider to maintain the speed of the bike at 5m/s?

25J

- c. How high can the bike reach vertically?

$$KE \rightarrow PE \quad \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = mgh \quad \frac{v^2}{2g} = h \quad \frac{5^2}{2 \cdot 10} = 1.25m$$

↑ straight up

- d. If the biker only reaches a maximum vertical height of 0.25m, how fast is the bike going at this vertical point?

$KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
 $1000 = \frac{1}{2}(100)v^2$
 $\boxed{v = 4.47 \text{ m/s}}$

$mgh = PE$
 $100 \cdot 10 \cdot .25 = 250J$
 1250
 $- 250$
 $1000J \leftarrow \text{left down}$

Total Energy

$\frac{1}{2}mv^2$
 $\frac{1}{2}(100)(5)^2 =$
 $1250J$