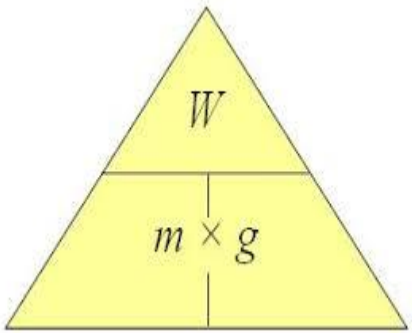
Physics topic 5a: Forces

1. Forces keywords	
Force	Something that makes a change happen
Magnitude	The size of a measurement
Scalar	Things that have magnitude but not direct
Vector	Things that have a magnitude and a direction. Forces are always vectors
Contact force	Can only act when two things touch
Non-contact force	Can act on things not touching
Balanced (forces)	When forces are equal and opposite each other also called **equilibrium**
Unbalanced (forces)	When opposing forces are not equal to each other
Resultant (force)	The overall force once all the forces are considered
Force arrows	Show direction and size of a force
Newton	The unit of force
Newton meter	A spring calibrated so it has a scale to measure force
Centre of mass	A point in the middle of an object where all its mass acts
Elastic	A material that returns to its original shape after being deformed
Plastic	A material that does NOT return to its original shape after being deformed
Equilibrium	Forces in a system are balanced.

2. Types of force			
Force	**Between**	**Contact or non-contact**	**Example**
Friction	Two moving surfaces	Contact	Brakes
Upthrust	An object and water	Contact	Boat
Reaction	Two stationary objects	Contact	Book on shelf
Air resistance	A moving object and air	Contact	Plane
Gravity	Two masses	Non-contact	You and the earth
Tension	Two ends of an elastic material	Contact	Spring
Magnetic	Magnets and magnetic materials	Non-contact	Magnet picking up a nail
Electrostatic	2 charged particles	Non-contact	Proton attracting an electron

3. Calculating weight		
Symbol	**Name**	**Calculated by..**
W	Weight (N)	= Mass x Gravity
m	Mass (kg)	= Weight ÷ Gravity
g	Gravitational field strength	= Weight ÷ mass
On Earth g = 10 N/kg		



4. Calculating work

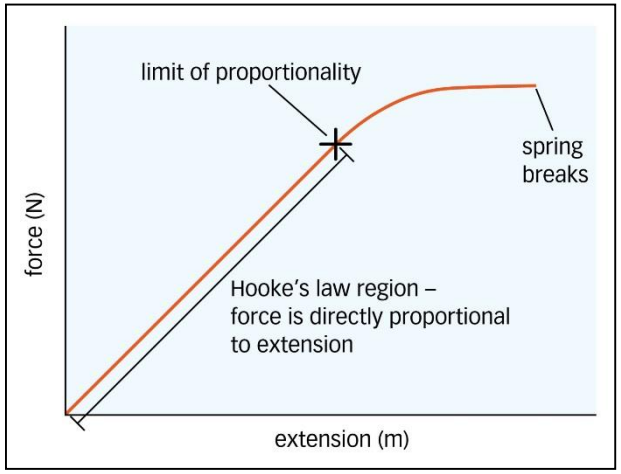
Symbol	Name	Calculated by..
W	Work (J)	= Force x Distance
F	Force (N)	= Work ÷ Distance
s	Distance (m)	= Work ÷ Force

$$W = Fs$$

5. Hooke's law

Symbol	Name	Calculated by..
F	Force (N)	= Spring constant x Extension
k	Spring constant (N/m)	= Force ÷ Extension
e	Extension (m)	= Force ÷ Spring constant

$$F = ke$$



6. Energy stored in a spring

Symbol	Name	Calculated by..
Ep	Elastic potential energy stored (J)	$Ep = \frac{1}{2}ke^2$
$\frac{1}{2}$	Half (0.5)	N/A
k	Spring constant (N/m)	$k = \frac{2\,Ep}{e^2}$
e	Extension (m)	$e = \sqrt{\frac{2\,Ep}{k}}$

$$Ep = \frac{1}{2}ke^2$$

To calculate extension:
1. Measure the original length of the object
2. Measure the stretched length of the object
3. Extension = stretched length – original length