Physics 20 & 30

Anatomy of An Answer

We need to do a lot of calculations in physics. Simply writing down the correct final answer is not good enough. You must communicate that you understand everything about the question, and prove that you know what you are doing. Use the following example as a template for how you will answer calculation questions. If you get into the habit of looking at calculation questions this way you will have far more success in the course. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in mark deductions!

Determine the displacement of a car that moves at 54.7 km/h for 105.0 s.

\[ v = \frac{d}{t} \]

\[ d = vt \]

\[ d = 15.1944 \times 105.0 \]

\[ d = 1595.41667 = 1.60 \times 10^3 \text{ m} \]

The car traveled 1.60e3 m.

Notice that the entire response is laid out in a neat, logical, and orderly fashion. Not only does this look better, it will help you answer questions more easily. This will result in higher marks.