

## How can you do better in Physics?

- 1) Everyone is still in this game. Your grade may not represent what you wish your grade were at this time.
- 2) **Progressive grading** means that I will be giving you points back onto your first two Practices and Test depending upon how you do on the upcoming Practices and Test. The better you do the more **Progressive Points** you will receive.
- 3) As for Test 1, the average was quite low. As I have said before, everyone should get at least 60/120 points or higher on every test. Only a few students opted to do the Alternate Section. Everyone knew what was on the the 3 Tests. There were no surprises. Yet, there were quite a few **empty answers** on many tests! So, I do not understand why many of you did not opt to do the Alternate Section (it's what you know).
- 4) Besides the usual personal life obstacles, I believe that many students are very busy working outside of school and/or taking too many classes. This cannot be helped because many of you need to work and, you want to graduate on time so you take more classes than you can really handle and you cannot opt out of your current life tribulations. **So, you need a strategy.**
  - a) First, there are 6 questions & problems and 2 DRS problems on the Test. I hand out the Test two days before so that everyone can focus on specific problems. **What should you do?**
    - b) Know yourself. This is important. Did you really study hard? Did you really try to understand the physics concepts and the problem solving methods? Did you actually read the articles and summarize them? Be honest. You can succeed if you are honest with yourself. You know that one cannot get an A without working really hard (15 hours a week).
    - c) Ok, so now that you were honest with yourself, decide what you must do to get the grade that you did work for. **I said that everyone in the class is capable of a B-.** You admit that you did not spend 15 hours a week on Physics homework. You spent 5 hours. You did the WebAssign homework quickly without thinking too hard and you went to 70% of the lectures and you did not read much of the Web materials that were prepared for you. But, you still want to get a B- or B in the class. **That is 70-75% of the points.** A grade of 70-75% on the Practices is 21/30 points and on the Tests 80/120 points. (You can get all the WebAssign points which means you can get fewer points on the Tests). You promise to think about the WebAssign problems a little harder, though.
    - d) The Practices are open book. No more 10/30 points for you. You can do better. You will start getting 5/5 points on two problems, **skip one problem** and get 12/15 on the DRS problem. **Skipping one problem** will allow you to focus on the other problems. Yeah, that's the ticket. Use strategy. . .
    - e) You need to get about 85/120 points on the Tests. First, you must definitely prepare for the Alternate Section. It will take awhile (3-5 hours), but you will get at least 25/30 points on this section (Think about the DRS here, too). You will do only one DRS problem completely and get at least 25/30 points. Now, you will concentrate on only 3 of the 10 point questions and problems. WOW. . .that is 80 points on the Test! **If you have time you can do either the diagram for the other DRS problem or one of the other 3 problems or questions that you skipped!** That's 90 points (75%)! What a plan! You can succeed in this class and get a respectable grade.
    - f) I really do believe that you many of you work really hard. Your jobs are important as are your personal lives. Think about this strategy. It will work. I do not believe that any of my students should get anything less than a B-. Get serious. Get motivated. Hang in there.

**Physics is important.**