

Q1: In order to reach 335 MPH in 3.6 seconds, a top fuel dragster must accelerate to an average of how many G's?



Solution:

Q1:

Problem guide:

①

Since this obviously involves acceleration,
set up **inventory**:

$V_i =$

$V_f =$

$a =$

$s =$

$t =$

②

Fill in raw data:

$V_i = 0$ MPH

$V_f = 335$ MPH* (**491.333 ft/sec**)

$a = ?$ (this is the question)

$s = \otimes$ ("odd man out")

$t = 3.6$ sec

must be

converted to ft/sec

$$\frac{335 \text{ mi}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{5.28 \times 10^3 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{3.6 \times 10^3 \text{ sec}} = \frac{1768.8 \text{ ft}}{3.6 \text{ sec}} = 491.333 \text{ ft/sec}$$

③ Now set up equation using "odd man out" cheat sheet:

$$a = \frac{V_f - V_i}{t} = \frac{491.333 - 0}{3.6} = 136.481 \text{ ft/sec}^2$$

④ Convert to G's by dividing answer by 32:

$$136.481 \div 32 = 4.265 \text{ G's}$$

Q2: In the video we see that the dragster has achieved 74 MPH in only 21 ft. How many G's does the driver experience in this part of the race?

Q2:

Problem guide:

①

Since this obviously involves acceleration,
set up **inventory**:

$V_i =$

$V_f =$

$a =$

$s =$


$t =$

②

Fill in raw data:

$V_i = 0$ MPH

$V_f = 74$ MPH* (**108.533 ft/sec**)

$a = ?$ (this is the question) 

$s = 21$

$t = \otimes$ ("odd man out")

must be
converted to ft/sec

$$\frac{74 \text{ mi}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{5.28 \times 10^3 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{3.6 \times 10^3 \text{ sec}} = \frac{390.72 \text{ ft}}{3.6 \text{ sec}} = 108.533 \text{ ft/sec}$$

③ Now set up equation using "odd man out" cheat sheet:

$$a = \frac{V_f^2 - V_i^2}{2s} = \frac{108.533^2 - 0^2}{2(21)} = \frac{11779.412}{42} = 280.462 \text{ ft/sec}^2$$

④ Convert to G's by dividing answer by 32:

$$280.462 \div 32 = 8.764 \text{ G's}$$