

# Equilibrium (p. 211 - 217)

## I. The Center Of Mass

1. Define the term center of mass.

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Center Of Mass - point on an object that moves in the same way that a point particle would move

2. List the steps to find the center of mass of an object.

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1. Suspend object from any point (COM. along vertical line down)
2. Suspend object from another point (Draw second line)
3. Point of intersection = Center of Mass

3. Where is the location of the center of mass of a human (standing stationary)?

Few centimeters below navel (midway between front + back)

4. Why doesn't a ballet dancer's head move much during a leap?

Raising arms + legs moves center of mass closer to her head

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Males Vs. Females  
- Chair DEMO

Female  
↳ 1 inch lower + further back

## II. Center Of Mass & Stability

1. Explain how a refrigerator can tip over (in terms of force, torque, and center of mass).

T<sub>f</sub> exerted on refrigerator gradually overcomes T<sub>w</sub> (weight on fridge) until center of mass exceeds base

Rotate the refrigerator's center of mass around the axis of rotation until it is no longer above the base of the box

2. The broader the base of an object, the <sup>more</sup> less stable the object is.

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Circle One: True  False

Ex. Basketball Stance

3. The lower the location of an object's center of mass, the greater its stability.

Balancing Pop Can

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Circle One: True  False

Ex. Football Lineman

4. How does standing on tip-toes affect a person's center of mass?

Center of mass shifts to above balls of feet (very little stability)

5. Which of the following statements is false concerning center of mass?

Eggs Balancing vs. Quarter Balancing

- a. To remain stable, the center of mass of an object must be within the base of the object.
- b. If the center of mass is above the base of an object, it is stable.
- c. Lowering the center of mass of an object increases the objects stability.
- d. Tall, narrow objects cannot achieve stability.

↳ But, easy to tip over!

### III. Conditions For Equilibrium

1. Static equilibrium occurs when an object has zero velocity and angular velocity.

Circle One : True False

or constant

2. What two conditions must occur in order to achieve static equilibrium?

1. Translational Equilibrium (Net force on object = zero)
2. Rotational Equilibrium (Net torque on object = zero)

### IV. Rotating Frames Of Reference

1. List three examples of rotating frames of reference.

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1. Merry-Go-Round
  2. Ferris Wheel
  3. Earth

2. Newton's laws are only valid in inertial and ~~accelerated~~ <sup>non-accelerated</sup> frames.

Circle One : True False

Rotating frames of reference = accelerated

### V. Centrifugal "Force"

1. Define the term centrifugal force.

Centrifugal Force - apparent force that seems to pull on a moving object (observed only in rotating frames of reference)

2. Why is centrifugal force not considered a real type of force?

No physical outward push or pull on the object.

3. A person on a merry-go-round produces what type of motion (viewed from ground)?

Circular (Object accelerated toward center)

Ex. Spinning kids by arms

### VI. The Coriolis "Force"

1. Define the term Coriolis "force".

Coriolis Force - apparent force that seems to deflect a moving object from its path (observed only in rotating frames of reference)

2. Why is the Coriolis force not considered to be a real force?

Deflection of horizontal motion only seen in rotating frame of reference.

3. Where does a projectile launched due north of the equator land? (assume high velocity)

East of the target (Earth rotate East to West)

(Balloon DEMO)

4. In the northern hemisphere, what direction do winds rotate due to the Coriolis Effect?

Counterclockwise around low pressure areas  
Storms = SW wind (leaves overturn)

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