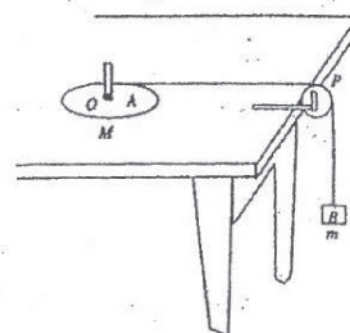


1997 A/L Structured Essay Question No (01)

1. A uniform circular disc  $A$  of mass  $M$  and radius  $R$  is mounted horizontally on a smooth table so that it is free to rotate about a frictionless axle passing through its centre  $O$ . A light string which is tightly wrapped few times around the circumference of the disc passes over a light pulley  $P$  and carries a weight  $B$  of mass  $m$  at the free end as shown in the figure. The moment of inertia of the disc about axis of rotation,  $I = \frac{1}{2} MR^2$ . The system is held at rest with the string taut and released at time  $t = 0$ .



- (a) What type of motions will  $A$  and  $B$  have ?

$A$  .....

$B$  .....

- (b) (i) If the angular acceleration of the disc  $A$  is  $\alpha$  and the acceleration of the weight  $B$  is  $a$ , write down the relation between  $a$  and  $\alpha$ . (one line)

- (ii) What is the relation between the torque ( $\Gamma$ ) acting on the disc and  $\alpha$ .

$\Gamma =$  .....

- (c) After a short time if the string breaks suddenly, what will happen to the motions of  $A$  and  $B$ .

$A$  : .....

$B$  : .....

- (d) After the string has broken as mentioned in (c), a second disc of the same radius but of mass  $M/2$  which is at rest is dropped symmetrically on the disc  $A$ . The two discs were found to stick together and rotate.

- (i) What principle would you use to determine the new angular velocity of the discs ? (one line)

- (ii) Under what condition is the above principle valid. (one line)

- (iii) If the angular velocity of disc  $A$  prior to dropping the second disc is  $\omega_0$ , find the new angular velocity of the discs in terms of  $\omega_0$ . (3 lines)

- (e) Instead of the string breaking as mentioned in (c), suppose the axle breaks and the disc becomes free to move.

- (i) What type of motion will  $A$  have ? (one line)

- (ii) Will the angular acceleration of  $A$  remain same as in (b)(i) ? Explain your answer. (2 lines)