

A mass of 3kg rests on the smooth table and tied by a light cord passing over a frictionless pulley to 5kg mass hanging freely. What is the acceleration of the system which is released?

Solution:

Let:

$$m_1 = 3 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_2 = 5 \text{ kg}$$

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$$a - ?$$

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$$a = \frac{F}{m_1+m_2}$$

$F = m_2 * g$ , where  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  – acceleration of free fall

$$a = \frac{m_2 * g}{m_1+m_2} = \frac{5 * 9.8}{3+5} = 6.125 \text{ m/s}^2$$

**Answer:  $6.125 \text{ m/s}^2$**