

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:

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

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

$$a = ?$$

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

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

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

Answer: 6.125 m/s²