# SIMPLE HARMONIC MOTION

**SHM** is the motion that occurs when the restoring force acting on an object is proportional to the object's displacement from its equilibrium or rest position.



The *period T* of a mass-spring system undergoing simple harmonic motion is the time needed for one complete cycle.

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

Units: s

### where **k** is the spring's constant





## **GRAPH OF SHM**

The graph shown below depicts the up and down oscillation of the mass at the end of a spring. One complete cycle is from a to b, or from c to d. The time taken for one cycle is *T*, the period.



# 7.1 For the motion shown in the figure, find: a. Amplitude b. Period c. Frequency

a. Amplitude: maximum displacement from equilibrium A = +-0.75 cm

### b. T = time for one complete cycleT = 0.2 s

c. f = 1/T = 1/0.2 = 5 Hz

**b.** What is the period of the oscillation?

*m* = 0.1 kg,  
*k* = 50 N/m 
$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{0.1}{50}} = 0.28 s$$

**c.** What is the frequency?

$$f = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{1}{0.28}$$
 = 3.57 Hz

7.2 A pearl is placed on a spring scale whose spring constant is 362 N/m. If the scale's platform oscillates with a frequency of 1.20 Hz, what is the mass of the pearl?

$$\begin{array}{ll} k = 362 \text{ N/m} & T = 1/f \\ f = 1.2 \text{ Hz} & = 1/1.2 \\ &= 0.83 \text{ s} \end{array} \end{array} \qquad T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

$$T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2 m}{k} \qquad T^2 k = 4\pi^2 m$$



## THE SIMPLE PENDULUM

A simple pendulum has its entire mass concentrated at the end of a string. It undergoes SHM provided that the arc through which it travels is only a few degrees. The *period* of a simple pendulum of length *L* is given by:

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

Units: s

where g is the acceleration due to gravity

**7.3** Find the frequency of a simple pendulum 20 cm long.

*L* = 0.2 m

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{0.2}{10}} = 0.89 \text{ s}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{1}{0.89} = 1.1 \text{ Hz}$$

7.4 A pendulum 1 m long oscillates 30 times per minute in a certain location. What is the value of *g* there?

$$L = 1 \text{ m} \qquad \left(\frac{30 \text{ rev}}{\min}\right) \left(\frac{1 \min}{60 \sec}\right) = 0.5 \text{ Hz}$$

$$T = \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{0.5} = 2 \text{ s} \qquad T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

$$g = \frac{4\pi^2 L}{T^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 (1)}{2^2} = 9.86 \text{ m/s}^2$$