

Roller Coaster Energy Worksheet

Use the following image to answer the questions. Assume your roller coaster is a single car coaster that runs on a frictionless track. It has a mass of 800.0 kg. The car is at a standstill before it starts moving down the first hill.



1. In which situation would the potential energy of the car be highest?
 - a) Top of big hill
 - b) Bottom of big hill
 - c) Top of small hill
 - d) Bottom of small hill
2. What happens to the mechanical energy of the car as potential energy decreases?
 - a) Increases
 - b) Decreases
 - c) Stays the same
 - d) Mechanical energy does not depend on potential energy
3. Which statement is true?
 - a) Kinetic energy is stored in the car as it moves down the big hill.
 - b) Potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy and other forms of energy as the car moves down the big hill.
 - c) The potential energy of the car is equal to the kinetic energy of the car at the top of the small hill.
 - d) Some energy is destroyed as the car moves down the small hill.
4. Calculate the maximum amount of energy the car possesses as it travels along the track of the roller coaster?

