

36.58 The product of a cyclist's coefficient of drag and frontal area, $C_D \times A$, is $3.2ft^2$. How much power must the cyclist generate to maintain $20mph$ on a flat, smooth road at sea level with no wind? Consider only aerodynamic drag. Ignore rolling resistance and power chain losses.

- A. $94W$
- B. $127W$
- C. $171W$
- D. $327W$

Use the equation for **Drag Force**. Include the gravitational constant, g_c , in the denominator to make the units work.

$$F_D = \frac{C_D \rho v^2 A}{2g_c}$$

Convert the velocity to $\frac{ft}{s}$.

$$v = 20 \frac{mi}{hr} \left(\frac{5280ft}{mi} \right) \left(\frac{1hr}{3600s} \right) = 29.3 \frac{ft}{s}$$

Calculate the drag force.

$$F_D = \frac{(3.2ft^2) \left(0.075 \frac{lb_m}{ft^3} \right) \left(29.3 \frac{ft}{s} \right)^2}{2 \left(32.2 \frac{lb_m \cdot ft}{lb_f \cdot s^2} \right)} = 3.2lb_f$$

Find the power by using the equation under **Power and Efficiency** which is the product of force and velocity. Convert units to watts.

$$P = F \cdot v$$

$$P = \frac{(3.2lb_f) \left(29.3 \frac{ft}{s} \right) \left(746 \frac{W}{hp} \right)}{550 \frac{ft \cdot lb_f}{s \cdot hp}} = 127W$$

Answer B