Elevator Problems

1. A 40 kg person sits in an elevator at rest. The elevator has a mass of 500 kg ,
a) What is the tension in the elevator cable?

5292 N
b) If the person is standing on a scale that measures force, what will it read?


$$
\begin{aligned}
& F_{N E T}=m a \\
& T-m g=0 \\
& T=m g=(500+40)(9.8) \\
& T=5292 \mathrm{~N}
\end{aligned}
$$

2. A 40 kg person sits in an elevator accelerating upward at $2.0 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$. The elevator has a mass of 500 kg ,
a) What is the tension in the elevator cable?

$$
\begin{aligned}
F_{N} & =m g \\
& =40(9.8) \\
& =392 N
\end{aligned}
$$

b) If the person is standing on a scale that measures force, what will it read?


$$
\begin{array}{ll}
F_{N E T}=m a & T=540(4.8+2) \\
T-m g=m a & T=6372 \mathrm{~N} \\
T=m g+m a & F_{N}=40(4.8+2)=472 \mathrm{~N} \\
T=m(g+a) &
\end{array}
$$

3. A 40 kg person sits in an elevator accelerating downward at $1.3 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$. The elevator has a mass of 500 kg ,
a) What is the tension in the elevator cable?
b) If the person is standing on a scale that measures force, what will it read? 340 N


$$
\begin{array}{ll}
F_{\text {NET }}=m a & T=4590 \mathrm{~N} \\
T-m g=m a & F_{N}=40(9.8-1.3) \\
T=m(g+a) & F_{N}=340 \mathrm{~N} \\
T=540(9.8-1.3) &
\end{array}
$$

4. A 40 kg person sits in an elevator and the cable has broken. If the elevator has a mass of 500 kg .
a) What is the acceleration of the elevator and the person?

$$
A=g=-9.8 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}
$$

b) If the person is standing on a scale that measures force, what will it read? $\qquad$

