

Moderate

Assistant Engineer (Electrical), Class 2025

Building Department

Evaluate the surface integral $\oint_S (3x \mathbf{i} + 2y \mathbf{j}) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$, where S is the sphere given by $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 9$.

A

120

B

180

Correct

C

240

D

300

Correct Answer: B

Full Detailed Explanation

Concept & Reasoning A closed-surface flux integral is usually faster through the divergence theorem than by parametrizing the sphere. The divergence of $3x \mathbf{i} + 2y \mathbf{j}$ is constant: $(3x)/x + (2y)/y + (0)/z = 5$. The sphere radius is 3, so its volume is $(4/3) (3^3) = 36\pi$.

Integrating constant divergence 5 over that volume gives 180π . This is the net outward flux through the entire spherical surface. How to Solve It in the Exam Closed surface + simple divergence → use divergence theorem immediately. Important Exam Point Confirm the surface is closed before replacing a surface integral with a volume integral. Related Revision Path This question sits in the revision path Electromagnetic Fields → Vector Calculus → Divergence Theorem.

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