

## Section 2: Applying Newton's second law

### Crucial points

1. **Remember to use weight rather than mass when dealing with forces**  
In situations involving a weight force, remember to multiply the mass of an object by  $g$  to give its weight.
2. **Make sure that signs and directions on force diagrams are clear**  
It's generally safest to make the direction of motion the positive direction and have your acceleration arrow pointing that way. If the acceleration turns out to be negative, you will know that the object is slowing down.
3. **Set out your work clearly**  
Remember to draw a clear diagram, labelling all the forces.