

Section 1: The moment of a force

Crucial points

1. Always draw a diagram

If you try to work without a diagram, you are very likely to make mistakes with signs, or to miss out forces.

- 2. Make sure that you get the direction of moments right Remember that anticlockwise is considered to be positive and clockwise negative. Always draw a clear force diagram and use it to consider the direction of each force.
- 3. Remember to include reaction forces at a support or hinge in the force diagram

These have no effect when you take moments about the support or hinge, but you need to take them into account when you resolve forces or take moments about a different point.

