

IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ELECTROSTATICS

Force between two identical charges placed at a distance r in vacuum is F . Now a slab of dielectric constant $K = 4$ is inserted between these two charges. The thickness of the slab is $r/2$. The force between the charges will now become

- (a) $F/4$ (b) $F/2$ (c) $3F/5$ (d) $4F/9$

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$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{r^2}$$

Suppose force between the charges is same when charges are r' distance apart in dielectric

$$\therefore F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{Kr^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{r'^2}$$

Thus distance r' of dielectric is equivalent to $\sqrt{K}r$ distance of air.

In the given situation, force between the charge would be

$$F' = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{\left(\frac{r}{2} + \sqrt{4} \frac{r}{2}\right)^2} = \frac{4}{9} \times \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \Rightarrow F' = \frac{4}{9} F$$

CBSE/NEET/IIT PHYSICS XI, XII

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