Investigative Science – **DISTANCE VERUS TIME GRAPHS** Perry High School MR. POMERANTZ

Page 1 of 2

Distance versus time graphs:

- A distance-time graph tells us how far an object has moved with time.
- The steeper the graph, the faster the motion.
- A horizontal line means the object is not changing its position
- A downward sloping line means the object is returning to the start.

Examine the graphs below, the data is for runners A and B. Determine which graph shows runner A starting the race 10 m ahead of runner B. Runner A — Runner B — —





2. Refer to the graphs of runners A and B on the left. Which graph shows the runners moving with at the same speed? Explain your answer (hint: speed is relates to the slope of the line),

Explaining a distance versus time graph.

The distance-time graphs below represent the motion of a car. Match the descriptions with the graphs. Explain your answers.





Page 2 of 2

Visual summary of speed vs. time:

Speed versus time graphs: Speed-Time graphs look much like Distance-Time graphs. Be sure to read the labels!!

- Time is plotted on the X-axis.
- Speed or velocity is plotted on the Y-axis.
- A straight horizontal line on a speedtime graph means that speed is constant. (It is not changing over time)
- A straight line does <u>not</u> mean that the object is stationary





Explaining a speed versus time graph. The speed-time graphs below represent the motion of a car. Match the descriptions with the graphs. Explain your answers. **Descriptions:** Graph Explanation 7. The car is accelerating before constant speed. 8. The car is traveling at a constant speed. 9. The car is accelerating. 10. The car is slowing down. Speed Speed Speed Speed Time Time Time Time Graph A Graph B Graph C Graph D

Analyzing speed and time graphs: Look at the graph below, it shows data for three runners in a 100 m race.

