TABLE OF CONTENTS

			Page
Acknowledgements			ii
Abstrak			iv
Abstract			vi
Table of Contents			viii
Appendices			xi
List of Tables			xii
CHAPTER I :	STA	TEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	
	1.0	Introduction	1
	1.1	An Overview of Sixth Form Physics Education in Malaysian Schools	4
	1.2	Research Questions	7
	1.3	Definition of Terms	8
	1.4	Significance of the Study	10
	1.5	Limitation of the Study	11
CHAPTER II :	REV	IEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
	2.0	Introduction	12
	2.1	Students' Conceptions in Circular Motion	12
	2.2	Gender and Physics Achievement	24
	2.3	Formal Reasoning Ability and Science Achievement	26

Page

CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

	3.0	Introduction	32
	3.1	The Subjects of the Study	32
	3.2	Instrumentation	32
		 3.2.1 The Understanding of Concepts in Circular Motion Test (UCCMT) 3.2.2 Content Validation of UCCMT 3.2.3 Reliability of UCCMT 3.2.4 Test of Logical Thinking (TOLT) 3.2.5 Validity and Reliability of TOLT 	33 36 36 37 37
	3.3	Pilot Study for the Instruments	39
	3.4	Data Collection	40
CHAPTER IV :	RESU	LTS AND DISCUSSIONS	
	10000		
	4.0	Introduction	41
			41 42
	4.0	Introduction Descriptive Statistics of Subjects of Study 4.1.1 Distribution of Gender of Students 4.1.2 Scoring Procedure and Categorization	42 42
	4.0	Introduction Descriptive Statistics of Subjects of Study 4.1.1 Distribution of Gender of Students	42
	4.0	Introduction Descriptive Statistics of Subjects of Study 4.1.1 Distribution of Gender of Students 4.1.2 Scoring Procedure and Categorization of Formal Reasoning Ability Groups 4.1.3 Distribution of Students' Formal	42 42 43
	4.0 4.1	Introduction Descriptive Statistics of Subjects of Study 4.1.1 Distribution of Gender of Students 4.1.2 Scoring Procedure and Categorization of Formal Reasoning Ability Groups 4.1.3 Distribution of Students' Formal Reasoning Ability Groups	42 42 43 43

4.5	Students' Conceptions in Circular Motion	48
	4.5.1 Conceptions of Students in Item 1	49
	4.5.2 Conceptions of Students in Item 2	52
	4.5.3 Conceptions of Students in Item 3	55
	4.5.4 Conceptions of Students in Items 4 and 5	59
	4.5.5 Conceptions of Students in Item 6	62
	4.5.6 Conceptions of Students in Item 7	63
	4.5.7 Conceptions of Students in Item 8	66
	4.5.8 Conceptions of Students in Item 9	68
	4.5.9 Conceptions of Students in Item 10	69
	4.5.10 Conceptions of Students in Item 11	71
	4.5.11 Conceptions of Students in Item 12	74
	4.5.12 Conceptions of Students in Item 13	75
	4.5.13 Conceptions of Students in Item 14	77
	4.5.14 Conceptions of Students in Item 15	79
	4.5.15 Conceptions of Students in Item 16	80
	4.5.16 Conceptions of Students in Item 17	80
	4.5.17 Conceptions of Students in Item 18	81
4.6	Students' Recurring Misconceptions in Circular Motion	82
4.7	Students' Common Misconceptions in Circular Motion	85

CHAPTER V : SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

5.0	Introduction	89
5.1	Summary of the Findings	89
5.2	Implications of the Findings	92
5.3	Suggestions for Future Research	96

		Page
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY		
APPENDICI	ES :	
Appendix A:	Understanding of Concepts in Circular Motion Test (Malay Version)	103
Appendix B:	Understanding of Concepts in Circular Motion Test (English Version)	116
Appendix C:	Test of Logical Thinking (Malay Version)	127
Appendix D:	Sample Items from Test of Logical Thinking (English Version)	138
Appendix E:	Letters of Approval to Conduct the Study	140