

The relationship between mass flow rate \dot{m} , and flow velocity V , is:

$$\dot{m} = \rho \cdot A \cdot V$$

or in terms of the specific volume v (the inverse of density):

$$\dot{m} = \frac{A \cdot V}{v} \quad (1)$$

We now use the ideal gas equation of state to find the specific volume of air at the conditions given for the diffuser inlet:

$$v = \frac{RT}{p} = \frac{\left(0.287 \frac{\text{kPa} \cdot \text{m}^3}{\text{kg} \cdot \text{K}}\right)(283 \text{ K})}{80 \text{ kPa}} = 1.015 \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg}}$$

Now, insert this in equation (1):

$$\dot{m} = \frac{(0.4 \text{ m}^2)(200 \text{ m/s})}{1.015 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}} = 78.8 \text{ kg/s}$$

The problem statement requires the mass flow rate in kg/min, therefore:

$$\dot{m} = 78.8 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{s}} \cdot \left| \frac{60 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ min}} \right| = 4728 \text{ kg/min}$$

The correct answer is (D)

