2 · Electricity

AQA · GCSE · Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
potential difference /pəˈtenʃl ˈdɪfrəns/	The **potential difference** across the lamp is 6 V.
Physics Equations Sheet /ˈfɪzɪks ɪˈkweɪʒnz ʃiːt/	Use the **Physics Equations Sheet** in the exam.
circuit symbols /ˈsɜːkɪt ˈsɪmblz/	Learn the **circuit symbols** for a cell, a lamp and a switch.
in series /ɪn ˈsɪəriːz/	The lamps are connected **in series**.
in parallel /ɪn ˈpærəlel/	Two capacitors **in parallel** store more charge.
Electric current /ɪˈlektrɪk ˈkʌrənt/	**Electric current** is the flow of charge.
charge /tʃɑːdʒ/	A proton has a positive **charge**.
resistance /rɪˈzɪstəns/	A thin wire has a high **resistance**.
Ohmic conductor /ˈəʊmɪk kənˈdʌktə/	In an **Ohmic conductor**, current is proportional to voltage.
Filament lamp /ˈfɪləmənt læmp/	A **Filament lamp** gets hotter and its resistance rises.
Diode /ˈdaɪəʊd/	A **Diode** lets current flow only one way.
Thermistor /ˈθɜːmɪstə/	A **Thermistor** has less resistance when it is hot.
LDR /ˌel diː ˈɑː/	An **LDR** has less resistance in bright light.

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alternating /ˈɔːltəneɪtɪŋ/	Mains electricity is **alternating** current: it changes direction.
direct /daɪˈrekt/	A battery gives **direct** current: it flows one way.
National Grid /ˈnæʃənl grɪd/	The **National Grid** carries electricity across the country.
step-up transformer /step ʌp trænsˈfɔːmə/	A **step-up transformer** raises the voltage.
step-down transformer /step daʊn trænsˈfɔːmə/	A **step-down transformer** lowers the voltage for homes.
electric field /ɪˈlektrɪk fiːld/	A charged ball has an **electric field** around it.

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