2 · Electricity

AQA · GCSE · Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
potential difference /pə'tenʃl 'dɪfrəns/	The **potential difference** across the lamp is 6 V. 6 V
Physics Equations Sheet /'fɪzɪks ɪ'kweɪʒnz ʃi:t/	Use the **Physics Equations Sheet** in the exam.
circuit symbols /'sɜ:kɪt 'sɪmblz/	Learn the **circuit symbols** for a cell, a lamp and a switch.
in series /ɪn 'sɪəri:z/	The lamps are connected **in series**.
in parallel /ɪn 'pærəlel/	Two capacitors **in parallel** store more charge.
Electric current /ɪ'lektrɪk 'kʌrənt/	**Electric current** is the flow of charge.
charge /tʃɑ:dʒ/	A proton has a positive **charge**.
resistance /rɪ'zɪstəns/	A thin wire has a high **resistance**.
Ohmic conductor /'əʊmɪk kən'dʌktə/	In an **Ohmic conductor**, current is proportional to voltage.
Filament lamp /'fɪləmənt læmp/	A **Filament lamp** gets hotter and its resistance rises.
Diode /'daɪəʊd/	A **Diode** lets current flow only one way.
Thermistor /'θɜ:mɪstə/	A **Thermistor** has less resistance when it is hot.
LDR /ˌel di: 'ɑ:/	An **LDR** has less resistance in bright light.

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alternating /'ɔ:ltəneɪtɪŋ/	Mains electricity is **alternating** current: it changes direction.
direct /daɪ'rekt/	A battery gives **direct** current: it flows one way.
National Grid /'næʃənl grɪd/	The **National Grid** carries electricity across the country.
step-up transformer /step ʌp træns'fɔ:mə/	A **step-up transformer** raises the voltage.
step-down transformer /step daʊn træns'fɔ:mə/	A **step-down transformer** lowers the voltage for homes.
electric field /ɪ'lektrɪk fi:ld/	A charged ball has an **electric field** around it.