6 · Waves

AQA · GCSE · Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
transverse /træns'vɜːs/	Light is a **transverse** wave.
longitudinal /ˌlɒŋgɪ'tjuːdɪnl/	Sound waves are **longitudinal**.
compressions /kəm'preʃnz/	Sound has **compressions** where particles are close together.
rarefactions /ˌreərɪ'fækʃnz/	Sound has **rarefactions** where particles are spread out.
amplitude /'æmplɪtjuːd/	Loud sounds have a large **amplitude**.
wavelength /'weɪvleŋθ/	The **wavelength** is the distance from one crest to the next.
frequency /'friːkwənsi/	A **frequency** of 50 Hz means 50 waves every second. 50 Hz 50
period /'pɪərɪəd/	The **period** of the wave is 0.02 s. 0.02 s
specular reflection /'spekjʊlə rɪ'flekʃn/	A mirror gives **specular reflection**.
diffuse reflection /dɪ'fjuːz rɪ'flekʃn/	Paper gives **diffuse reflection**: light scatters in all directions.
convex /kɒn'veks/	A **convex** lens makes light rays meet.
concave /kɒn'keɪv/	A **concave** lens spreads light rays out.

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