Waves

Pearson Edexcel · International GCSE · Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
transverse wave /træns'vɜːs weɪv/	Light is a **transverse wave**.
longitudinal wave /ˌlɒŋgɪ'tjuːdɪnl weɪv/	Sound is a **longitudinal wave**.
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
Doppler effect /'dɒplə ɪ'fekt/	The **Doppler effect** makes a passing car's sound change pitch.
refraction /rɪ'frækʃn/	**Refraction** makes a straw look bent in water.
total internal reflection /'təʊtl ɪn'tɜːnl rɪ'flekʃn/	**Total internal reflection** keeps light inside an optical fibre.
critical angle /'krɪtɪkl 'æŋgl/	The **critical angle** for glass is about 42°. 42°

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