

Velocity	<i>The speed of the wave in a certain direction</i>
Wavelength	<i>Distance from one point on a wave to the same point of the next wave</i>
Amplitude	<i>The maximum disturbance from its rest position</i>
Frequency	<i>Number of waves per second</i>
Wave front	<i>The position of all the particles of the medium, vibrating in the same state</i>
Period	<i>Time taken to produce 1 complete wave</i>

Wave speed	Wave speed = frequency X wavelength	$v = f \times \lambda$
Wave period	Wave period = $1 \div$ frequency	$T = 1 \div f$
Wave Speed	Speed = distance \div time	$v = d \div t$

Sound waves travelling through different mediums, the frequency stay constant.

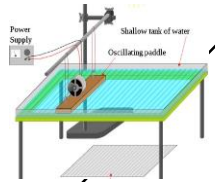
Equations

Core Practical

Determine the speed of frequency and wavelength of a wave in a solid and a fluid

Fluid - Using ripple tank

Solid – using peak frequency



Waves transfer energy

Waves transfer energy and information in the direction they are travelling without transferring matter

When waves travel through a medium, the particles of the medium vibrate but stay in the same place. The energy and information is transferred between particles.

Medium

Material through which waves travel.

Basics of waves

Air Water

EDEXCEL TOPIC 4 - WAVES

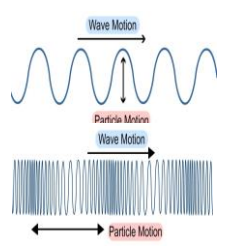
Measuring waves

Speed

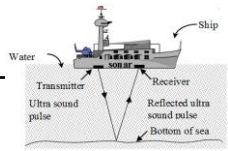
Measure the time it takes for waves to travel a certain distance

Time how long an echo takes to reach you (air)

Time how long a wave travels between 2 fixed points (water)



Transverse wave	<i>Vibration causing the wave is at right angles to the direction of energy transfer</i>	Energy is carried outwards by the wave.	Water and light waves, S waves.
Longitudinal wave	<i>Vibration causing the wave is parallel to the direction of energy transfer</i>	Energy is carried along the wave.	Sound waves, P waves.



Waves change speed due to the different density of mediums.

If the waves goes from a thinner medium to a thicker medium, (e.g. air to glass), it will slow down.

If the waves goes from a thicker medium to a thinner medium, (e.g. glass to air), it will quicken up.

HIGHER ONLY

Refraction

Waves changes direction at boundary.

Waves travel through different medium at different speeds

Speed of waves in water depends upon depth

From deep water to shallow water, speed slows down

Sound waves enters a different medium, wavelength or velocity change.

What actually happens to a wave depends upon it's wavelength and the property of the material involved.

Properties of waves

Speed of Light = 3×10^8 m/s

Speed of sound = 340m/s

Wave speed = frequency X wavelength so if velocity changes either frequency or wavelength (or both) also changes

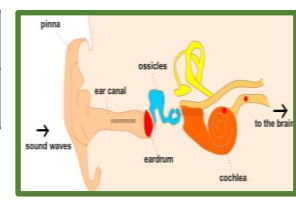
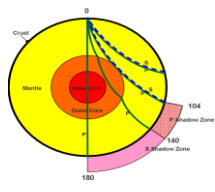
When waves travel from medium to medium, velocity, frequency and wavelength may be affected.

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PHYSICS HIGHER ONLY

Sonar	<i>Reflected off objects</i>	Used to determine depth of objects under the sea.
Ultra sound	<i>Partially reflected off boundary</i>	Used for medical and foetal scans.
Infra- sound	<i>Seismic waves (P and S) used to explore Earth's core</i>	P waves can travel through the core, S waves cannot.
Ultrasound	<i>Above 20,000Hz</i>	
Infrasound	<i>Below 20Hz</i>	



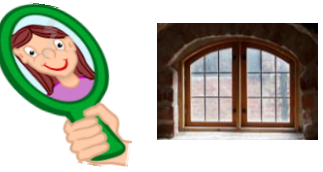
You must know how sound travels through the ear.

Hearing

Frequencies between 20 – 20,000 Hz

Longitudinal waves cause ear drum to vibrate, amplified by three ossicles which creates pressure in the cochlea.

Sound waves travel at different speeds in different media. Sound waves travel faster in solids, than liquids than gases.



PHYSICS ONLY

Absorption	<i>Passes into but not out of, transfers energy and heats up the object.</i>
Transmission	<i>Passes through the object.</i>
Reflection	<i>Wave bounces off the surface.</i>
Refraction	<i>Waves changes direction at boundary.</i>

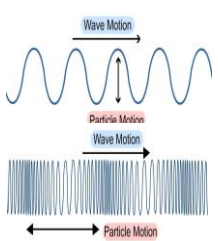
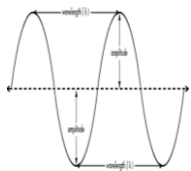
PHYSICS HIGHER ONLY

Calculating depth or distance from time and wave velocity

<i>Energy stored inside a system by particles</i>	Internal energy is the total kinetic and potential energy of all the particles (atoms and molecules) in a system.
<i>Heating changes the energy stored within a system</i>	Heating causes a change in state. As particles separate, potential energy stored increases. Heating increases the temperature of a system. Particles move faster so kinetic energy of particles increases.

Frequency does not change but wavelength does ($v = f\lambda$).

Wavelength increases as speed increases, if speed slows down, wavelength get shorter.



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	PASSES INTO BUT NOT OUT OF, TRANSFERS ENERGY AND HEATS UP THE OBJECT.	PHYSICS ONLY
	PASSES THROUGH THE OBJECT.	
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	WAVES CHANGES DIRECTION AT BOUNDARY.	

	The speed of the wave in a certain direction
	Distance from one point on a wave to the same point of the next wave
	The maximum disturbance from its rest position
	Number of waves per second
	The position of all the particles of the medium, vibrating in the same state
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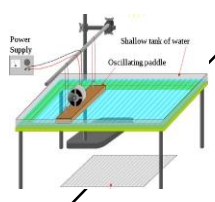
Basics of waves

Material through which waves travel.

Air Water

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Equations



Core Practical

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Measuring waves

Speed

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EDEXCEL TOPIC 4 - WAVES

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HIGHER ONLY

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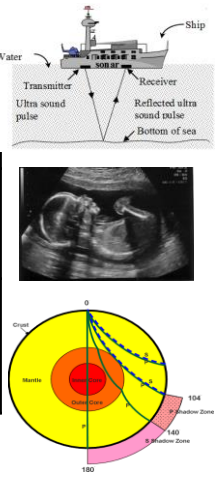
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Sound waves have the same pitch regardless of medium travelled through.

Wave speed = frequency X wavelength so if velocity changes either frequency or wavelength (or both) also changes

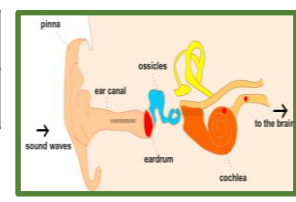
PHYSICS HIGHER ONLY

Reflected off objects	Used to determine depth of objects under the sea.
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Above 20,000Hz

Below 20Hz



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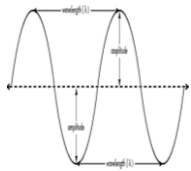
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PHYSICS HIGHER ONLY

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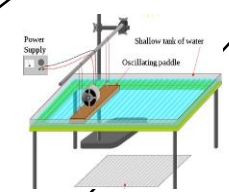
Velocity	
Wavelength	
Amplitude	
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Wave front	
Period	

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Equations

Core Practical



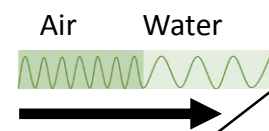
Measuring waves

Speed	

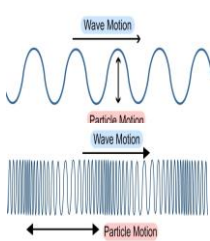
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Medium

Basics of waves



Waves transfer energy



Transverse wave			
Longitudinal wave			

Waves change speed due to

If the waves goes from a thinner medium

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HIGHER ONLY

Refraction

Waves travel

Speed of waves in water depends

From deep water to shallow water,

What actually happens to a wave depends upon

Sound waves enters a different medium,

Properties of waves

Speed of Light =

Speed of sound =

Wave speed = frequency X wavelength

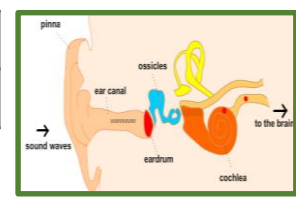
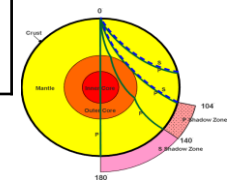
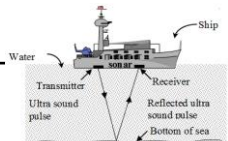
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Hearing

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Sonar		
Ultra sound		
Infra- sound		
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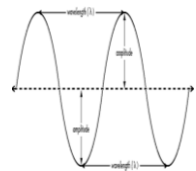
Wavelength increases as

Absorption	
Transmission	
Reflection	
Refraction	

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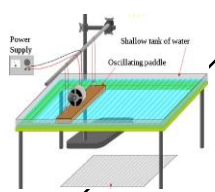
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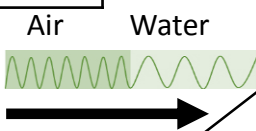
Equations

Core Practical



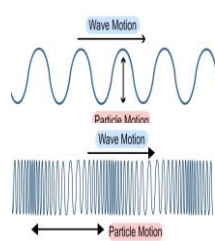
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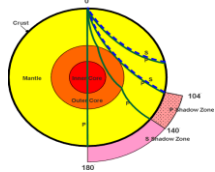
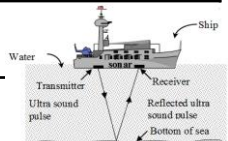
Basics of waves



EDEXCEL TOPIC 4 - WAVES

Measuring waves





Properties of waves

Speed of Light =

Speed of sound =

Wave speed = frequency X wavelength

When waves travel from medium to medium,

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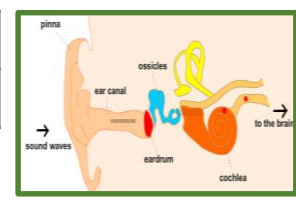
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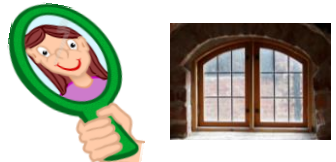
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