



**Pressure**

**Science – Junior Cert**

**Quick Notes**

# Pressure

Pressure is the amount of force acting on a unit of area, so the smaller the area, the greater the pressure. We calculate pressure by dividing force by area. The unit of pressure is Newtons per square meter, which is also known as the Pascal, symbol Pa. Liquid and gases exert pressure in all directions. The pressure in a liquid increases with depth. The atmosphere is made of gases that have mass and exert pressure. Atmospheric pressure is measured using a barometer and normally atmospheric pressure can support a column of mercury 76 cm high. Atmospheric pressure has a major influence on the weather. Low pressure systems usually mean warm, moist air and high pressure systems indicate cool, dry air. Isobars are the lines on a weather chart that join places of equal pressure.