



**Light**

**Science – Junior Cert**

**Quick Notes**

# Light

Light is a form of energy, so it can be converted to different forms of energy. Light travels in straight lines. Two observations that provide evidence for this are- shadows and looking through two pin-holes in two cardboard sheets. A luminous body is a source of light e.g. sun, burning candle. A non-luminous body can be seen because it reflects light e.g. moon. Dispersion is the breaking up of white light into its different colours. The different colours are called the spectrum of light which is made up of seven major colours – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Light is reflected in a regular way from mirrors and shiny surfaces. On surfaces that are rough, the reflected light goes in all directions and does not come back into the eye. A periscope is an instrument made with two mirrors; it is used to look above or around obstacles. For it to work, the upper mirror should be directly above the lower one and each of the mirrors should be at an angle of 45 degrees approximately. Refraction is the bending of light as it passes from one transparent material to another. An important application of refraction is in lenses. A lens is a piece of transparent material that has at least one curved surface. The convex lens may be used as a magnifying glass and both the concave and convex lens can be used in spectacles and contact lenses.