



Sound

Science – Junior Cert

Quick Notes

Sound

Sound is produced when bodies or particles vibrate. Sound is a form of energy so it can be converted to other forms of energy such as electrical or kinetic. Sound needs to travel in a material called a medium in order to transmit its energy. Like other waves, sound is reflected from solid surfaces. A good example of the reflection of sound is the echo. Very loud sounds can cause damage to the ear and sometimes this damage can be permanent so people living or working in noisy places should wear ear-protection. The speed of sound in air is about 340 m/s but this changes with temperature and pressure. The speed of sound in other materials is different. Sound will travel faster in denser materials. The speed of sound is much less than the speed of light. This is why there is a delay between seeing something happen and hearing it happen e.g. fireworks, thunder and lightning.