



## **Magnetism**

**Science – Junior Cert**

**Quick Notes**

# Magnetism

Magnets can exert a force on other magnets and on certain kinds of metals. The magnetic force of a magnet on another magnet can be attractive or repulsive. A magnet is said to have two poles – north pole and south pole. The north pole of a freely suspended magnet points in the direction of north. Like poles repel each other and unlike poles of a magnet attract each other. A magnetic field is the region of space around a magnet in which certain materials and other magnets will experience a magnetic force. A magnetic field can be illustrated by drawing magnetic field lines. These lines go from the north pole to the south pole and show the direction in which the north pole of a compass would point. The earth acts like a giant magnet and has a magnetic field around it that acts on all compasses to show north. A compass is a magnet or magnetical needle that is used in navigation. It is important that there is no iron or magnetic material near the compass as this would interfere with the compass.