

## ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

### Glossary

**atom:** n. the smallest particle of a chemical element, consisting of a positively charged nucleus surrounded by negatively charged electrons.

**attraction:** n. a force under the influence of which objects tend to move towards each other.

**balance:** n. a condition in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions.

**battery:** n. a device containing one or more electrical cells, for use as a source of power.

**circuit:** n. a system of conductors and components forming a complete path for an electric current.

**connect:** n. join together so as to provide access and communication.

**device:** n. an invention serving a particular purpose, especially a machine used to perform one or more relatively simple tasks.

**electricity:** n. a form of energy resulting from the existence of charged particles (such as electrons or protons), either statically as an accumulation of charge or dynamically as a current.

**electron:** n. a negatively charged particle found in all atoms and acting as the primary carrier of electricity.

**energy:** n. the capacity to perform work.

**magnetic field:** n. region around a magnet within which the force of magnetism acts.

**magnetic pole:** n. 1 each of the points near the extremities of the axis of rotation of the earth where a magnetic needle point. 2 each of the two points of a magnet to which the lines of magnetic force are directed.

**mains:** n. (**the mains**) <sup>Brit.</sup> public water, gas, or electricity supply through pipes or cables to our homes. The wall outlets for electricity.

**parallel:** n. (of electrical components or circuits) connected to common points at each end, so that the current is divided between them.

**proton:** n. a particle in the nucleus of an atom, with a positive electric charge equal in magnitude to that of an electron.

**repulsion:** n. a force which makes objects to move away from each other, e.g. through having the same magnetic polarity or electric charge.

**search:** n. try to find something by looking carefully and thoroughly.

**series:** n. (of electrical components or circuits) arranged so that the current passes through each component successively.

**switch:** n. a device for making and breaking an electrical connection.

**volt:** n. the International System unit of electric potential.

**wire:** n. metal string, used for fencing, to carry an electric current, etc.

