

Physics Terms Study Sheet 4

1. oscillation Movement back and forth at a regular speed.
2. parallax The apparent displacement of an object because of a change in the observer's point of view.
3. photon A particle representing a quantum of light.
4. photoelectric effect The emission of electrons when light shines on a material.
5. Planck Scientist known for his quantum theory.
6. plasma The fourth state of matter, consisting of ionized gas.
7. polarization The orientation of the oscillations in a wave.
8. potential The energy possessed by a body due to its position.
9. power The rate at which work is done.
10. pressure The force exerted per unit area.
11. proton A subatomic particle with a positive charge.
12. quark A type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter.
13. quantum The minimum amount of any physical entity involved in an interaction.
14. radioactive decay The process by which an unstable atomic nucleus loses energy.
15. radiation The emission of energy as electromagnetic waves.
16. redshift The phenomenon where the wavelength of light is stretched.
17. reflection The return of light or sound waves from a surface.
18. refraction The bending of a wave when it enters a medium where its speed is different.
19. relativity The theory developed by Einstein explaining the relationships between space, time, and gravity.
20. resistance The opposition to the flow of electric current.