Progressive wave = An oscillation that travels through matter or a vacuum and transfers energy
Transverse wave = Progressive wave where oscillations are perpendicular to direction of energy transfer
Longitudinal wave = A progressive wave where oscillations are parallel to the direction of energy transfer
Displacement = Distance from the equilibrium position
Amplitude = Maximum displacement from the equilibrium position
Wavelength = Minimum distance between two points, in phase on adjacent waves
Period = Time taken for one oscillation or wave to travel 1λ past a given point
Frequency = Number of wavelengths passing a point per unit time
Wave speed = Distance travelled by the wave per unit time
Phase difference = Difference between displacements of particles along a wave
Path difference = Difference in the distance travelled
Reflection = When a wave changes direction at a boundary between 2 different media, remaining in the original medium
Wavefront = A line joining points of the wave which are in phase
Refraction = When wave changes direction as it changes speed when passes from one medium to another
Diffraction = When waves pass through a gap or travel around an obstacle and spread
Polarisation = Particles only oscillating in one direction, the wave being confined to a single plane
Partially polarised = When transverse waves reflect off a surface (so more waves are oscillating in one particular plane)
Intensity = Radiant power passing through a surface per unit area
EM Waves = Electric and magnetic fields oscillating at right angles to each other
Refractive index = Angle at which light is bent depending on relative speed of light
Total internal reflection = All light reflecting back into the medium
Principle of superposition = When 2 waves meet at a point, resultant displacement there is equal to the sum of the displacements of the individual waves
Interference = When 2 waves (progressive) continuously pass through each other, superpose, and produce a resultant wave
Coherence = Waves from 2 sources having a constant phase difference
Stationary wave = When 2 waves with the same frequency and ideally amplitude superpose, travelling in opposite directions
Node = A point on stationary wave where displacement is permanently 0
Antinode = The point of greatest amplitude on stationary wave
Fundamental frequency = The minimum frequency of a stationary wave (string)