

P4.1 Glossary

Degrees Celsius	The unit used for temperature. <i>The melting point of water is 0 degrees Celsius (°C).</i>
Density	The mass per unit volume. <i>Warm fluids have a lower density than cold fluids, causing them to rise.</i>
Displacement	The movement of something from its original position. <i>Irregularly shaped solids can be placed into a displacement can to determine the volume of water that is displaced.</i>
Fluid	A substance with no fixed shape: a liquid or gas. <i>Convection is thermal transfer when particles in a heated fluid rise.</i>
Hydraulic	Relating to liquid under pressure. <i>Hydraulic systems use liquids to act as force multipliers.</i>
Incompressible	Cannot be compressed (has a fixed volume). <i>Liquids and solids are incompressible but gases can be compressed.</i>
Internal energy	The total kinetic energy and potential energy of all the particles in a system. <i>When a substance is heated, its internal energy increases.</i>
Irregular shape	An object that has sides and angles of any length and size, so is not a cube, cuboid, cylinder etc. <i>A jelly baby has an irregular shape.</i>
Kinetic energy	A store of energy that any object or particle has when moving. <i>Particles in a gas have the greatest store of kinetic energy.</i>
Mass	The amount of matter in an object. <i>Mass is measured in kilograms (kg).</i>
Potential energy	A store of energy related to the position of objects or particles. <i>Particles in a gas have the greatest store of potential energy.</i>





Pressure	The amount of force exerted per unit area. <i>Particles in a fluid exert pressure on any surface.</i>
Regular shape	An object that has sides and angles of equal sizes and lengths. <i>A cube has a regular shape.</i>
State	The physical form in which a substance is in: solid, liquid or gas. <i>Melting and boiling are examples of changes of state.</i>
System	A body, object or group of bodies. <i>When looking at the internal energy of a system, you must consider the kinetic and potential energy of all of the particles in it.</i>
Temperature	Related to the average kinetic energy of particles in a system. <i>Temperature is measured in °C.</i>
Upthrust	The upward force that a liquid or gas exerts on an object. <i>If upthrust is greater than weight, an object will float.</i>
Volume	The amount of space that a substance or object takes up. <i>Liquids and solids have a fixed volume.</i>

