

Definitions and Concepts for WJEC (Wales) Physics GCSE

Topic 2.6: The Universe

*Definitions in **bold** are for higher tier only*

Definitions marked by '' are for separate sciences only*

Absorption Spectra: A series of lines that are produced when light from a star is passed through a cool gas. They are unique for each element, and so can be used to identify the chemical composition of the star.

Big Bang Theory: The currently accepted model for the origin of the universe. It suggests that the universe has expanded from an initially very small, hot and dense point.

CMBR: Cosmic microwave background radiation. This is electromagnetic radiation that is found in small quantities all around us. It is suggested to have come from the high energy radiation emitted by the Big Bang.

Cosmological Red-Shift: The observed increase in the wavelength of the light emitted by distant galaxies. The more distant the galaxy, the faster it is moving and so the bigger the observed increase in wavelength.

Doppler Effect: The change in a wave's observed wavelength and frequency when there is relative motion between its source and an observer.

This work by [PMT Education](https://www.pmt.education) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

