A3 the Environment Keywords

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Keyword** | **Definition** |
| **Climate change** | The steady change in conditions on the planet: humidity, cloud cover and wind movement |
| **Indicator organisms** | Organisms that are sensitive to conditions in the environment |
| **Health and safety** | The main concerns of those responsible for staff in a workplace. All workplaces must be safe for people to work in. |
| **Maintenance** | The process of monitoring, cleaning, repairing and regularly servicing equipment to make sure it works well |
| **Professional development** | An activity such as training that develops skills relevant to a job |
| **Proficiency tests** | Tests to check the accuracy of analytical techniques |
| **accreditation** | A system to recognise the standards and reliability of testing labs. |
| **pH** | A measure of whether something is an acid or an alkali |
| **Test kits** | A kit, often of coloured chemicals, stuck to strips of plastic or card that can be used for quick check tests. |
| **Repeatable** | When the instructions for a task allow a new person to follow them exactly |
| **reproducible** | When further tests give the same result |
| **Area** | A measure of the size of flat surfaces (width x length) |
| **True value** | The real value of something that is measured. |
| **Uncertainty** | An indication of the confidence a scientist has in the reliability of the measurement. It can be expressed as a range of values within which the result must lie. |
| **Random errors** | An error that has a **variable** effect on measurements |
| **Systematic errors** | An error that has the **SAME** effect on all measurements |
| **Accuracy** | A measure of how close a result is to the true value |
| **Precision** | A measure of certainty that a reading is close to the true value |
| **Sample** | A part of something taken for analysis |
| **Representative** | Having properties that are the same as the rest of the item or set |
| **Label** | Information that helps to identify a sample |
| **Deterioration** | A samplehas changed over time and is no longer representative |
| **Contamination** | Something extra has got into the sample so that it is no longer representative |
| **Tampering** | Deliberately changing the contents of a sample |
| **Sharpness of contrast** |  |
| **Contrast** | A measure of how easy it is to distinguish dark areas from light areas |
| **Magnification** | A measure of how much an image has increased in size compared to the object it shows |
| **Depth of field** | The distance between the nearest and furthest objects that are in focus in an image. When depth of field is narrow, only objects at a particular distance are in focus. |
| **Litmus** | An indicator chemical that is red in acidic conditions and blue in alkaline conditions. |
| **Universal indicator** | A mixture of indicator chemicals that gives a specific colour at each different pH.  |
| **Qualitative** | Relating to what substances are present |
| **Semi-quantitative** | Giving an indication of the amounts of substances present |
| **Intensity** | The loudness of a sound or how much energy reaches your ear per second. Intensity depends on amplitude |
| **Turbidity** | The measure of the cloudiness of a sample of a liquid. E.g. Water. Light does not pass through turbid samples |
| **Suspended** | Particles that are floating in a liquid. You cannot see through a suspension. |
| **Dissolved** | When a solid dissolves in water the molecules separate from each other and ‘disappear’. |