

Year 9 Construction and the Built Environment

Unit One key terms to learn over the summer holidays

1	Performance	How a building provides a comfortable safe environment for its occupants.
2	Stable	When a structure can keep its balance without moving.
3	Sustainability	Preserving resources for future generations and minimising impact of construction activities on the natural environment.
4	Ratio	The proportion of one thing to another. For example if a ratio of water: cement is 1:2, there is twice as much cement as water
5	Coniferous	Trees that have cones, such as pine larch and fir. Timber used from these trees is also called soft wood
6	Deciduous	These are trees whose leaves fall during the year. Examples include oak, beech, ash and walnut. Timber used from these trees is also called hardwood
7	Hard-core	Materials such as broken bricks, stone or concrete, which are hard and do not readily absorb water or deteriorate
8	Aggregate	A term used to describe the rock material used in concrete and hard-core such as gravel and sand
9	Wall tie	A component used to join the two halves or skins of a cavity wall
10	Intumescent paint	Paint that swells up when heated. This makes it fire resistant.
11	Thermal insulation	Insulation against heat loss
12	Pointing	Filling the joints in brickwork with mortar to improve appearance and weatherproofing
13	Screed	This is made from cement and sand to provide a level surface before a floor is laid
14	Double glazing	Technology used to make windows less likely to lose heat.
15	Adjacent	Next to or touching something
16	uPVC cladding	A covering made up of un-plasticised polyvinyl chloride
17	Useful Life	The length of time that a building fulfils the needs of the people who live or work in it
18	Sustainability	Meeting the needs of the present without giving up the needs and right of the future
19	Fossil Fuels	Non-renewable fuels such as coal oil gas or peat
20	Brownfield	Sites that have already been used
21	Greenfield	Sites that have never been used before
22	Orientation	The direction the building faces
23	Prefabricated	Describes the parts of the building that have been made in a factory and brought on site for assembly only.
24	Render	A type of plaster finish used on external as well as internal walls. It can improve a building's insulation.
25	Cladding	A covering or coating on the outside of a structure.