

Physics 1214 - General Physics II

Quiz #19 - 2013.03.08

Solutions

1. What is the difference between specular and diffuse reflection?

Specular reflection is reflection at a definite angle. Diffuse reflection is a scattered reflection, normally requiring a reflection off of a rough surface.

2. Why does light appear to 'spread out' when sent through a prism?

All wavelengths of light have different indexes of refraction, thus Snell's law gives different results based on the wavelength of light. White is a combination of all colors, and thus all colors are sent into the prism, and are *dispersed* as the travel through the prism. They then leave at different locations out the opposite end of the prism.