DEFINITIONS WORTH KNOWING

CAN AIR COUNT AS INSULATION?

Like BS 7671, this book has a definitions section, and the exam draws on it.

TERM	MEANING
Accessible metal part	Any metal part that can be touched by a test finger, or reached by a probe, that is electrically connected to the equipment's metal parts. **This is where your test probe goes**
Basic insulation	The single layer between you and a live part — the plastic casing, the insulation on a conductor. It can even be **air**
Basic protection	Protection against shock under fault-free conditions — enclosures, covers, sleeving, busbar guards
Fault protection	Protection against shock under a **single fault**, such as basic insulation failing
Exposed conductive part	Metalwork that can become live under fault conditions
Double insulation	**Basic plus supplementary** insulation

> **Basic insulation can be air.**
> Around a heating element you may have nothing but an air gap doing the job. It's a genuine insulator — along with plastic, wood, glass, rubber and ceramic.

POLARITY

Polarity is simply line and neutral being in the right terminals. Get them swapped and you have **reverse polarity**.

> ✋ Polarity **is** checked as part of the inspection, and you'll meet it repeatedly in inspection and testing.

Section 2 · definitions

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