## Common Electric and Electronic Symbols \* - not to be on the test

COMPONENT	SYMBOL	FUNCTION
Wire		To pass current very easily from one part of a circuit to another.
Wires Connected		A 'blob' should be drawn where wires are connected (joined), but it is sometimes omitted.
Wires Not Connected		In diagrams it's often necessary to show wires crossing even though they're not connected. Many prefer the 'hump' symbol on the right because the simple crossing on the left may be misread as a connection where you forgot to add a 'blob'!
*Fuse		A safety device which will 'blow' (melt) if the current flowing through it exceeds a specified value.
Ground (earth)	-	A connection to the earth.
DC Power Supply	+0	DC = Direct Current, always flowing in one direction.
AC Power Supply	o ~	AC = Alternating Current, continually changing direction.
Microphone		A transducer which converts sound to electrical energy.
Amplifier		An amplifier circuit with one input. Actually it's a block diagram symbol because it represents a <i>circuit</i> rather than just one component.

Loudspeaker		A transducer which converts electrical energy to sound.
On-Off Switch		An on-off switch allows current to flow only when it is in the closed (on) position.
2-Way Switch		A 2-way switch directs the flow of current to one of two routes according to its position.
*Inductor		A coil of wire which creates a magnetic field when current passes through it. It is used in guitar pickups, for example.
Capacitor		A capacitor stores electric charge. When the maximum storage capacity is reached, a discharge may take place.
Resistor		A resistor restricts the flow of current. It may appear in either shape.
*Variable Resistor	<u> </u>	This type of variable resistor with 2 contacts (a rheostat) is usually used to control current.
Transformer	3  {	Two coils of wire linked by an iron core. Transformers are used to step up (increase) and step down (decrease) AC voltages. Energy is transferred between the coils by the magnetic field in the core.
*Diode	<del></del>	Diodes allow electricity to flow in only one direction. The arrow of the circuit symbol shows the direction in which the current can flow.
*Transistor	-	Transistors amplify current. For example they can be used to amplify the small output current from a radio signal and amplify it for use in a stereo received.