What is conservative framing

Conservation framing indicates the methods, rules, techniques and materials utilised in framing works on paper that are of substantial artistic, historical or affective value for which the main purpose of the frame is to protect and conserve the work for a long period of time.
The decorative purpose of the frame assumes a secondary function even though the ideal would be to reconcile both the frame's conservative function and its' aesthetic purpose.

The pH value is commonly referred to as the pH factor.

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	6,5 - 7 - 7,5	8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14
acidic	neutral	alkaline

The acidity and alkalinity of a substance is measured on a scale from 1 to 14 and this scale is called a pH scale.
If a particular substance has a pH of zero then it is totally acidic, if it has a pH of 14 it is totally alkaline, if it has an intermediate pH (about 7) it means that it has a neutral pH.

This table lists the most common defects of prints:

Damaged paper

- **Discolouring and fading of colours** - This is caused by exposure to light and is unfortunately irreversible. The worst types of light are direct and/or indirect sunlight and fluorescent light. If the picture is exposed to this type of light it undergoes chemical changes and not only will the colours fade the paper itself, but the paper can also eventually become more brittle.

- **Ripples and waves (cockling)** - Paper tends to expand with humidity and to contract with heat hence if the framed picture is unable to expand it will tend to lift creating ripples.

- **Dark stains on the picture** - There can be various types and are often caused by previous unsuitable framing methods. A typical stain is one due to acids that have migrated from the mountboard to the picture.

- **Deterioration and decay** - The degradation is worsened with exposure to light, humidity and high temperatures.