

Practical Companion

for GCSE (9–1) AQA Physics

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource contains all the information required to prepare, execute, analyse and revise for the required practical activities for the physics components of the AQA GCSE science courses. Each section provides a complete resource for the delivery of lessons to cover each of the required practicals in all the courses. A comprehensive description of the contents is provided below. Additional information and sheets are included to give students further context and understanding of the course. Developed after more than 25 years of practical science teaching, each practical includes:

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

- **Introduction:** Each section begins with a teacher's introduction to explain the purpose of the practical. Practical considerations are highlighted, including aspects of the set-up that must be prepared before the lesson. A set of starter questions is presented to aid the planning of the lesson. A full apparatus list is also given in this section. Suggestions are made for the timing of the lesson; this is given as a rough guide to aid individual planning.
- **Pre-lab:** This work is intended to be completed prior to the lesson, potentially as a pre-lesson homework, or as the final section to the theory lessons in preparation for the practical in the next lesson. The practical lesson can then begin with a review of the answers as part of the starter activity.
- **Student instructions:** These easy to photocopy sheets provide the method for each of the required practicals. They give step-by-step instructions and diagrams. Any safety information is highlighted at the start of each sheet.
- **Analysis and evaluation:** These sheets can be completed in two parts. It is advisable to aim to complete the analysis section in class as some students might require support to produce the correct graphs and complete the calculation. The evaluation section can be completed independently, either as homework or as part of a review lesson.
- **Exam-style questions:** Questions focusing on the practical work to afford the students practice for these questions in the final examination. Each set of questions should take an average student around 15–20 minutes to complete.
- **Answer sheets:** Answers to the questions posed in the pre-lab and exam-style questions sections are given on these pages. These also contain a theoretical set of data for use in the event of a problem with the practical, or for students who are absent. This also suggests a design for a table which can be shown to any students who need help designing a suitable table for recording their data.
- **Student design sheet:** Some of the practicals contain this alternative to the instructions. These should be used instead of the student instruction sheets to allow students to plan their own method for the practical.
- **Sample results:** Sample results are provided for use in the event of practical problems or if a student is away during the lesson.

The completion of practical work is central to the tenets of Science and Physics. As well as helping to reinforce the knowledge imparted in regular lessons, the methods and concepts behind required practical activities can be tested in the final examinations for the Trilogy, Synergy and Physics GCSE courses. The following practical activities are designed to prepare students for their final examinations, while ensuring they have completed the Apparatus and Techniques (AT) skills that are expected by the examination board. A grid has been provided overleaf which illustrates how each required practical activity links to the ATs.

Apparatus and Techniques criteria addressed

Required practical	Apparatus and Techniques criteria				
	1	2	3	4	5
Specific heat capacity	X				X
Thermal insulation	X				X
Resistance	X				
I–V characteristics					
Density	X				
Force and extension	X	X			
Acceleration	X	X	X		
Waves				X	
Light (Physics only)				X	
Radiation (Physics only)	X			X	

AT number	Summary of technique
1	use appropriate apparatus to accurately measure mass, time and
2	use appropriate apparatus to measure and observe the effect of of springs
3	use appropriate apparatus and techniques to measure motion, for determination of speed and rate of change of speed (acceleration)
4	make observations of waves in fluids and solids to identify the speed apparatus to measure speed, frequency and wavelength
5	use, in a safe manner, appropriate apparatus to measure energy associated values, such as work done
6	use appropriate apparatus to measure current, potential difference and to explore the characteristics of a variety of circuit elements
7	use circuit diagrams to construct and check series and parallel circuits common circuit elements
8	make observations of waves in fluids and solids to identify the speed apparatus to measure the effects of the interaction of waves with

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Required Practical 1: Specific Heat Capacity

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.1.1.3 Energy changes in systems	4.1.1.4 Heating and changes of state
AT criteria	AT 1, AT5	

The purpose of this practical is to allow students to compare the heat capacity of identical masses. The materials suggested are copper, iron and aluminium, but other materials (e.g. brass) may be used, depending on the resources you have available. The students should perform the following calculations:

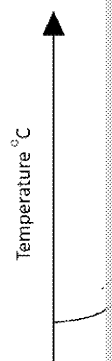
- Thermal energy in joules
- Electrical power in watts, calculated from the measurement of potential difference using voltmeters and ammeters. Formula: *electrical power = potential difference × current*
 - Depending on the apparatus used, the ability of the students and the time available, it may be acceptable to tell the students the power rating of the heater, if desired (depending on supplier.)
- Mass in kg – although each block should have a mass of 1 kg, this should be verified
- Work done or energy transferred in joules, calculated from: *energy transferred = electrical power × time*

Critically, the students should understand the idea of specific heat capacity as the energy required to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a material by 1 °C.

Key formula: *change in thermal energy = mass × specific heat capacity × change in temperature*

Students will need to be familiar with calculating the gradient of a line from a graph. A reminder of this may be required prior to either the lesson or the section on analysis of data.

The graph illustrates a typical set of data from this investigation.



Suggested questions

At the start of the lesson consider asking some of the following questions:

- What do we use to measure current and voltage in an electrical circuit?
- What are the equations for electrical power and energy transferred?
- What does the specific heat capacity of a material tell us about that material?
- Do all materials have the same specific heat capacity?
- How could knowing the specific heat capacity of a material be useful (for example, in the design of a spacecraft)?
- When a manned spacecraft re-enters Earth's atmosphere, it experiences very high temperatures. To protect the craft and the passengers from being harmed, the outside of the craft is covered in tiles. Do the tiles need to have a high or low specific heat capacity?

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Planning considerations

When setting up the apparatus, students often need reminding that an ammeter is wired in series and a voltmeter in parallel; this is covered in the first activity in the pre-lab questions as a reminder.

The blocks have some thermal inertia, so the change in temperature will be non-linear for the first part of the investigation for each new block used. Students should be advised to ignore this section of the graph when adding lines of best fit and calculating gradients in the analysis section of their work. Similarly, the readings on the ammeter and the voltmeter should be allowed to settle when first used as these readings can change as the heater warms at the beginning of the session.

It is important to insulate the blocks to reduce heat loss to the air. Most commercial blocks come with suitable insulation. Adding a small drop of water into the hole for the thermometer improves the responsiveness of the thermometer to the changes in the temperature of the material.

It is advisable to have demonstrated this equipment during the teaching of the topic so that students are familiar with the set-up and data collection using this apparatus, which is not always used for other investigations.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs, etc.
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Apparatus

- Three blocks of metal: one each of copper, iron and aluminium. Each of the blocks has two holes drilled into the top. The smaller hole is for the thermometer; the larger hole is for the heater.
- Insulating material to wrap around the blocks
- Low voltage supply set at 12 V (or as directed by your teacher)
- An ammeter and a voltmeter with connecting leads
- Heater unit
- Thermometer
- Pipette
- Stopwatch
- Electric balance
- Heatproof mat

Each student, or group of students, will need each piece of apparatus, with the exception of the low voltage supply, which can be shared. This is needed only briefly to verify the mass of each block before the practical.

Blocks of material: these can be shared, with each person working on a different material. The order in which use them is not important. Note, however, that some time will be needed to let each block reach room temperature.

Blocks purchased from many suppliers can be supplied with suitable insulating material, or may have to be added to the order, depending on the supplier. Alternatively, cotton wool or cotton-wool like materials as an insulator. Plastics, including bubble wrap, can also be used. Some of the blocks can get very warm – over 70 °C.

Timings

Pre-lab task: 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for checking of answers.
Practical: Allow a minimum of 45 minutes. Each block is heated for 10 minutes, data is recorded, graphs are drawn, tables, etc.

Analysis: 15–20 minutes to draw graphs, add lines of best fit and complete calculations.
Evaluation: 20 minutes, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected in and discussed, or holding a class discussion.

Exam-style questions: 15 minutes if completed in class time. However, as this practical is not a course, students may not be familiar with working at the pace required in a formal exam. It is a good idea to indicate to students that, in the final exam, they will be required to answer these types of question in around 10–15 minutes maximum.

Specific heat capacity required practical: pre-lab task

- The circuit diagram shows the simple circuit you will use in this practical. The ammeter and the voltmeter are missing from the diagram. Using the correct symbols, suggest where each of them should be placed to gain a correct reading of the current and the potential difference across the heater.

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- If the reading on the ammeter were 5 A and the reading on the voltmeter was 12 V, what is the power rating of the heater? ($P = IV$)

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- How many joules of energy are transferred by the heater in a two-minute period? (Assume the power rating of the heater is 12 W.)

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- Once you have collected your data, you will need to use the following equation to calculate the specific heat capacity of the different materials: *change in thermal energy = mass \times specific heat capacity \times change in temperature*. Rearrange this to make specific heat capacity the subject of the equation.

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- During this practical you will be using the electrical heater to heat the blocks of material. List three safety considerations when working with any method that involves heating.

1.
2.

- Give a brief explanation of the term *specific heat capacity* and state the units of specific heat capacity for materials.

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Specific heat capacity required practical: student instructions

Apparatus

- Three blocks of metal: one each of copper, iron and aluminium. Each block has a hole through the top. The smaller hole is for the thermometer; the larger hole is for the heater.
- Insulating material to wrap around the blocks
- Low voltage supply set at 12 V (or as directed by your teacher)
- An ammeter and a voltmeter with connecting leads
- Heater unit
- Thermometer
- Pipette
- Stopwatch
- Electric balance
- Heatproof mat

Method

1. Draw a results table to record the mass of each block.
2. Collect your first block; measure and record the mass.
3. Wrap the insulating material around the block; place the block on the heatproof mat.
4. Insert the heater into the larger of the two holes in the block.
5. Connect the heater to the circuit as shown. Ensure the low voltage supply is set to 12 V (or as directed by your teacher).
6. Turn the heater on briefly, just long enough to ensure the ammeter and the voltmeter are giving steady readings. Record these values to one decimal place below Table 1.

Current = _____ amps

Potential difference = _____ volts

Calculate the power of the heater using:

$$\text{power (watts)} = \text{current} \times \text{potential difference}$$

Record your result. You will need this to complete Table 2 **after** you have collected all your results.

7. Draw a results table to record the time in seconds (up to 10 minutes) against the work done by the heater for each of the three blocks.
8. Using the pipette, place a drop of water into the hole for the thermometer. Wait for the water to settle into the hole.
9. Record the initial temperature before the heater is turned on.
10. Turn on the heater and start the stopwatch.
11. Measure the temperature every 30 seconds for 10 minutes (600 seconds). Record the temperature in your results table.
12. Repeat steps 2 to 5 for the other two materials.
13. Calculate the work done at each time interval for each material used, and compare the work done with the energy transferred from the heater to the block.

$$\text{work done (J)} = \text{power of heater (W)} \times \text{time (s)}$$

Note: the power of the heater was calculated in step 6 and should be recorded in your results table.

Caution: when packing away, remember that the heater and the block may become hot and should be handled with care.

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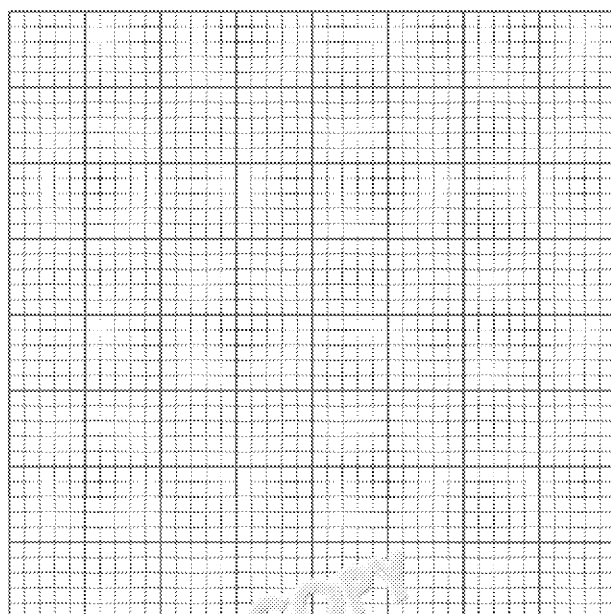
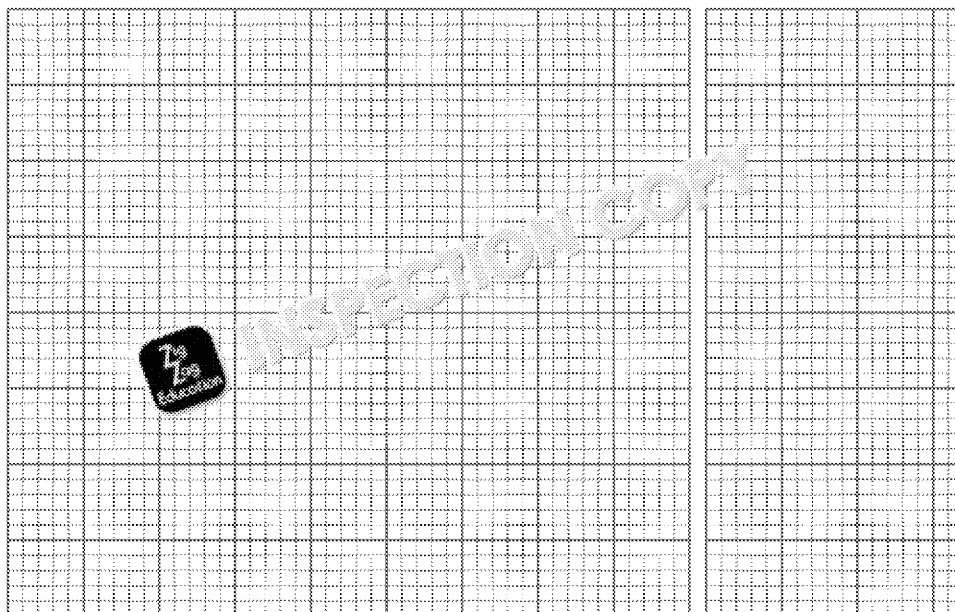


Specific heat capacity required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

Task 1

Plot the results onto three graphs. For each graph, label the x-axis 'Work done (J)' and the y-axis 'Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)'.



Task 2

Add a line of best fit to each graph.

Task 3

Calculate the gradient of the line of best fit for each graph.

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Task 4

Calculate the heat capacity of each block, using the following formula:

$$\text{heat capacity} = 1 \div \text{gradient of the line}$$

This gives the amount of energy needed to heat the individual blocks by 1 °C.

Heat capacity of copper block _____ J / °C

Heat capacity of iron block _____ J / °C

Heat capacity of aluminium block _____ J / °C

Task 5

Calculate the specific heat capacity of each material using the following formula:

$$\text{change in energy} = \text{mass} \times \text{specific heat capacity} \times \text{change in temperature}$$

Rearrange this formula to find the specific heat capacity. Check your answer with



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Record your results for each material in a suitable table in the space below.



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Evaluation

- Which material requires the least amount of energy to increase its temperature?

Material requiring the least amount of energy:

Material requiring the most amount of energy:

- All data collected during investigations will have some experimental error.
 - What did you do in this investigation to minimise any experimental error?

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- By looking at each graph and comparing the line of best fit with the scatter plot, how accurate your lines of best fit are.

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- Suggest one way in which this investigation could be made more accurate and made more reproducible.

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- Cooking pans are often made from aluminium, steel (containing iron) or copper. Which material would be the best for this application? Explain your reasoning.

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Specific heat capacity required practical: exam-style question

1. A student wishes to find the specific heat capacity of the alloy brass. She uses an electric heater, connected to a power supply.
 - a. The student measures the current through and the potential difference across the heater using a voltmeter and an ammeter. The current was measured at 5.0 A, and the potential difference was 12.0 V. Using her results, calculate the power rating of the heater used.

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- b. The student measured the temperature of the block as 20.0 °C at the start of the experiment. After 5 minutes, the temperature had risen to 31.6 °C.

- i. Show that the work done (energy transferred) by the heater during the 5 minutes is 300 J.

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- ii. Calculate the specific heat capacity of the brass using the data obtained from the experiment and the equation from the equation sheet.

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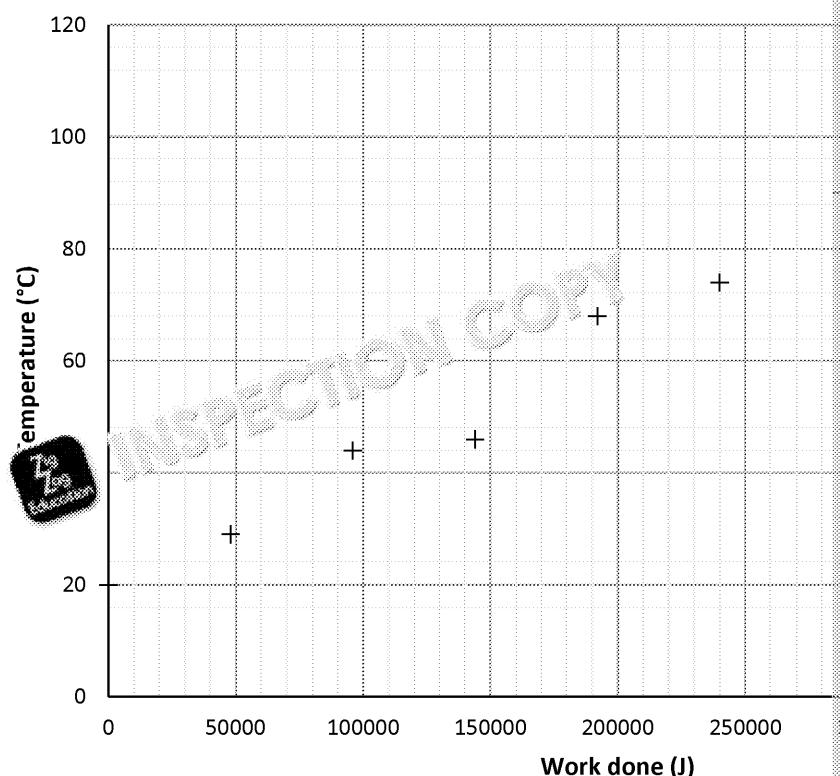
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2. The temperature change of 1 kg of water was measured as it was heated from point using an immersion heater. The data is presented in the graph below.

Work done against temperature change



- a. Draw a line of best fit to show the relationship between the work done and temperature of the water.
- b. How much energy was transferred to the water to heat it to boiling point?

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- c. Identify which data point(s) may be anomalous. Explain your reason for

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- d. How could you verify whether the result/results identified in part c is an

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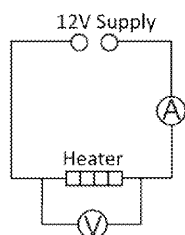
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Specific heat capacity required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1.



2. a. Power = current \times potential difference ($P = IV$)
Power = $5 \times 12 = 60 \text{ watts}$
b. Work done = power \times time ($E = Pt$)
Work done = $60 \times (2 \times 60 \text{ s}) = 7200 \text{ joules}$
3. Specific heat capacity = $\frac{\text{Change in thermal energy}}{\text{Mass} \times \text{Change in temperature}}$
4. Any two of the following – allow other sensible suggestions:
- Place apparatus on a heatproof mat.
 - Do not touch hot materials/objects with bare hands.
 - Consider whether safety goggles may be needed.
 - Allow apparatus to cool before handling.
 - Avoid rapid cooling of materials as this can lead to them shattering.
5. Specific heat capacity indicates the amount of energy exchanged with the environment to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a material by 1 °C.
[Students may reasonably express this as the energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a material by 1 °C (or joules per kilogram per degree Celsius).]

Analysis

Tasks 1 to 4 will need to be checked against student's own data.

Task 5

Specific heat capacity = $\frac{\text{Change in thermal energy}}{\text{Mass} \times \text{Change in temperature}}$

Specific heat capacities of materials used – allow reasonable experimental error:

Copper – 385 J/kg °C

Iron – 500 J/kg °C

Aluminium – 913 J/kg °C

Where a student's data is in error compared to expected results, give credit for correct calculation.

Evaluation

1. Least energy: copper
Most energy: aluminium
Student's individual data may not agree with the theoretical values; give credit for correct calculation while acknowledging that this differs from the accepted values.
2. a. Answer might include:
- Used insulation to reduce the heat lost to the environment (air)
 - Used a large volume of water to improve the accuracy of the temperature measurement
 - Used an accurate stop clock for timings
 - Used a digital ammeter and voltmeter
- b. Answer will depend on the student's data. Credit should be given for explaining the spread of data and how close to the line of best fit the more reliable the data.
3. Accuracy could be improved by using either a digital thermometer or a thermometer with a smaller scale. More insulation to the top and bottom of the block to further reduce heat loss. The reproducibility can be improved by replication of the experiment / sharing of data.
4. Assuming the student's data is in line with the theoretical values, copper is the best material to heat up, thus it will transfer the heat to the food faster and use less energy to do so compared to the other materials if the student's individual data supports the logic.

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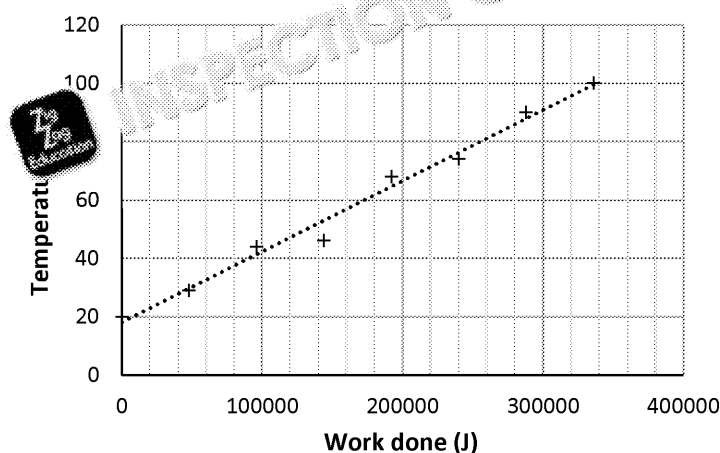
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Exam-style questions

1. a. Power = current \times potential difference (1)
 Power = 5×8 (1)
 = 40 watts (1)
- b. i. Work done = power \times time (1)
 Work done = $40 \times (5 \times 60 \text{ seconds})$ (1)
 Work done = 12 000 J
- ii. Change in thermal energy = mass \times change in temperature \times specific heat capacity (1)
 Specific heat capacity = $\frac{\text{Change in thermal energy}}{\text{Mass} \times \text{Change in temperature}}$ (1)
 Change in thermal energy = work done = 12 000 J
 Change in temperature = $51.6 - 20 = 31.6^\circ\text{C}$ (1)
 Specific heat capacity = $12\,000 \div (1 \times 31.6) = 379.75 \text{ J/kg }^\circ\text{C}$ (to 2 sf) (1)

2. a.



Allow 2 marks for a reasonable line of best fit. A reasonable line of best fit will Deduct 1 mark if the line is not straight, i.e. a ruler has not been used.

- b. 33 500 J (1)
- c. All students should identify the data point for 144 000 J as an error for 1 mark. Others may also identify the point at 288 000 J. The point(s) may be anomalous as it falls / they fall below the line of best fit. A the pattern described by the other data points. (1)
- d. This could be verified by either replication of the data through repeating the experiment or by comparing with the original data (1) or by comparing their data with the results of other groups. (1) Maximum 2 marks.



Appendix: Sample Results

Student instructions

Results for use in the event of practical problems or if a student is away during the lesson.

This data uses a 50 W heater and assumes no heat losses or thermal inertia.

50 W	Conc	Iron	
Time (s)	Temp (°C)	Work done (J)	Temp (°C)
0	22.0		
60	29.8		
120	37.6		
180	45.4		
240	53.2		
300	61.0		
360	68.8		
420	76.5		
480	84.3		
540	92.1		
600	99.9		

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Required Practical 2: Thermal

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	N/A	N/A
AT criteria	AT 1 and AT 5	

The purpose of this practical is to allow the students to compare different forms of insulation carried out in two parts:

- Part A: comparison of different materials
- Part B: comparison of the effect of the number of layers of a single material

This practical is a good opportunity for students to design their own investigation with direct instructions for the two parts of the method mentioned above, plus an additional piece of guidance to allow the students to plan their own investigation without direct instructions.

Suggested questions

- What types of material are used in winter clothing (jackets, jumpers, etc.) to keep us warm?
- Do any of these materials, or their construction, have any common features?
- When it is very cold, why do we put on extra layers, such as a jumper then a jacket, to keep us warm?
- Where does the thermal energy come from to keep you warm when wearing clothing in the cold?
- Provide the students with some samples of the materials they will use in the investigation, and why these materials might be good or bad thermal insulators. This can make the investigation more interesting by giving one material per group then allowing students a few minutes to prepare their investigation before the class.

Planning consideration

Starting temperature

Option 1: At or near boiling point. This is easy to set up using a kettle to boil water. It gives a rapid decline in temperature due to the larger thermal gradient with the ambient air temperature in the lab. Note that it is a good idea to have several kettles to boil this, and to boil them prior to (or at the start of) the session to save some time. This can be done while the students are completing the pre-lab section of work.

Option 2: At or near body temperature (40 °C). This is a better model of the thermal insulation of materials used in clothing as it mimics the human body. This can help students to put the theory into a practical context. This can be used by placing the practical in the context of what sorts of materials and design would be good for making a sleeping bag / jacket to use on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. (Bronze and silver awards are often part of the wider curriculum for Year 10 students.)



Students should be warned that they should not touch the glass or the hot water as they are using the goggles and the hand.

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If available, it can be quicker to use a set of water baths set at 40 °C or near boiling. In this approach, the water baths should be placed in a position which you can supervise. Give the students the instruction along with a demonstration of how to extract the water sample without disturbing the material.

The instruction sheet assumes that one student is working on one material at a time. It is possible for a student to set up and monitor several beakers at a time. The degree of organisation and concentration on their part. The decision to allow this is up to you, the teacher, and the individual students in your class.

When choosing the material for method B of this practical (layers of material), it is important to choose a good insulator so that the students get a clear and easier to analyse set of data.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Student design sheet – an alternative to the student instructions to allow students to design their own method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and evaluation
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Apparatus

- 250 ml beaker
- Measuring cylinder
- Thermometer (analogue or digital)
- Elastic bands × 2
- Cardboard lid with hole for thermometer
- Heatproof mat
- Heatproof gloves
- Goggles
- Stopwatch or stop clock
- Kettles or water baths
- Insulating materials, such as newspaper, cotton wool, bubble wrap; cloth of cotton and polyester

Each student will need their own apparatus. The kettle / water baths and the materials can be shared by the group. To save time it is preferable to prepare the materials in advance by cutting the insulating material to size and wrapping it around the beaker. Once this is done, they can be stored and reused with other groups.

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10–15 minutes**
- **Practical activity with direct immersion**: parts A and B will both require at least **100 minutes**; therefore, in busy situations, these will need to be completed over two lessons
- **Student design sheet** or **planning stage**: **20 minutes**
- **Analysis**: **20 minutes** to draw graphs then add a cooling curve for each material
- **Evaluation**: **20 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected and marked, or used to hold a class discussion.
- **Exam-style questions**: **15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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Thermal insulation required practical: pre-lab task

1. a. What are the three ways that thermal energy can move away from a warm object?

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- b. Which of these three means of thermal energy transfer allows heat to move **through** the material of your clothing into the air?

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2. During this investigation you will use hot water to model the heat energy produced by a heater. Suggest two variables that must be controlled about the water used to ensure a fair test.

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3. Hot water represents a hazard in this investigation. Suggest at least two ways to minimise the risk to yourself, and to others, when handling hot water in this practical. The water must be at least 60°C.

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4. You will be asked to record your results in a suitable table. This will need to include the time taken for the temperature to drop over a 15-minute period for at least three materials and the column headings needed, along with any units, then draw out a table ready for use. Check this before you start the practical work.

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Thermal insulation required practical: student instructions



CAUTION

- Wear goggles and heatproof gloves when handling hot water and hot beakers.
- Always wear goggles and heatproof gloves when pouring hot water into a beaker.
- Place hot objects onto a heatproof mat.
- Report any spillages/breakages to your teacher or technician.

Apparatus

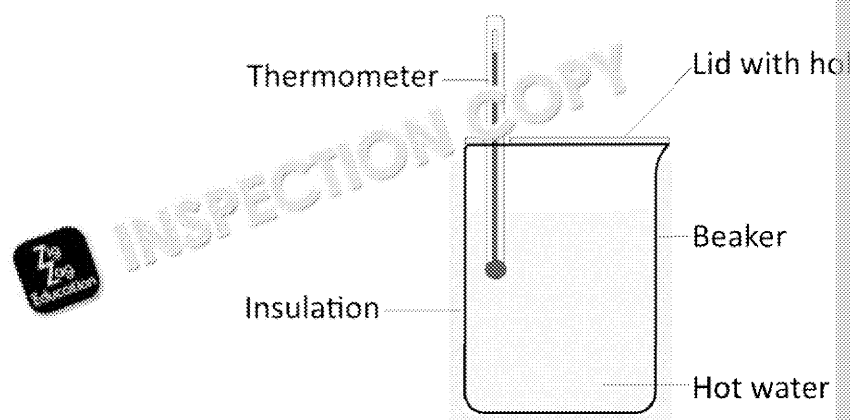
- 250 ml beaker
- Thermometer (analogue or digital)
- 250 ml measuring cylinder
- Elastic bands $\times 2$
- Cardboard lid with hole for thermometer
- Heatproof mat
- Heatproof gloves
- Goggles
- Stopwatch or stop clock
- Kettle or water baths for heating water
- Insulating materials, such as newspaper, cotton wool, bubble wrap; cloth of cotton and polyester

Method Part A – Comparing the thermal insulation of different materials

1. Place 200 ml of warm water into the 250 ml beaker using the measuring cylinder. (Note: the water should be at either 100 °C or 40 °C as directed by your teacher.)

*The first set of data is collected **without** wrapping the beaker.*

2. Place the cardboard lid onto the beaker and place the thermometer through the hole.
3. Record the starting temperature of the water and start the stopwatch.
4. Record the temperature of the water every minute, for 15 minutes.
5. Pour away the water.
6. Choose your first material and record the name of this material in your results table.
7. Wrap the material around the beaker, including the base. Secure it with the elastic bands.
8. Repeat steps 1 to 5.
9. Repeat for two other materials.



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Method Part B – Investigating the effect of layers of material on the

In this part of the investigation you will use only one material. You will investigate how this material around the beaker affects the heat loss from the beaker. You will be given a control, then increase the number of layers to a maximum of three layers.

1. Using your table from part A as a template, draw a suitable table for your results to record the type of material used.
2. Place 200 ml of warm water into the 250 ml beaker using the measuring cylinder. (Note: the water should be at either 100 °C or 40 °C as directed by your teacher.)

The first set of data is collected **without** wrapping the beaker in any material.

3. Place the cardboard lid onto the beaker and place the thermometer through the hole.
4. Record the starting temperature of the water and start the stopwatch.
5. Record the temperature of the water every minute for 15 minutes.
6. Pour away the water.
7. Wrap the first layer around the beaker, securing it with the elastic bands, then repeat the method for two layers, then three layers.
8. Add an additional layer and repeat the method for two layers, then three layers. (NOT use different materials for this part of the investigation.)



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Thermal insulation required practical: student design brief

A group of students are setting off on a summer camp. As part of their challenge to make their own sleeping bags. These must keep them warm overnight at air temperature of 20 °C (close to room temperature).

You have been supplied with a range of affordable materials from which the students will make their sleeping bags.

Your challenge is to provide them with suitable advice on the best material to use, and how to use that material.

Tasks

1. Design an investigation to compare the thermal insulation properties of the materials. Record data as a table and a graph showing the cooling curves of each material.
2. You must then make a recommendation as to which material is the best one to use.
3. Adjust your investigation method to test the effect of increasing the number of layers of material. Present this data as a table and as a graph.
4. Conclude your report by explaining which material the students should use, and how they should use that material. Additionally, you should explain what makes a good insulator in terms of how it controls thermal energy loss. Use your understanding of conduction, convection and radiation in your explanation to the group.

You have access to the following apparatus:

- 250 ml beakers
- Thermometers
- Measuring cylinders
- Elastic bands
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Heatproof mats
- Heatproof gloves
- Goggles
- Stopwatch or stop clock
- Kettle or water baths for heating water
- Insulating materials

Your plan must include:

1. A full apparatus list
2. Safety / risk assessment information
3. A diagram of your set-up
4. A set of step-by-step instructions
5. A plan for your results table

You must not start the experiment until your work and plan have been approved.

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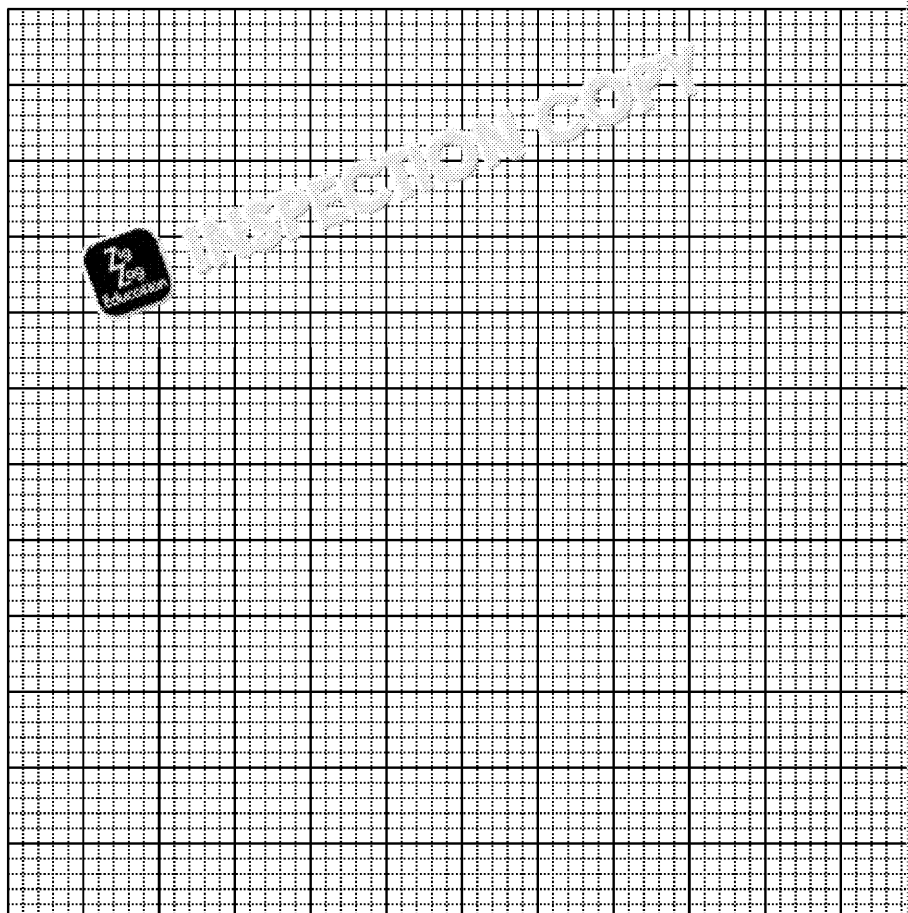


Thermal insulation required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

Part A

1. Use your data to produce a graph to show the cooling curves for each material.
 - Decide which data will be plotted along the x-axis and the y-axis.
 - Decide how you will represent the four different sets of data – colours, symbols, etc.
 - Plot each set of data, adding a line of best fit for the cooling curve.
 - Add a key or labels to your graph to identify the curve for each material.



2. Using your graph, place the materials in order of best to worst insulator.

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3. Calculate the overall temperature change for each material and the control.

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4. Calculate the average drop in temperature per minute for each material, including 15 minutes of this experiment.

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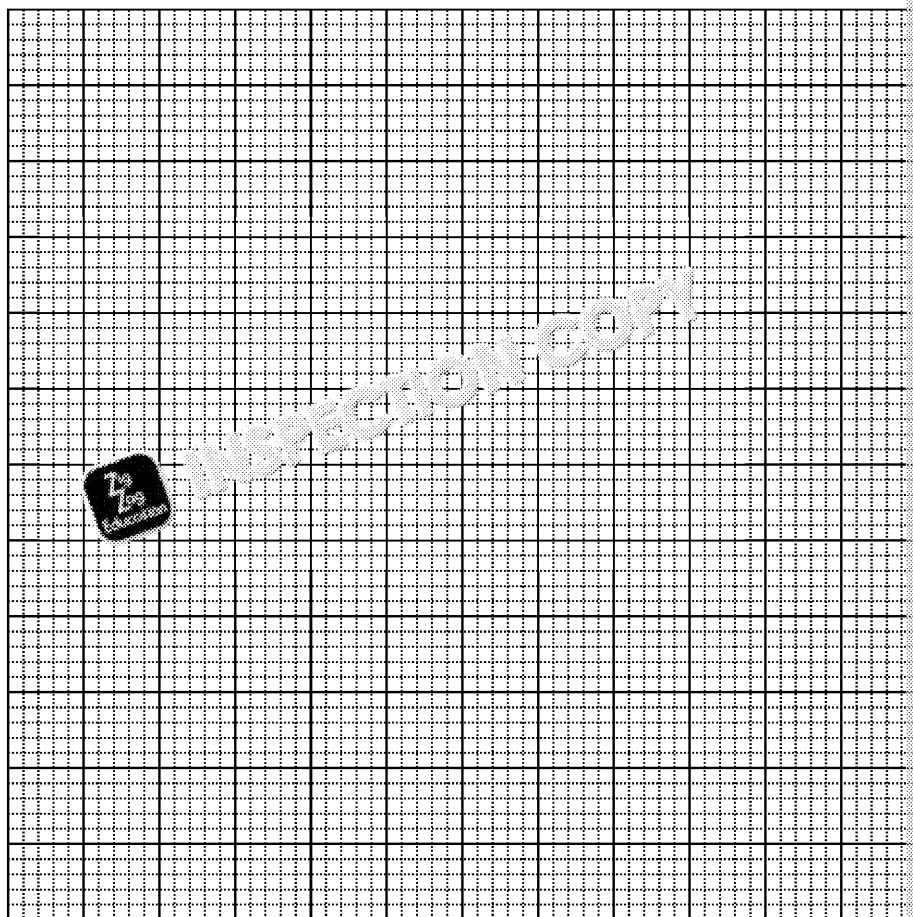
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Part B

1. Draw a graph of your data to illustrate how increasing the number of layers of insulation affects the temperature.



2. Calculate the overall drop in temperature for each set of layers.

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3. Use the results in part 2 (above) and the graph to describe the trend for how drop in temperature.

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Evaluation

1. Thinking about the material that provided the best insulation, what physical property makes it a good insulator? (Hint: think about how the material and its construction reduce conduction, convection or the radiation of the heat energy.)

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2. a. As you increased the number of layers around the beaker in the second experiment, what happened to the drop in temperature over the 15 minutes?

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- b. Suggest two reasons why adding extra layers has this effect on the drop in temperature.

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3. How could you check the repeatability of your data?

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4. Which material would you suggest could be used as a suitable filler in a sleeping bag when camping in the UK during the summer? You may refer to both sets of data to justify your suggestion.

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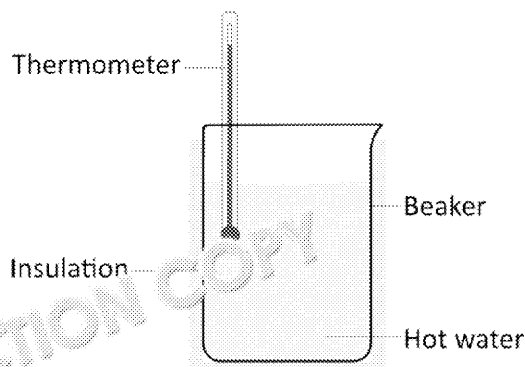
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Thermal insulation required practical: exam-style question

1. A student has designed a practical to investigate the thermal insulation properties of materials that could be used in the lining of a winter jacket. They have used the following apparatus for their investigation.



- a. Suggest a suitable temperature to use for the hot water at the start of the experiment.

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- b. Looking at the diagram of the suggested experiment, how might the student reduce unwanted heat loss?

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- c. The student collected the following results:

Time (min)	0	5	10
Material	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)		
Cotton wool	50	44	40
Hollow polyester fibres	51	48	47

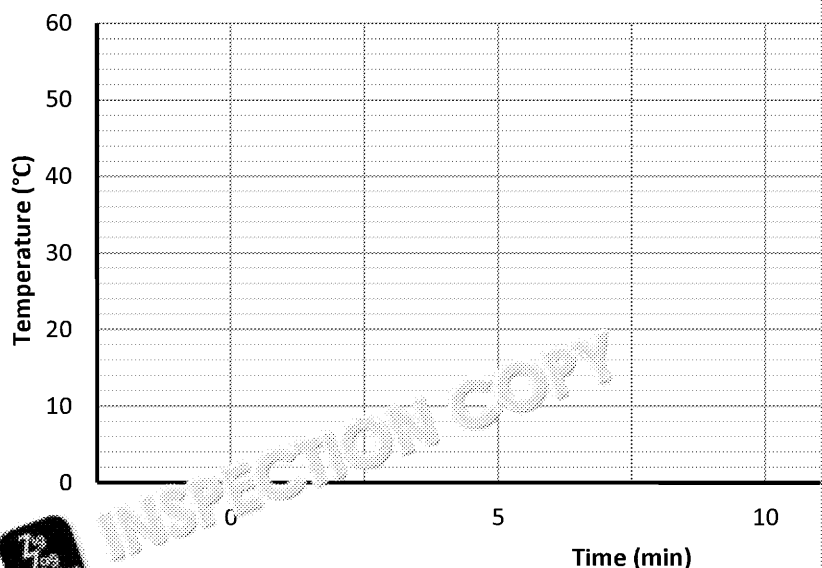
Draw a graph on the following page to represent the student's data. Include a suitable key.

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Change in temperature



- d. Using the graph, justify your choice of material to use for the jacket filling the hollow polyester fibres.

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Thermal insulation required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

- Conduction, convection and radiation (order unimportant)
 - Conduction
- Volume of water used and starting temperature of the water. Students might suggest this response.
- Suggestions might include:
 - Adhere to good lab procedures, i.e. check for obstructions.
 - Use heatproof gloves to handle the beakers containing the hot water.
 - Wear goggles.
 - Keep hands out of the way when pouring hot water from a kettle, i.e. do not hold the surface.

Do not accept using a heatproof mat as an answer to protect the bench not to reduce the

4.

	Control (no material)	Material 1	Material 2
Time (min)	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)		
0			
1			
2			
3			

Note that the same basic structure can be used for the table the students are asked to design for their investigation. The column headings will change from types of material to number of layers. It also provide a place for the material used in part B to be record as part of the table design.

Analysis

Part A

- The graph should place the time (minutes) along the x-axis and the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) along the y-axis. Draw four lines with a key. The lines should be curved not straight to best fit the data.
- The order of the materials will vary according to individual results, but the one with the least temperature drop is the best insulator.
- Answers will vary depending on individual results.
- The results should have the answers from point 3 above divided by 15 to give the average rate of heat loss.

Part B

- The set-up of the graph is the same as above (Part A, point 1).
- Data will vary according to student's results.
- The increase in layers should produce a shallower curve to the line and result in a lower rate of heat loss. Student might also note that there is a more gradual decline in temperature as the number of layers increases.

Evaluation

- Answers will vary depending on the material used. However, students might identify:
 - Conduction of heat into the beaker by plastics, wool, etc. as these materials are non-metals and are poor thermal conductors. This slows the transfer of heat away from the hot water.
 - Convection in layers of air trapped within the material (wool, bubble wrap, etc.) which reduces heat loss.
 - Trapped air – air is a poor conductor of heat and, when trapped, acts as a good insulator.
 - Radiation – any heat radiated from the beaker is quickly absorbed by the insulating material.
- The increase in layers leads to a reduction in the overall drop in temperature.
 - The layers trap air. These layers of trapped air are poor conductors of heat. Each new layer acts as a barrier to the conduction of heat and slows the process.

Note: It is a common error for students to suggest that layers of material or layers of air stop heat loss. This misconception should be corrected as they slow the loss rather than stop it.

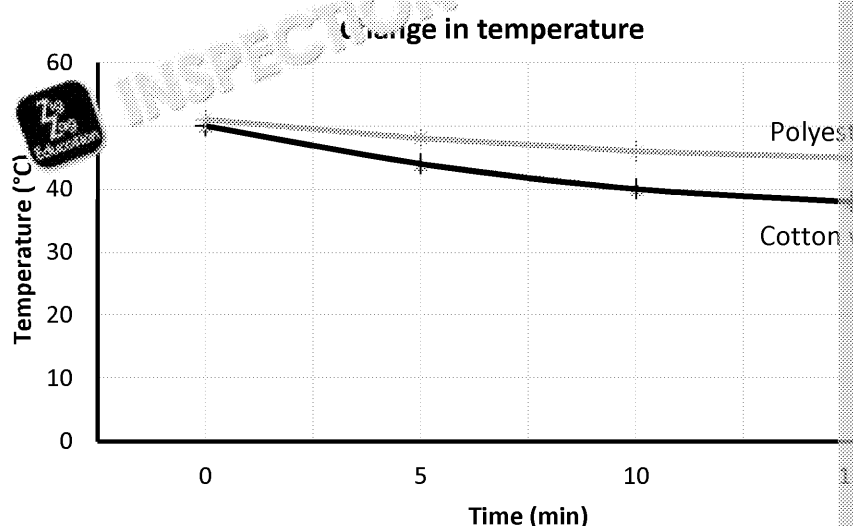
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3. Repeat the experiment several times to gain averages or compare data with other groups.
4. The answer will vary according to the materials used and the student's data.
 - They should choose the material that is suitable for the purpose and which gave the best results. Some students might also use the data in part B to suggest that the filling of the bag with thin layers to help further improve the thermal insulating properties of the bag. They should mention other useful properties such as comfort and water resistance.

Exam-style questions

1. a. A temperature close to 37 °C (1) to mimic body temperature (1).
Allow other starting points, providing they state a temperature and justify this. For example, to replicate at each set-up, e.g. 100 °C as it is boiling point and easy to replicate. 1 mark is allocated to stating a given temperature that is logical and the other 1 mark is allocated to justifying the choice.
- b. Place a covering over the top of the beaker; add more layers of insulation; use the data to compare the results.
- c.



Correct plotting of data points – 2 marks (1 mark for each set of data)

Cooling curves passing through each point – 1 mark

Inclusion of key or labels on lines – 1 mark

- d. Hollow polyester fibres (1)
Either – the line has the shallowest curve (1),
or – evidence that the student used the graph to calculate the overall drop in temperature (1).

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Appendix: Sample Results

Results for use in the event of practical problems or if a student is away during the lesson

Part A

	Control (no material)	Cotton wool	Paper (80 GSM)
Time (min)	Temperature (°C)		
0	40.0	40.0	40.0
1	37.0	40.0	38.0
2	35.0	39.0	37.0
3	33.0	39.0	35.0
4	32.0	38.0	33.0
5	31.0	37.0	33.0
6	31.0	37.0	32.0
7	30.0	35.0	31.0
8	30.0	35.0	31.0
9	28.0	34.0	30.0
10	27.0	33.0	29.0
11	26.0	33.0	29.0
12	25.0	32.0	29.0
13	23.0	31.0	28.0
14	22.0	30.0	27.0
15	21.0	30.0	25.0

Part B

	Control (no material)	1 layer	2 layers
Time (min)	Temperature (°C)		
0	40	40	40
1	39.0	39.0	39.5
2	37.5	38.0	38.5
3	36.5	37.0	38.0
4	35.0	36.0	37.5
5	34.0	35.0	37.0
6	32.5	34.0	36.0
7	31.5	33.0	35.5
8	30.0	32.5	35.0
9	29.0	31.0	34.0
10	28.0	30.5	33.5
11	26.5	29.5	33.0
12	25.5	28.5	32.5
13	24.0	27.5	31.5
14	23.5	27.0	31.5
15	23.0	26.5	31.0

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Required Practical 3: Resistance

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.2.1.3 Current, resistance and potential difference	4.7.2.2 Current, resistance and potential difference
AT criteria	AT 1, AT 6 and AT 7	

The purpose of these two investigations is to explore how resistance changes in a sections:

Part A: investigating how resistance is changed by the length of a conductor

Part B: investigating how resistors behave in series and parallel circuits

The two parts can be conducted as separate activities in either order by the students

A key feature of the practical is for the students to be able to assemble a circuit for it is important for them to be able to recall and distinguish between series and parallel

Suggested questions

- Ask the students to identify common electrical components from their symbols and names of the components and ask the students to draw the correct symbols.



- Draw a simple series circuit and a simple parallel circuit with the common components.
- What is the mathematical relationship between current, potential difference and the Ohm's law equation?
- What are the units of electrical resistance?
- What is electrical resistance and how would you define it?
- Name a material that has:
 - a high electrical resistance (good insulator)
 - a low electrical resistance (conductor)
- Suggest a situation in which we might want to use a material that has a high resistance.

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Planning considerations

One of the commonest practical errors in setting up the circuits is for the ammeter to be in **incorrect** positions. Please check this before the students begin the data collection to avoid wasting time collecting invalid data.

Although batteries can be used in these investigations, it is recommended that a power supply is used as this provides a more consistent output than batteries, especially if the batteries are not fully charged. It is recommended the LVS used has a lockable voltage control to prevent students from changing the voltage. Note that for consistency with the exam board's approach, the diagrams have been drawn using a power supply rather than an LVS.

The resistance wire used to construct the apparatus for Part B should be constantan wire of 22 SWG.

It is important to do a test run of the first part of the investigation with the wire at a low voltage to ensure the correct voltage from the power supply or batteries. This task should be completed prior to the start of the practical. If the voltage is too high a voltage will result in the wire becoming hot and possibly causing burns and require the apparatus to be replaced during the investigation. Ask the students to set the voltage as advised by their teacher, rather than to set it to a maximum.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and conclusions
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Apparatus

Part A:

- Low voltage supply, or batteries at a voltage of the teacher's choosing (see notes for considerations)
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Connecting wires
- Crocodile clips × 2
- Metre ruler with resistance wire attached

Part B:

- Low voltage supply or batteries
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Connecting wires
- 2 identical resistors (10 Ω)
- Crocodile clips if required to connect to resistors

Each student should need their own apparatus.

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities:** Parts A and B will require a total of **30 minutes**
- **Analysis:** **15 minutes** to draw a graph with line of best fit and complete calculations
- **Evaluation:** **15 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected and marked while holding a class discussion.
- **Exam-style questions:** **15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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Resistance required practical: pre-lab task

1. During this practical you will be using an electrical supply from either a battery or a power supply. Give two safety considerations when using electricity in any investigation.

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2. Rearrange the following equation to make resistance the subject:

$$\text{potential difference} = \text{current} \times \text{resistance}$$



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3. a. In the simple circuit illustrated, the ammeter had a reading of 0.25 A, and the voltmeter had a reading of 2.50 V. Calculate the resistance of the circuit.

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- b. If a second identical resistor were added in series in the above circuit, and the voltmeter reading remained at 2.50 V:

- i. What would happen to the reading on the ammeter?

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- ii. What is the total resistance of the circuit?



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Resistance required practical: student instructions



CAUTION

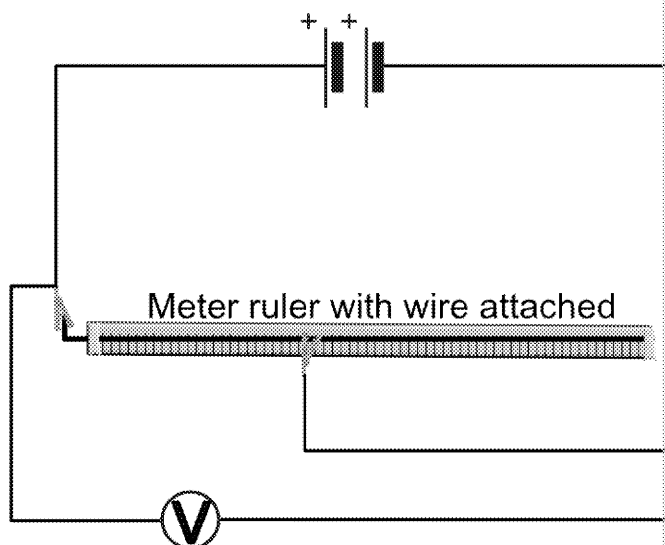
Do not exceed the maximum voltages recommended by your teacher.
This can result in damage to the apparatus and can cause burns from the wires.

Part A: Investigating how the resistance of a wire is affected by its length

Apparatus

- Low voltage supply, or batteries at a voltage recommended by the teacher
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Connecting wires
- Crocodile clips
- Metre ruler with resistance wire attached

Circuit diagram



During this part of the practical, you will need to record the potential difference across the wire as you increase the length of wire through which the current has to flow. At the end of the practical, you will calculate the resistance of the circuit for each length of wire.

Design and draw a results table before you start the practical. You will need space for at least 10 readings.

Show this circuit to your teacher before continuing with the practical.

Method

1. Assemble the circuit as shown in the diagram above. The crocodile clip connecting the power supply to the wire remains attached throughout the practical. The second crocodile clip, connected to the negative side of the power supply, will be moved during the investigation.

Show this circuit to your teacher before continuing with the practical.

2. Connect the second crocodile clip at the 10 cm marker on the ruler.
3. Turn on the low voltage supply if being used.
4. Record the readings on both the ammeter and the voltmeter.
5. Move the crocodile clip along the wire by 10 cm, then record the new readings.
6. Continue this process until you have reached 90 cm.
7. Turn off the power supply and disconnect the components.

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Part B: Resistors in series and in parallel

In this part of the practical you will compare the total resistance of two identical resistors in series and two identical resistors in parallel.

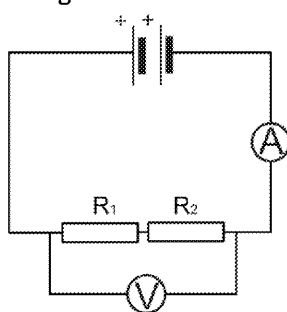
Apparatus

- Low voltage supply, or batteries at a voltage set by the teacher
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Connecting wires
- 2 identical resistors ($10\ \Omega$)

During this investigation you will record the current and the potential difference in a series and a parallel circuit. Produce a suitable table in which to record your data.

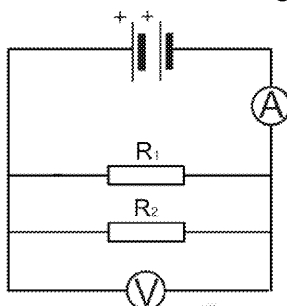
Method

1. Set up the circuit as illustrated in the circuit diagram below.



Note: R_1 and R_2 must have the same resistance.

2. Turn on the low voltage supply or connect the batteries.
3. Record the reading on the ammeter and the voltmeter.
4. Set up the circuit as a parallel circuit as shown in the circuit diagram below.



5. Turn on the low voltage supply or connect the batteries, then record the reading on the ammeter and the voltmeter.
6. Disconnect the components.

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Resistance required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

Part A:

1. Calculate the values for resistance for each length of wire and add them to the table.
Use the formula: *potential difference = current × resistance* ($V = IR$)

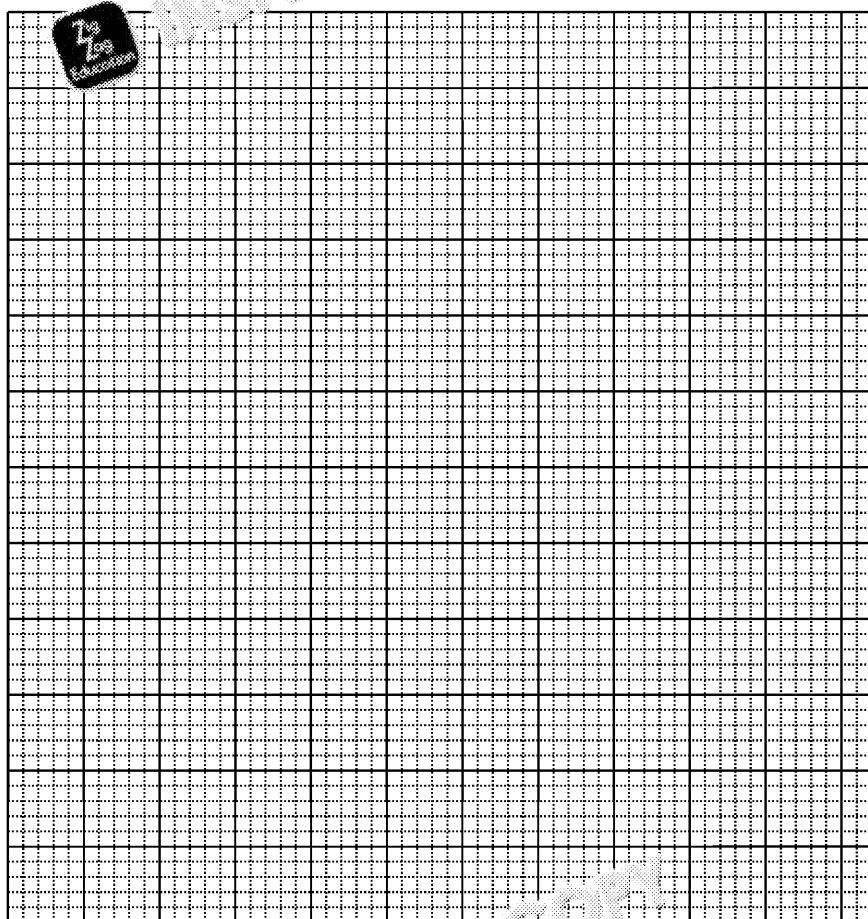
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2. Draw a graph to illustrate the relationship between the length of the wire and



3. Draw a line of best fit through your data.

Part B:

1. Calculate the values for resistance for each circuit and add them to the table.
Use the formula: *potential difference = current × resistance* ($V = IR$)

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Evaluation

1. Describe the relationship between the length of a conductor and its resistance for part A of this practical.

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2. How accurate were your results for part A of this experiment? Justify your answer using your data and the graph.

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3. What might be the cause of any error in your data for part A of the practical? Suggest the method that might reduce this source of error.

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4. Write a short paragraph to explain how placing resistors in series and in parallel affects the total resistance of the circuit. Refer to your data from part B of this practical to justify your answer.

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5. Suggest what would happen to the value of the total resistance in your series circuit if you added a third identical resistor in series with the existing two. How would this affect the current?

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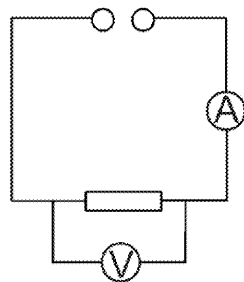
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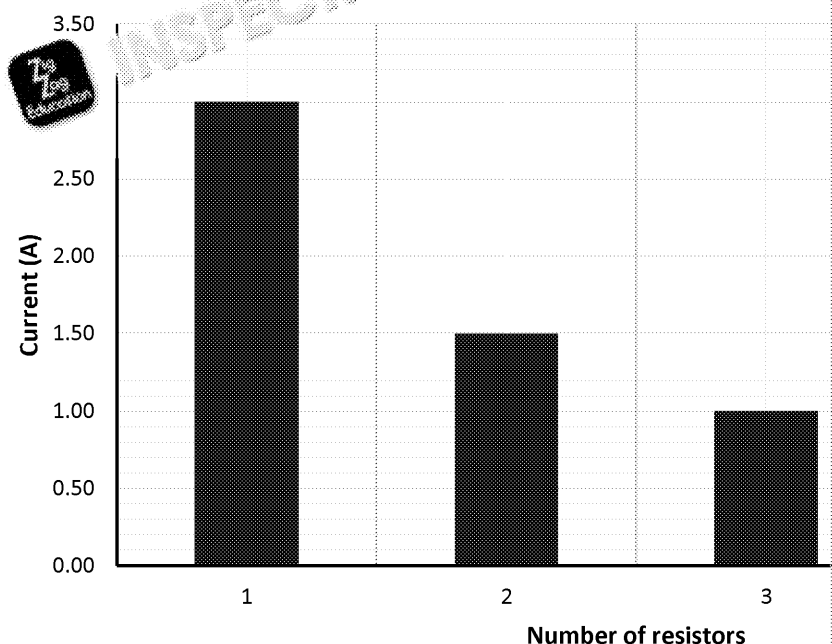
Resistance required practical: exam-style questions

1. A student sets up a simple series circuit with one resistor, as shown in the circuit diagram.



They record the current flowing through the circuit before adding another identical resistor in series. They then record the new current and continue to add a further two resistors, recording the current each time.

Their results are presented in the table.



- a. Assuming that the student used a 6.0 V supply, and that this did not vary, calculate the resistance of one resistor. Use the formula: $\text{potential difference} = \text{current} \times \text{resistance}$

Use the formula: $\text{potential difference} = \text{current} \times \text{resistance}$

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- b. What would be the value of the current in this circuit with five identical resistors in series?

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2. The current and potential difference of a circuit are measured as the current of wire. The table presents the results of the practical.

Length of wire (cm)	Potential difference (V)	Current (A)	Resistance (Ω)
20	0.60	0.15	
40	0.80	0.10	
60	0.75	0.07	
80	0.84		
100		0.04	

- a. Calculate the missing values from the table above and complete the table.

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- b. Plot a graph to show how the resistance changes with the length of the wire for this data.



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- c. To check the repeatability of the data, the investigation was carried out

Length of wire (cm)	Resistance (Ω)			
	1	2	3	Average
20	2.95	3.15	2.98	3.03
40	5.80	4.30	5.90	
60	9.87	9.67	10.05	9.86
80	12.05	11.97	12.04	
100	19.65	19.78	18.99	19.47

- i. Calculate the missing average and complete the table above.



- ii. Comment on the repeatability of the data and identify any anomalous



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Resistance required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

- Switch off the power supply or disconnect the batteries when assembling circuits.
 - Do not touch circuits with wet hands.
 - Never exceed the maximum voltage recommended or set by the teacher.
 - Do not touch bare wires when the power is turned on.
 - Any of the above answers are acceptable.
- resistance = potential difference \div current (or $R = V \div I$)
- $R = V \div I$
 $R = 2.5 \div 0.25$
 $R = 10.0 \Omega$
 - The reading on the ammeter will decrease.
A higher-level response might include that the reading will halve, or state that the current will halve.
 - 20Ω (There is no current for any explanation or mathematics.)

Analysis

The values for resistances in both parts of the practical will depend on individual student data.

The graph should place the length of wire as the x-axis and the resistance as the y-axis.

Note that the line of best fit may not pass through the origin; this is an acceptable error for students to note this and possibly explain why during a class discussion.

Evaluation

- The resistance of the conductor increases with the length; resistance is proportional to length.
- The degree of error will depend on the individual student's data. However, they should consider the degree to which the data points lie on the line of best fit. The further a data point is from the line, the more likely it is to be an outlier.
- Errors often occur in this experiment due to the difficulty of placing the clip at an exact length by having a thinner connection, such as a single wire. Allow comments on the possibility of the wire. Difficult to make sure wire is exactly lying along ruler, causing an error in the length measurement.
- Adding resistors in series leads to a direct increase in the resistance. Students should be able to state that the increase is simply a matter of adding the resistances together to get the overall resistance. Adding them in parallel decreases the resistance. Students are neither expected nor required to use mathematical relationship for the addition of resistors.
- The current will decrease by a third of the original value; some students might suggest that it will halve.

Exam-style questions

- potential difference = current \times resistance
resistance = potential difference \div current (1)
resistance = $6.0 \div 3.0$ (1)
resistance = 2.0Ω (1)
 - current = voltage \div resistance
current = $6 \div (2 \times 5)$ (1)
current = 0.60 A (1)
Allow alternative methods.

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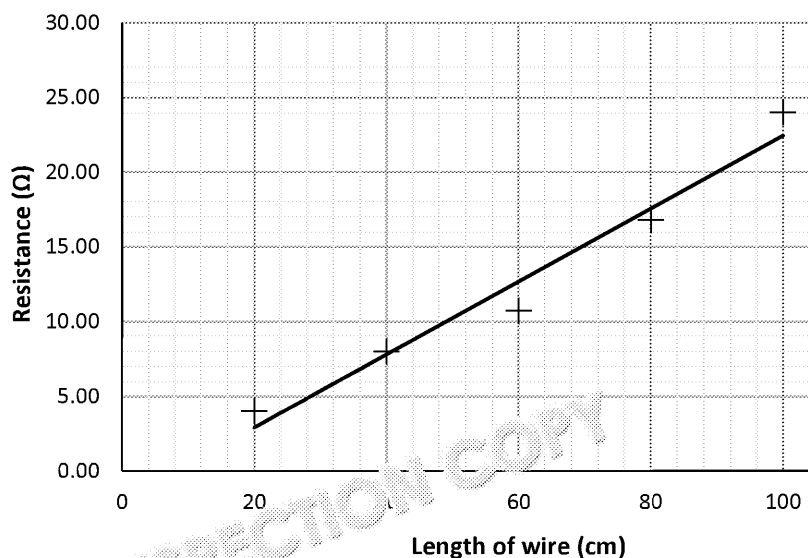
Length of wire (cm)	Potential difference (V)	Current (A)	Resistance (Ω)
20	0.60	0.15	4.00
40	0.80	0.10	8.00
60	0.75	0.07	10.71
80	0.84	0.05	16.80
100	0.96	0.04	24.00

1 mark for the two resistances; 1 mark each for the missing current and potential difference.

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1. For correctly plotting the data points; 0 marks if two or more are incorrect
 1. For drawing a line of best fit, which should be a straight line passing close to the data points
- c. i.

Length of wire (cm)	Resistance (Ω)			
	1	2	3	Average
20	2.95	3.15	2.98	3.03
40	5.80	4.30	5.90	5.33
60	9.87	9.67	10.05	9.86
80	12.05	11.97	12.04	12.02
100	19.65	19.78	18.99	19.47

- ii. There is a narrow range of results around the averages (1); the exception is the reading at 40 cm, 4.30 Ω (1)



Appendix: Sample Results

Results for use in the event of practical problems or if a student is away during the lesson

Part A:

Length of wire (cm)	Current (A)	Potential difference (V)	
10	0.19	0.35	
20	0.16	0.47	
30	0.14	0.65	
40	0.11	0.68	
50	0.09	0.78	
60	0.07	0.75	
70	0.06	0.80	
80	0.05	0.84	
90	0.04	0.87	

Part B:

Circuit	Current (A)	Potential difference (V)	
Series	0.28	4.51	
Parallel	0.90	3.82	

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Required Practical 4

I–V Characteristics: Filament Lamp, Resistor and Diode

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.2.1.4 Resistors	4.7.2.2 Current, resistance and potential difference
AT criteria	AT 6 and AT 7	

The purpose of this practical is to investigate the relationship between the current through individual components as the potential difference across each component is varied. In this practical, a filament lamp, a fixed resistor and a diode are used.

Students should be familiar with common circuit diagram symbols and the construction of simple series circuits before beginning this practical. The students should have completed required practical 3. If not, then it is suggested that some additional time is given to students to practice drawing circuit diagrams and the construction of simple series circuits.

Suggested questions

- Is an ammeter wired in series or in parallel with a component in a series circuit?
- To find the potential difference across a lamp in a circuit, should the voltmeter be wired in series or in parallel with the lamp?
- What would you expect to happen to the current flowing in a series circuit as the potential difference is increased?
- Thinking back to required practical 3, what safety considerations are there when using a power supply?

Practical considerations

Although the students will have had practice at assembling circuits from diagrams, it is advisable to remind students that they should check with the teacher or a technician before connecting the circuit to ensure that the circuit is wired together correctly.

The lamp and the resistor circuits can use a standard 0–1 A ammeter; the section on the diode will require a meter that can read in milliamperes.

All components can vary in specification from one supplier to another; as such, the practical **does not** specify a voltage to use from the power supply. Instead, it asks the student to check the correct voltages for the components with the teacher. Please check the correct voltages for the components used.

The three parts of this practical can be completed in any order; to this end, each part is presented on a separate page and with full instructions that do not require any reference to the other parts of the practical. These could also be reproduced, laminated and used as part of a circuit board.

A key skill for students (AT 7) is to be able to assemble circuits from a diagram. It is recommended that students should complete this task for themselves without assistance.

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Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and evaluation
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical

Apparatus

- Batteries or low voltage supply
- Connecting wires
- Filament lamp (6 V or 12 V)
- Diode with protecting resistor (normally a $10\ \Omega$ resistor, but this will depend on the diode)
- Fixed resistor
- Ammeter (ideally capable of reading millivolts and milliamps)
- Voltmeter
- Variable resistor

Each student needs access to all the apparatus for this practical, but the lamp can be shared within the class. These can be used in any order to complete the three sections.

Timings

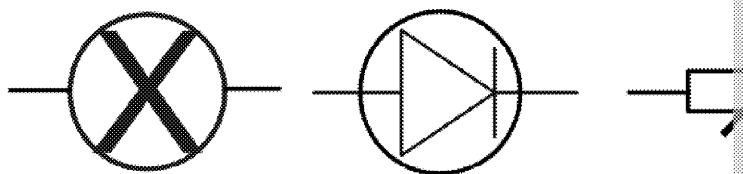
- **Pre-lab task plus starter questions: 10 minutes**
- **Practical activity** will require **20–25 minutes**
- **Analysis: 20 minutes** to draw graphs
- **Evaluation: 20 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected and marked, or used for holding a class discussion.
- **Exam questions: 15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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I–V characteristics required practical: pre-lab task

1. Identify each of the common electrical components from their symbols.



2. Draw a simple electrical circuit diagram to show a filament lamp in series with an ammeter and a voltmeter connected to the circuit to measure the potential difference



3. How is the resistance of a variable resistor different from that of a fixed resistor?

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4. What is a diode, and how does it affect the flow of current in a circuit?

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I–V characteristics required practical: student instructions

Part A: I–V characteristics of a filament lamp



CAUTION

Do not exceed the maximum voltages recommended by your teacher

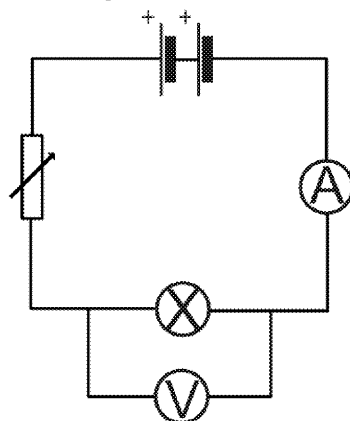
In this part of the practical you will investigate how the current flowing through a filament lamp changes when the potential difference of the circuit is changed.

Apparatus

- Power supply or battery
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Variable resistor
- Filament lamp
- Connecting wires

Method

1. Draw a results table for your data. You will vary the potential difference and space for 10 sets of data.
2. Assemble the circuit illustrated in the circuit diagram below.



Note: your teacher may ask you to use either a power pack or a battery.

3. Adjust the variable resistor to give a dim glow from the bulb.
4. Record the readings on both the ammeter and the voltmeter.
5. Increase the reading on the voltmeter by adjusting the variable resistor. Record the readings on the voltmeter and the ammeter.
6. Repeat step 5 a further three times, increasing the reading on the voltmeter each time.
7. Reverse the wires connected to the battery or power supply so that the polarity is reversed. Both the voltmeter and the ammeter should now have negative values showing on their displays.
8. Gradually decrease the potential difference by adjusting the variable resistor. Record the readings on the voltmeter and the ammeter each time you adjust the variable resistor.

Do not exceed the maximum voltage for the lamp provided

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Part B: I–V characteristics of a fixed resistor



CAUTION

Do not exceed the maximum voltages recommended by your teacher

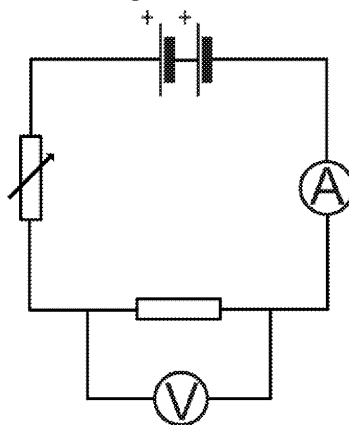
In this part of the practical you will investigate how the current flowing through a fixed resistor changes when the potential difference of the circuit is changed.

Apparatus

- Power supply or battery
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Variable resistor
- Fixed resistor
- Connecting wires

Method

1. Draw a results table for your data. You will vary the potential difference and space for 10 sets of data.
2. Assemble the circuit illustrated in the circuit diagram below.



Note: your teacher may ask you to use either a power pack or a battery.

3. Adjust the variable resistor to give a low reading on the voltmeter.
4. Record the readings on both the ammeter and the voltmeter.
5. Increase the reading on the voltmeter by adjusting the variable resistor. Record the readings on the voltmeter and the ammeter.
6. Repeat step 5 a further three times, increasing the reading on the voltmeter.
7. Reverse the wires connected to the battery or power supply so that the polarity is reversed. Both meters should now have negative values showing on their displays.
8. Gradually reduce the potential difference by adjusting the variable resistor. Record the readings on the voltmeter and the ammeter each time you adjust the variable resistor.

Do not exceed the maximum voltage for the resistor power rating.

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Part C: I–V characteristics of a diode



CAUTION

Do not exceed the maximum voltages recommended by your teacher

In this part of the practical you will investigate how the current flowing through a diode changes as the potential difference of the circuit is changed.

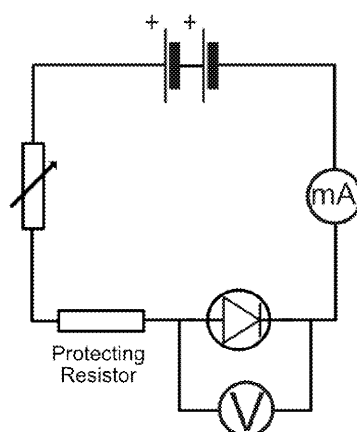
Apparatus

- Power supply or battery
- Ammeter
- Voltmeter
- Variable resistor
- Diode and protecting resistor
- Connecting wires

Method

1. Draw a results table for your data. You will vary the potential difference and space for 10 sets of data.
2. Assemble the circuit illustrated in the circuit diagram below.

Important: there must be a protecting resistor in the circuit in front of the diode.



Note: your teacher may ask you to use either a power pack or a battery.

3. Adjust the variable resistor to give a low reading on the voltmeter.
4. Record the readings on both the ammeter and the voltmeter.
5. Increase the reading on the voltmeter by adjusting the variable resistor. Record the readings on the voltmeter and the ammeter.
6. Repeat step 5 a further 4 or 5 times, increasing the reading on the voltmeter each time.
7. Reverse the wires connected to the battery or power supply so that the polarity is reversed. Both the voltmeter and the ammeter should now have negative values showing on their displays.
8. Gradually reduce the potential difference by adjusting the variable resistor. Record the readings on the voltmeter and the ammeter each time you adjust the variable resistor.

Do not exceed the maximum voltage for the diode product.

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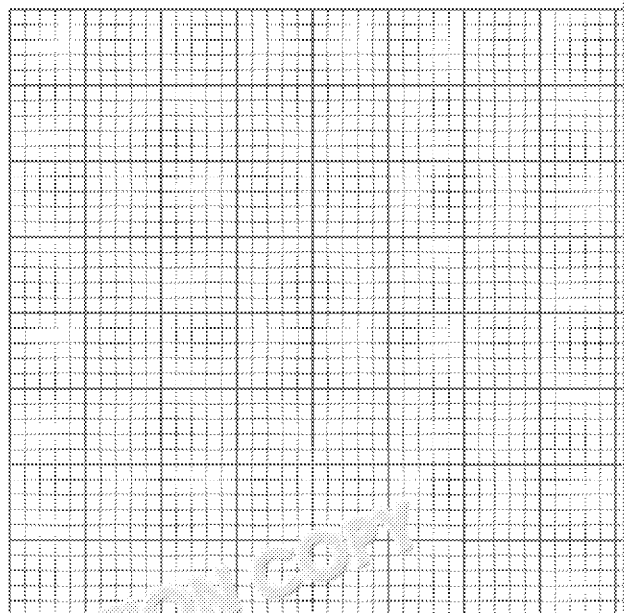
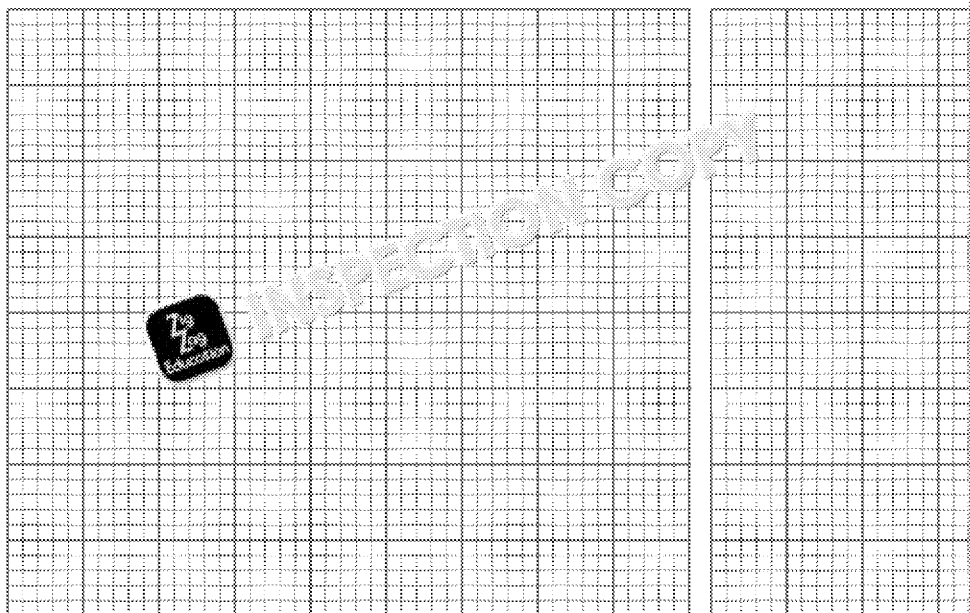
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I–V characteristics required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Draw a separate graph for each set of data, plotting the current (y-axis) against the potential difference (x-axis).
 - As this data contains both positive and negative values for current and potential difference, the graph will be in the middle of your graph paper.
 - Label each graph to show which component it represents.



2. Add a line of best fit to each graph.
Each line of best fit represents the I–V characteristics of the component.

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3. For the fixed resistor only, calculate the gradient of the line of best fit. The resistance is equal to the inverse of the gradient.

- Use this formula to calculate the resistance:

$$\text{resistance} = 1 / \text{gradient of the line of best fit}$$

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- Compare this to the actual value of the resistor used in your practical.

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Evaluation

1. Describe the relationship between the current and the potential difference for components. Describe how this affects the resistance of the component as the difference vary. Write a separate paragraph for each.

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2. Compare the overall patterns shown in your graphs with those of two other groups. Comment on the reliability of your own data compared to theirs.

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3. Why was it necessary to use a protecting resistor with the diode but not with the LDR?

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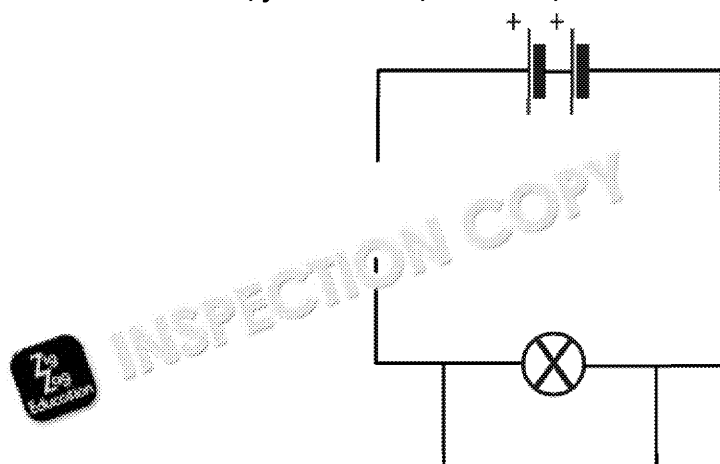


I–V characteristics required practical: exam-style question

1. a. Complete the circuit diagram which can be used to investigate the I–V characteristics of a 12 V filament lamp.

Choose from the following components to fill in the three gaps in the circuit diagram:

diode, fixed resistor, voltmeter, variable resistor, ammeter



- b. Describe how this circuit can be used to collect a set of data for this investigation.

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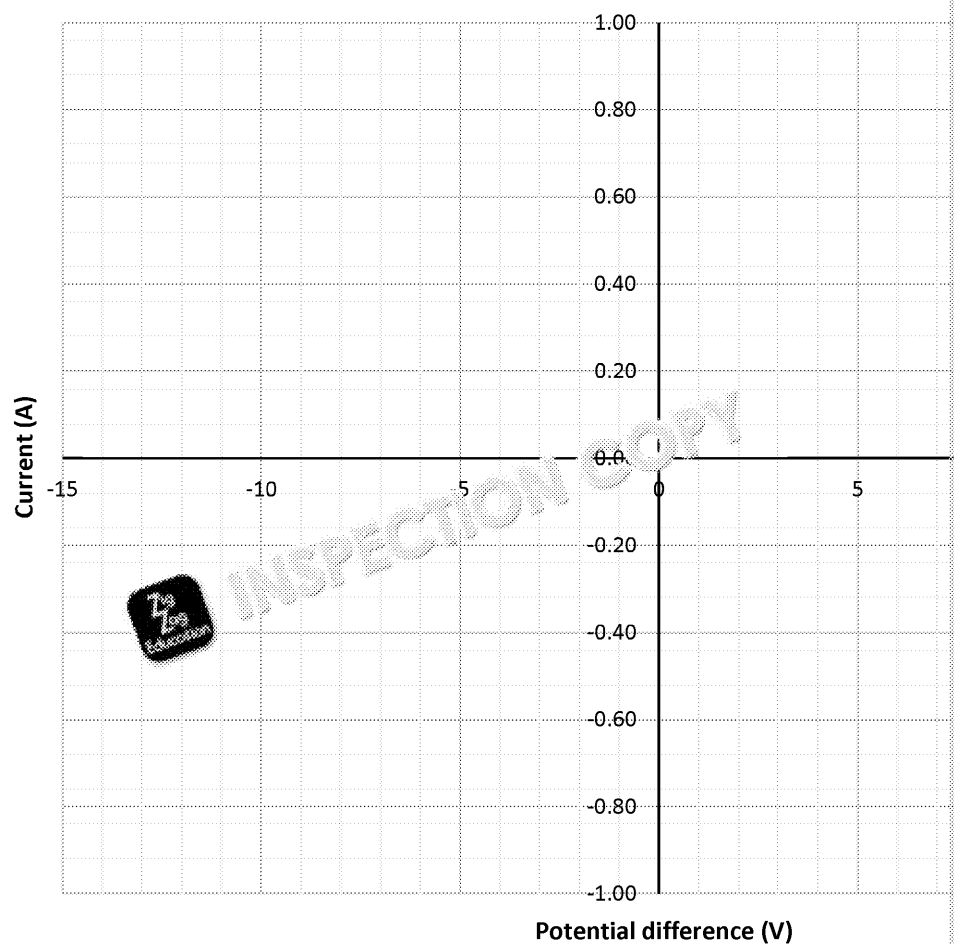
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- c. The table below shows a set of data for this investigation. Draw a graph to illustrate the I–V characteristics of this filament lamp, including a suitable title.

Potential difference (V)	Current (A)
10	0.82
8	0.80
6	0.74
4	0.63
2	0.42
0	0.00
-2	-0.40
-4	-0.65
-6	-0.74
-8	-0.82
-10	-0.84

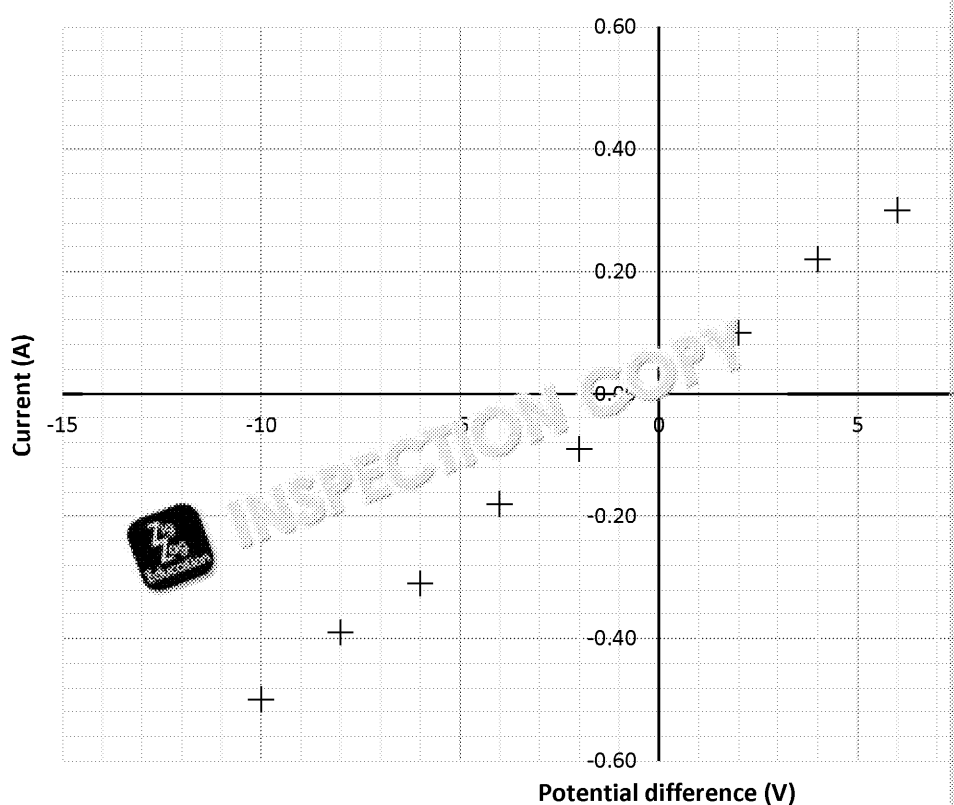
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2. The graph below shows the I–V characteristics of a fixed resistor.

Fixed resistor



- a. Draw a line of best fit for this data.
- b. Use the graph to calculate the resistance of this component, given the *gradient of the line = $1 \div \text{resistance}$*

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- c. Suggest two reasons why errors may occur when collecting this data.

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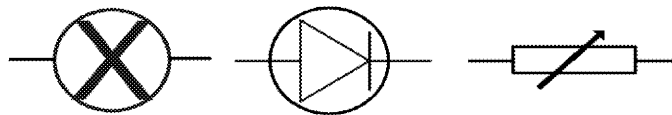
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I–V characteristics required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1.



Filament lamp

Diode

Variable resistor

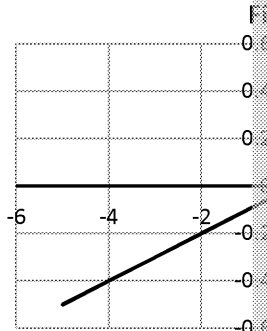
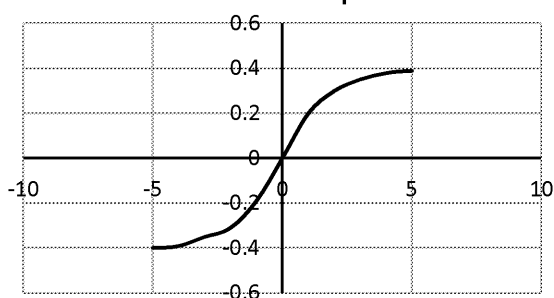
2.

3. The resistance of a variable resistor can be increased or decreased, whereas the resistance of a filament lamp does not change.
4. A diode is an electrical component that allows electricity to flow in one direction only. It allows current to flow when the polarity is correct (forward bias) but prevents the flow of current if the polarity is reversed (reverse bias).

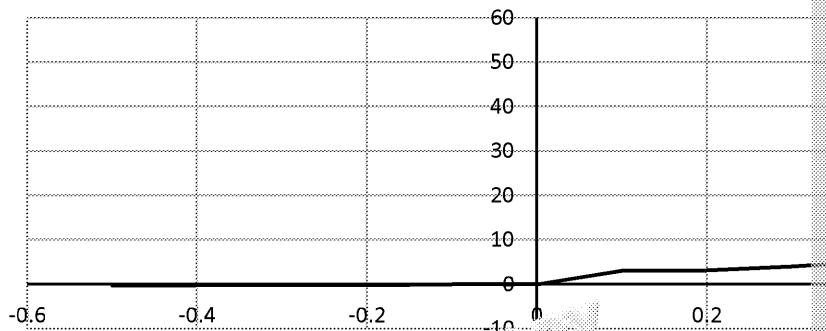
Analysis

1. Student results will vary depending on their data and the components used. Using the data supplied on the previous page, examples of potential responses from students are shown below.

Filament lamp



Diode



3. Answers will vary depending upon the student's results, however, the resistance should be calculated from the gradient of the line of best fit from the graph.

Normally, the calculated resistance will vary from the actual value stated on the component. Suggest some reasons why, such as, errors in reading the meters or the judgement made by the student of where to position the line of best fit.

Evaluation

1. All lines of best fit will vary, but they should all go through the origin of the graphs.
 - Filament lamp curve is roughly an 'S' shape through the origin, indicating that the resistance increases as the potential difference increases. It is roughly symmetrical either side of the y-axis, indicating a similar manner irrespective of the polarity.
 - There is a positive correlation (linear relationship) between the current and potential difference for a variable resistor. The resistor responds in the same way irrespective of the polarity of the potential difference.
 - For the diode, little or no current flows when the potential difference is negative. When the potential difference is positive, current starts to flow at a low value, but increases rapidly beyond a trigger value (approximately 0.1 V).

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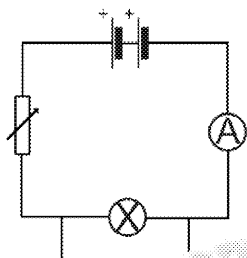
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2. Students should recognise that their data and that of another student have the same component. They data will vary with the degree of accuracy they used in recording the degree of accuracy in plotting the data, and the scale they used. They should make their data and presentation compare with others, identifying strengths in their own and other's data and presentation.
3. A diode is a component that uses only a small current in the order of milliamps, when larger currents. High currents can quickly damage diodes meaning they fail.

Exam-style questions

1. a.



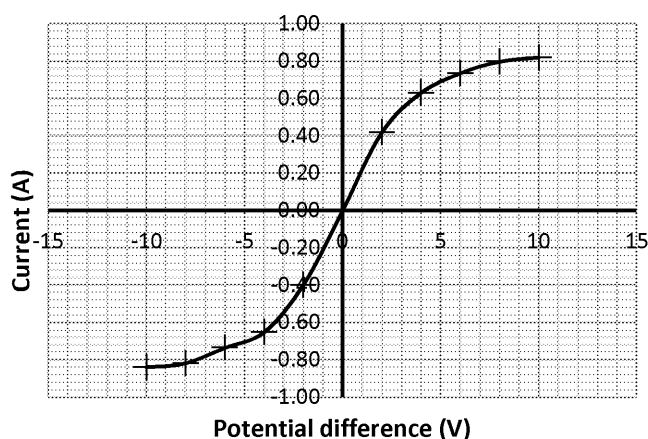
- Voltmeter positioned in parallel with the bulb (1)
- Inclusion of a variable resistor (1)
- Ammeter positioned in series with the bulb (1)

Note: the position of the variable resistor and the ammeter

- b. The variable resistor is used to set a range of potential differences (1). Reading (for current) (1) and the voltmeter (for potential difference) (1). The polarity of the swapping the connecting wires on the battery / power supply (1).

Note for a and b: Some students might vary the potential difference from the variable resistor; therefore, full credit can be given for the circuit in 'a' if their

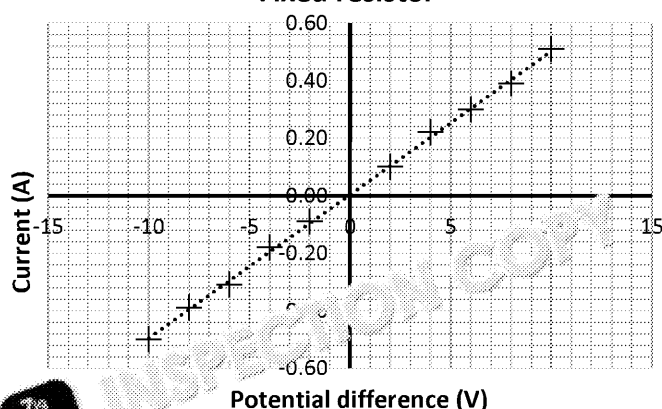
c.



- Correct
- Correct
- Correct
- Correct
- Correct

2. a.

Fixed resistor



- Deduct
- Deduct
- Deduct
- Deduct
- Deduct

- b. Students use the graph to find the gradient (1) – answer $0.05 (\pm 0.01)$. Students do not have to indicate on the graph which data they have chosen.

- Recognition that $I/V = 1/R$ (1)
- Substitution and calculation: answer 20Ω (allow answer between 25Ω and 15Ω) (1)

c. Errors might include any of the following for 1 mark each (maximum 2 marks):

- Human error in reading meters (this could be for an analogue meter and a digital meter)
- Using too high a voltage (heating of the resistor can affect its resistance)
- Incorrectly wired meters, i.e. voltmeter in series will produce a reading that is too high
- Allow faulty apparatus, such as a damaged variable resistor

Do not award marks for comments on errors in data manipulation

Note: accept the use of the term voltage instead of potential difference throughout

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Appendix: Sample Results

Results for use in the event of practical problems or if a student is away during the lesson

Lamp

Potential difference (V)	Current (A)
5	0.39
4	0.38
3	0.35
2	0.3
1	0.2
0	0
-1	-0.19
-2	-0.31
-3	-0.35
-4	-0.38
-5	-0.4

Resistor

Potential difference (V)	Current (A)
5	0.5
4	0.4
3	0.3
2	0.2
1	0.1
0	0
-1	-0.1
-2	-0.2
-3	-0.3
-4	-0.4
-5	-0.5

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Required Practical 5: Density

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.3.1.1 Density of materials	4.1.1.2 Density
AT criteria	AT 1	

The purpose of this practical is to measure the volume and mass of objects in order to calculate density from the formula:

$$\text{density} = \text{mass} \div \text{volume or } \rho = m/V$$

Students will calculate the densities of three objects:

1. A regular shaped object, such as a cube, by direct measurements
2. An irregular shaped object, using displacement to find the volume
3. A sample of liquid, by direct measurements

A set of student instructions are included for this practical along with a student project sheet to enable students to design their own investigation.

Suggested questions

- What is the correct procedure for using a measuring cylinder?
- What happens to the water level in a beaker when an object is placed in it?
- Why should an electric balance be placed on a level surface before using it?
- How can you reset an electric balance to zero when an empty beaker is placed on it?
- What should you do if you spill some liquid onto the floor during a practical?
- What are the SI units of density?
- Name one material with a high density and one with a low density; think about why.

Practical considerations

A range of different objects can be used in this investigation; it is, therefore, not possible to provide exact answers to any of the calculations.

School suppliers produce a range of standard density cubes in a range of materials that are suitable for this experiment. Any irregular shaped objects will have to be submerged in water, so ensure they are of a non-absorbent material and that they will not float. (e.g. 1p, 2p, 5p and 20p coins).

If you do not have access to a displacement can for measuring displacement, it is possible to measure displacement in a measuring cylinder. If you decide to use this method, it is explained in the student instructions. Note: do not use metal objects in glass measuring cylinders.

The measuring cylinder method for volume by displacement carries with it a high probability of spillage. Ensure students have the means to mop up spills to hand, and access to plenty of paper towels.

It is important that students measure mass before volume for the irregular shaped objects. If the object has been immersed it will have water clinging to it – this will affect the mass, and dry it off before weighing. This is consuming and unreliable.

Any suitable liquids that are not hazardous can be used for finding the density of liquids. Water is simple and easy to prepare. Sugar solutions can be used, but, if spilt, can leave a sticky residue. Sugar solutions are prone to attracting insects in summer, and this can be a distraction.

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Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Student design sheet – an alternative to the student instructions to allow student design of method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and evaluation
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Apparatus

- Range of regular shaped objects, such as density blocks
- Range of irregular shaped objects (non-porous, that sink in water)
- Range of measuring cylinders
- Displacement can (if available), or a beaker
- Ruler with mm divisions
- Electrical balance
- Preparation of a liquid, such as saline
- Paper towels

Each student will need access to all the apparatus.

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities** will require a total of **30 minutes**
- **Analysis: 10 minutes** to complete calculations
- **Evaluation: 10 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected and used for holding a class discussion.
- **Exam-style questions: 15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

Allow around 20 minutes for the students to design their own methods if using the design sheet.

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Density required practical: pre-lab task

- What is the volume of the metal block shown to the right? Show your working.

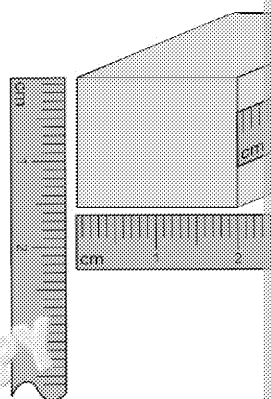
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- On the diagram of the measuring cylinder to the right, mark the point on the scale where you would take an accurate reading of the volume of the liquid.



- Why is it important to be at eye level with the scale and the level of the liquid in the cylinder?

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- Describe how you would reset the electric balance below to zero, without removing the beaker.

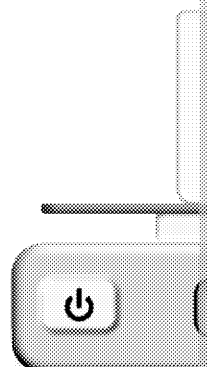
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- A student spills some water onto the floor when carrying out a practical. What should they do to ensure safety before carrying out any other work?

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- When an object is submerged in a container of water, the surface level rises. What does this tell you about the submerged object?

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Density required practical: student instructions

Density of regular shaped objects

In this part of the practical you will measure the three dimensions of a regular shaped object and its mass. You will use this information to calculate the object's density in grams per cubic centimetre.

Apparatus

- Three or four regular shaped objects of different sizes and/or different materials
- 30 cm ruler with millimetre divisions
- Electric balance

Method

1. Draw a results table for your data. You will need space for each object, along with its dimensions, mass and calculated volume and density.
2. Select your first object and record its 'name' or material in your table.
3. Measure the three dimensions of the object to the nearest $\frac{1}{10}$ (0.1) of a cm and record these in your table.
4. Use the electric balance to measure the mass of the object in grams to the nearest 0.1 g and record this in your table.
5. Repeat steps 2 to 4 for your other chosen objects.

Density of irregular shaped objects

In this part of the practical you will measure the volume of an irregular shaped object by displacement of water and then use this value, along with the object's mass, to calculate the object's density.

Remember: when using a measuring cylinder, always **measure the volume from the bottom of the meniscus** – the curved surface of the liquid.

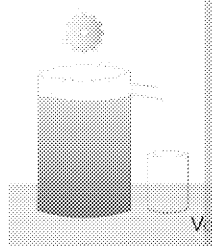
Apparatus

- Three or four irregular shaped objects
- Electric balance
- Measuring cylinders of different sizes
- Displacement can (if available)
- 2 × 250 ml beakers
- Paper towels

Method

(If you are **not** using a displacement can see the method in appendix A to find the volume of an irregular object.)

1. Draw a results table to record the names of the objects and their masses, volumes and calculated densities.
2. Find the mass of the first object and record this in your table.
3. Place an empty 250 ml beaker below the spout of the displacement can.
4. Fill the displacement can with water up to the spout. Any excess water collected in the beaker.
5. Place an empty measuring cylinder below the spout of the displacement can.
6. Gently lower the object into the displacement can allowing the displaced water to flow into the measuring cylinder. Note: if the measuring cylinder is too large to fit below the spout, catch the water in a beaker first, then transfer it to a measuring cylinder.
7. Measure and record the volume of water displaced; this is equal to the volume of the object. (1 ml = 1 cm³)
8. Remove the object from the displacement can over a sink or bowl.
9. Repeat the method for each new object.



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CAUTION

Water spilt onto the floor can present a slip hazard and must be wiped up before proceeding with any other work.

Appendix A: measuring volumes without a displacement can

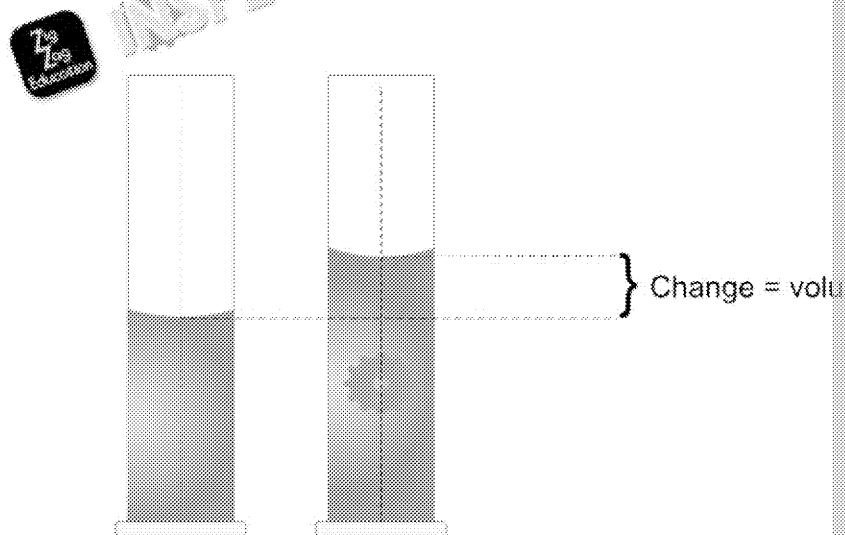
Density of regular shaped objects

Apparatus

- Measuring cylinder with a bore large enough to place the object in

Method

- Approximately half fill the measuring cylinder with water. Fill it to a round number (e.g. 50 ml or less than 99 ml).
- Gently lower the object into the measuring cylinder. Do not drop heavy objects into the measuring cylinder as they might break, causing a hazard.
- Measure and record the increase in volume; this is equal to the volume of the object.
- Carefully remove the object from the measuring cylinder; this is best done over a sink to avoid spilt water before proceeding with any other work.



Density of a liquid

In this section of the practical you will measure the density of a liquid, such as saline solution.

Apparatus

- Sample of liquid
- Electric balance
- Measuring cylinder (100 ml or 50 ml)
- Paper towels

Method

- Draw a results table to record the volume, mass and density of your sample.
- Place the measuring cylinder onto the electric balance.
- Set the balance to zero.
- Remove the measuring cylinder from the electric balance. **Do not reset the balance to zero for anyone else.**
- Add the liquid to the measuring cylinder, filling it to the highest level on the scale. Record the exact amount of liquid in the measuring cylinder.
- Ensure that the outside of the measuring cylinder is dry.
- Replace the filled measuring cylinder onto your electric balance and record the mass.
- Remove the measuring cylinder from the electric balance and reset it to zero.

Note: many electric balances are sensitive to any movement of the bench on which they are placed. **Do not lean on the desk next to the balance** as this will affect your results.

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Density required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Calculate the **volume** of each of the regular shaped objects in your first table

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2. Calculate the **density** of each regular shaped object, using the formula:

$$\text{density} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$$

Enter these values into your table.

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3. Calculate the densities of the irregular shaped objects using the data collected in your table.

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4. Calculate the density of the sample of liquid, using your data, and enter this

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5. For one regular shaped object, one irregular shaped object and for the sample of liquid, calculate the densities to present the answers in the standard SI units for density: kg/m^3 .

$$(1 \text{ cm}^3 = 1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3)$$

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Evaluation

1. Compare the density of the liquid with that of one of the solid objects.

a. Which has the lower density?

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b. Why, in general, do liquids have lower densities than solids?

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2. If one of the regular shaped objects were cut in half, how would this affect its density?

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3. What sources of error can affect the accuracy of finding the density of an irregular object? Identify at least two sources of possible error, and, for each, suggest how the error could be reduced.

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Density required practical: student design sheet

In this practical you must design a method, with three sections, to find the density of:

- a solid regular shaped object, such as a cube of metal
- a solid irregular shaped object, such as a coin
- a sample of salt water

Density is a measure of the mass of material per unit volume, calculated using the

$$\text{density} = \text{mass} / \text{volume}$$

Although the standard SI unit for density is kg/m^3 (kilograms per metre cubed), it is acceptable to present your answers in g/cm^3 .

For each section of the practical you will need to decide how to measure:

- mass
- volume

To help you with your planning, consider the answers to these questions:

- How do you calculate the volume of a cube 2 cm wide, 3 cm long and 3 cm high?
- How do you measure the volume of a liquid? (Hint: what do you use, in chemistry, to measure 25 cm³ of water or 25 ml of hydrochloric acid?)
- What did Archimedes discover about the relationship between the amount of liquid displaced by an object submerged and the object's physical properties? (His famous eureka moment!)

Apparatus you can use

- Measuring cylinders
- Beakers
- Displacement can
- Electric balance
- Rulers with mm divisions
- Water
- Paper towels

You will be given a range of objects by your teacher. Some will be regular in shape; others will be irregular. You should aim to find the density of three of each. You will also be given a sample of a liquid; you must find the density of this liquid.

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Density required practical: exam-style questions

1. Describe a method that could be used to accurately measure the volume of a

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2. A student is comparing the density of three different samples of water from a lake. They use a 250 ml sample of each.

Sample	Mass (g)	Density (g/cm ³)
A	257.50	1.03
B	253.75	
C	250.75	1.00

$$\text{density} = \text{mass} / \text{volume}$$

- a. Calculate the density of sample B. Show your working.

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- b. The density of a sample of pure water is 1 g/cm³. Why are these samples not pure water?

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- c. What apparatus would the student need to measure the mass accurately? What else would be used to ensure the data collected is accurate?

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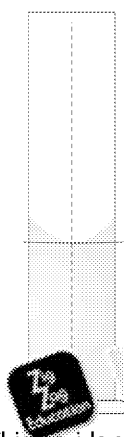


Density required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1. Volume = width × length × height
= $2.0 \times 2.0 \times 1.5$
= 6.0 cm^3

2. a.



- b. This avoids an incorrect reading. Being too high and looking down on the scale gives an over-reading. This type of error is known as a parallax error.

3. Press the 'Tare' button without removing the beaker from the balance.
4. Spilt liquids on the floor present a slip hazard and can lead to serious accidents.
5. The displaced water is equal to the volume of the object submerged.

Analysis and evaluation

Analysis

Responses to sections 1 to 4 will vary according to the objects and liquids used, as well as

5. Example: 20p coin
Mass = $5 \text{ g} = 0.005 \text{ kg}$ $1.35 \text{ cm}^3 = 1.35 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3$
Density = mass / volume = 3703.70 kg/m^3

Evaluation

1. a. The liquid will have a lower density than any of the solids.
b. The densities of liquids are lower due to the greater distance between the molecules compared to those of a solid. This results in less mass per unit volume.
2. This would not affect the density. Halving the volume would also halve the mass. The density remains unchanged.
3. Common errors:
 - Parallax error in reading the level of the liquid in the measuring cylinder. Solution – read the level with the scale.
 - Reading the volume from the top of the meniscus. Solution – always read the bottom of the meniscus.
 - Inaccurate readings on the electric balance. Solution – ensure the read-out is zero before placing the balance pan. Do not touch the desk near the electric balance when in use.
 - Inaccurate readings from both can occur if they are not on a level surface. Solution – place the balance and the measuring cylinder on a level surface.

Exam-style questions

1. Credit should be given for describing the use of either a displacement can or a measuring cylinder.
Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are included and in the correct sequence. (4 marks)
Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are included and in the correct sequence. (2–3 marks)
Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are included but not in the correct sequence. (1 mark)
No relevant content: 0 marks

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Indicative content

Displacement can

- Identifying the use of a displacement can (allow eureka can/cup)
- Filling the displacement can to the spout
- Collecting the displaced water
- Measuring this volume using a measuring cylinder

Measuring cylinder

- Identifying the use of a measuring cylinder large enough for the object
- Measuring the change in volume
- Recognising that the change in volume is the volume of the object
- Correctly describing how to use a measuring cylinder to avoid a parallax error

2. a. Density of sample B – 1.015 (allow 1.02) (1)
Substitution of values (1)
- b.
 - Each of the samples contains dissolved chemicals (salt) (1)
 - These solutes increase the mass per volume (i.e. density) (1)
- c.
 - Mass – electronic top pan balance (1)
 - Zero (tare) to account the mass of the container (1)
 - Subtract the mass of the empty container from the mass of the full container (1)
 - Recognition that the balance should be on a level surface (1)



Appendix B: Sample Results

Results for use the event of practical problems or if a student is away during the lesson

Object/material	Width (cm)	Length (cm)	Height (cm)	Volume (cm ³)
Iron	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Copper	1.9	2.1	2.0	
Aluminium	2.1	2.1	1.8	

Object	Mass (g)	Volume (cm ³)
1p coin	3.56	0.35
2p coin	7.12	0.47
20p coin	5.00	0.36

	Volume (cm ³)	Mass (g)
Saline	100	102.30

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Required Practical 6: Force and

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.5.3 Forces and elasticity	4.6.1.6 Elastic deformation
AT criteria	AT 1 and AT 2	

The purpose of this practical is to investigate the relationship between the force and extension of that spring, up to its elastic limit. Students will collect data for a spring extension graph from which they can calculate the value of the spring constant.

Some students may have time to extend this practical to look at two springs of different and lower spring constants. This is not a requirement of the practical, but it can enhance understanding of the topic.

This practical is an illustration of Hooke's law.

Suggested questions

- What is the difference between the weight of an object and the mass of an object?
- What are the SI units of force?
- Given the gravitational field strength on Earth is 10 N per kg, what is the weight of a 2 kg mass?
- During this practical you will be hanging masses from a spring; what are the safety considerations?

Practical considerations

In the instructions, the students are asked to add a small pointer to the base of the spring; it is possible to omit this and measure the spring displacement from the top of the loop. When setting up the apparatus, it is important to ensure that the zero line of the ruler is at the top of the loop of the spring and not the top of the loop. This is a common source of error.

Students are asked to measure the length of the spring as masses are added to it. In the analysis stage they will be asked to calculate the extension. This can be a confusing idea. It is, therefore, worth spending a little time ensuring that the difference between the length of the spring and the extension for a given mass. This is covered in the syllabus and understanding and comprehension. However, the results will still give the same extension or length. (Note: the syllabus indicates that the students will measure the extension or length.)

Although there are no major hazards, falling masses can cause harm and it is worth reminding students of safe practices, and paying attention to the set-up details that require the clamps. If a G-clamp is used; G-clamps can normally be borrowed from the Design Technology department. Alternatively, you can counterbalance the set-up with a 1 kg mass. The first option is the safer. Overloaded springs can snap, presenting a hazard. The spring may have sharp edges. Warn students not to exceed the maximum load for the spring.

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Apparatus

- Spring
- 10 g masses $\times 9$, plus holder
- Metre ruler
- Splint for pointer and sticky tape
- Clamp stand with two clamps
- G-clamp or 1 kg mass as an anchor

Each student will need access to all the apparatus to complete the investigation.

Note: it is often easier to have a technician add the pointers to the bottom of the spring, otherwise this can result in wasting time during the lesson.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphing and evaluation
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data
- Student design sheet – an alternative to the student instructions to allow student design of their own method

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities: 20 minutes**
- **Analysis: 10–15 minutes** to draw a graph with line of best fit and complete calculations
- **Evaluation: 10–15 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be completed individually or in pairs, rather than holding a class discussion.
- **Exam-style questions: 15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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Force and extension required practical: pre-lab task

1. A spring is 10 cm long without any force applied to it. When a force of 5 N is applied, the spring is measured again and found to be 12 cm long.

- a. What is the extension of the spring?

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- b. When an additional 5 N is added, the spring is measured as 14 cm. What is the extension with this new load applied?

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- c. Predict the length of the spring if a force of 15 N is applied.

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- d. Use the data provided to find the spring constant for this spring.

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2. What is the difference between mass and weight?

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3. What are the SI units of mass and weight?

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4. What is the size of the force applied to a spring if a 40 g mass is hung on it? You can use the formula: $\text{weight} = \text{mass} \times \text{gravitational field strength}$ ($w = mg$)

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5. What are the practical considerations for your safety of hanging masses on a spring?

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Forces and extension required practical: student instruction



CAUTION

During this practical you will be hanging masses from a spring. It is important that your hands or feet are in a position where the masses could fall on them. Please ensure you are secured before adding any masses to the spring.

Apparatus

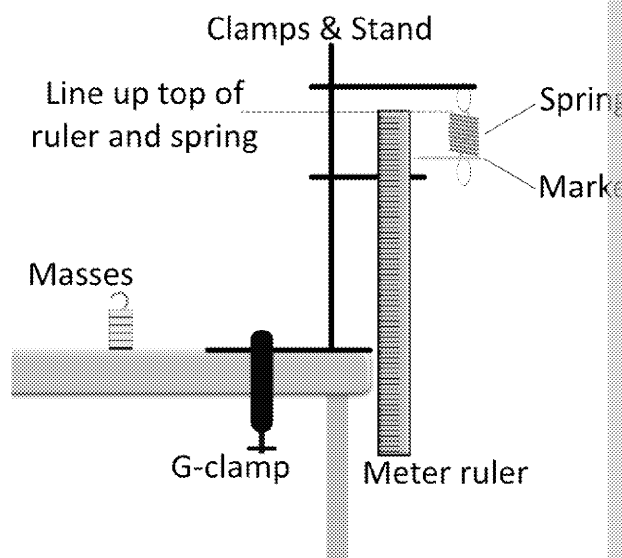
- Spring
- Splint to make a pointer, plus sticky tape
- Metre ruler
- Clamp stand with two sets of clamps
- G-clamp (or 1 kg mass)
- 9 × 10 g masses

Method

1. Draw a results table for your data. You will be adding masses to a spring and data you will also need to calculate the extension for each mass added.

Note: in your table you will need to record the force being applied to the spring.

2. Set up the apparatus as shown in the diagram below.



3. Ensure the set-up is stable and will not fall over as masses are added to the spring.
4. Use the pointer to measure and record the length of the spring with no force applied.
5. Add a single 10 g mass to the bottom of the spring. Add this gently to prevent bouncing up and down.
6. Allow the spring to come to rest and use the pointer to record the new length.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until all nine masses have been used.
8. Remove the masses carefully before dismantling the apparatus. Note: you must not use more than one spring.

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Forces and extension required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Calculate the extension of the spring for each mass added to it. Add these calculations to the table.

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2. Add the force for each mass added to the table. A single 10 g mass has a force of 0.1 N.

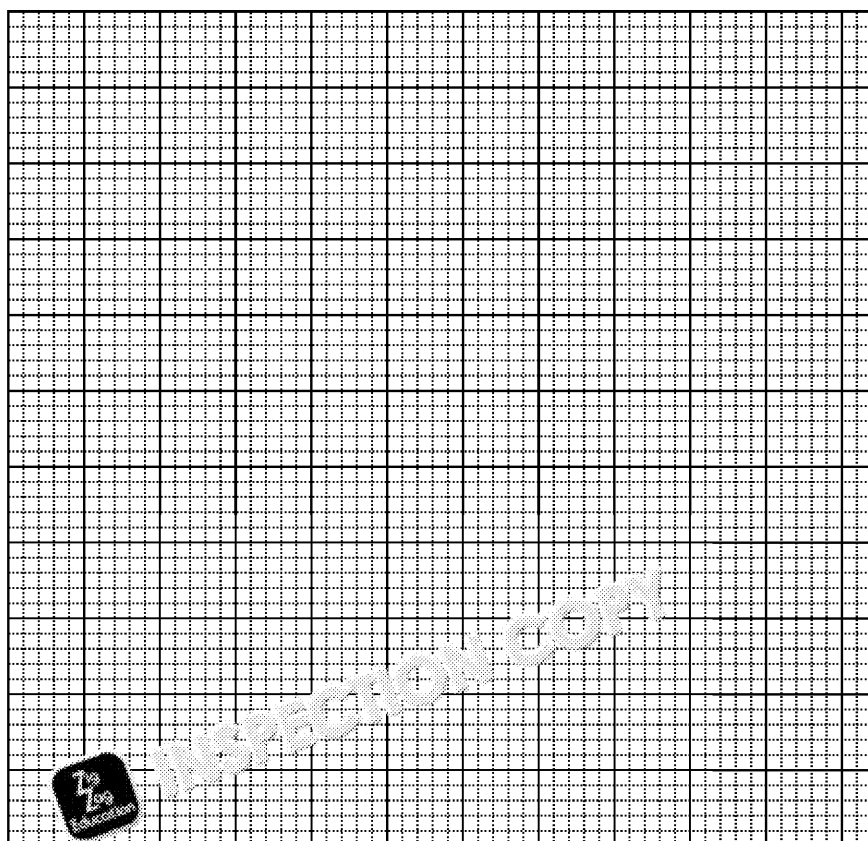
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3. Draw a graph of extension over force using your data and calculations.
Label the x-axis 'Force', and label the y-axis 'Extension'. It is acceptable to use centimetres for the extension.



4. Add a line of best fit to your graph; note that this line should go through the centre of the data points.
5. If your teacher asks you to use more than one spring in this practical, add the same axes. This will allow you to compare the springs easily.

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Evaluation

1. a. Use the following formula to calculate the spring constant for the spring

$$\text{force} = \text{spring constant} \times \text{extension}$$

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- b. Use the graph to calculate the gradient of the line of best fit.
Find the inverse of the gradient (1 / gradient).
Compare this with the spring constant calculated in a. (above).

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2. Describe the steps you took to ensure that your data was as accurate as possible

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3. How could you improve this practical to test the repeatability of your data?

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4. Measuring the extension of the spring accurately can be difficult with this method. How could the accuracy of this measurement be improved, by changing the apparatus?

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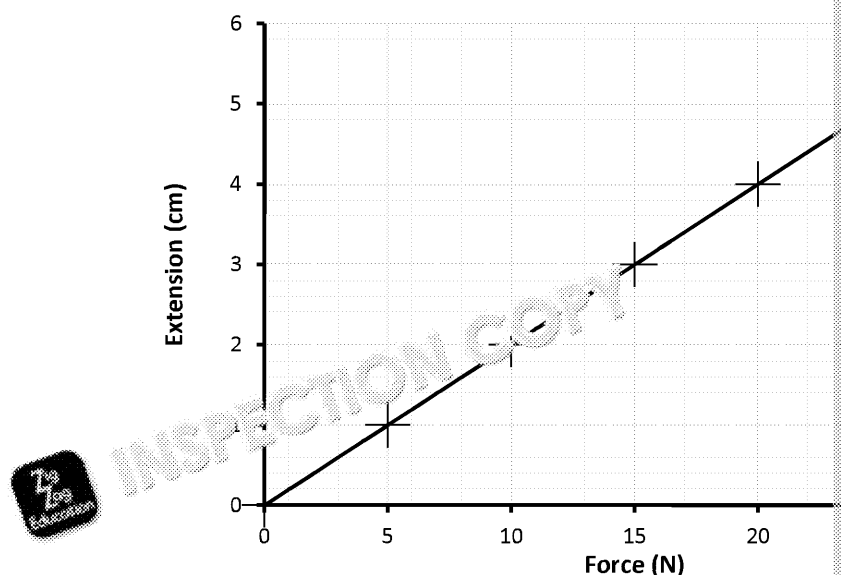
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Forces and extension required practical: exam-style question

1. The graph below shows the extension of a spring as it is subjected to an increasing force.



- a. What is the value of the spring constant for this spring? Demonstrate how you can find this from the graph. Show your working.

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- b. What would be the extension of this spring if a force of 35 N were to be applied to it?

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- c. Given that the spring is 10 cm long with no force applied, what is the length of the spring if a force of 19 N is applied to it?

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2. A student is provided with a range of 1 N weights and a spring to investigate how the spring will affect the extension of the spring.

Describe a method they might use to conduct this investigation. You should include any considerations that you need to make in your plan. Your method should include at least one additional piece of standard apparatus in your plan.

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Continue on a separate sheet if required.

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Forces and extension required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

- $12\text{ cm} - 10\text{ cm} = 2\text{ cm}$
 - $14\text{ cm} - 10\text{ cm} = 4\text{ cm}$
NB Extension is the length of the spring with a load, minus the length of the spring without a load.
 - 16 cm
 - Force = spring constant \times extension ($F = kx$)
Using data from part a:
Force = 5 N Extension = $2\text{ cm} \equiv 0.02\text{ m}$
 $F = kx$
 $k = F / x$
 $k = 5 / 0.02$
 $k = 250\text{ N/m}$
- Mass is a measure of the amount of matter that makes up an object. Weight is a force pulling on a mass; it is a force.
- Mass: kilograms (kg)
Weight: newtons (N)
- weight = mass \times gravitational field strength (or $w = mg$)
 g at Earth's surface is taken as 10 N/kg .
 $40\text{ g} \equiv 0.04\text{ kg}$
 $w = 0.04 \times 10 = 0.4\text{ N}$ (0.392 N if a student has taken g as 9.8 N/kg)
- Ensure the apparatus is stable and will not fall over.
 - Do not drop masses.
 - Keep hands and feet away from the area below the spring so if anything falls it does not hurt.
 - Do not exceed the elastic limit of the spring.

Analysis and evaluation

Analysis

- Results will vary depending on the student's own data. However, it is important to calculate the overall extension of the spring for any given load, rather than the increase in extension.
-

Mass (g)	Force (N)
0	0
10	0.1
20	0.2
30	0.3
40	0.4
50	0.5
60	0.6
70	0.7
80	0.8
90	0.9
100	1.0

- Answers will vary depending on the student's own data. The force should be plotted along the y-axis.
- Lines of best fit for this practical must go through the origin.
- If this has been completed, the two lines must be distinguishable from one another. They must have a key.

Evaluation

- force = spring constant \times extension
spring constant = force / extension
Results will depend on student's own data.
 - The two values are theoretically identical. Given some experimental error, this should be reflected in the student's data and calculations.

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2. Answers might include:
 - Used the pointer at the base of the spring to help get an accurate reading from the ruler.
 - Allowed the spring to come to rest before taking any readings.
 - Used a ruler with mm divisions.
 - Asked more than one person to check the reading from the ruler before recording.
 - Ensured the zero mark on the ruler was level with the top of the spring.
 Accept any other sensible suggestions.
3. Repeat the practical several times with any given spring and generate averages. Cross-check using similar springs to ensure scale of extension is consistent.
4. Suggestions might include:
 - Use a ruler with finer divisions.
 - Use a laser measuring device.
 - Take pictures of the ruler and pointer, then zoom in on the image to check the reading.

Exam-style questions

1. a. The students can use either of two approaches to answer this question.

Approach A: calculating the gradient of the line of best fit

 - Evidence on the graph of finding the change in extension against the change in force.
 - Correct calculation of the gradient from this data. (1)
 - Recognition that the inverse of the gradient is equal to the spring constant.

Approach B: using the formula

 - Extraction of a pair of coordinates from the line of best fit. (1)
 - Use of the formula to find the spring constant. (1)
 - Stating the correct value in N/m. (1)

Answer: spring constant = 500 N/m
- b. $\text{extension} = \text{force} / \text{spring constant}$
 $\text{extension} = 35 / 500 = 0.07 \text{ m or } 7 \text{ cm}$
- c. From the graph, the extension of the spring can be seen to be 3.8 cm (1)
 Adding this to the original length – $10 + 3.8 = 13.8 \text{ cm}$ (1)
 Note: student may use the formula to calculate the extension; answers may be given in m or cm.
 1 mark is allocated to a valid method; 1 mark for the correct answer in m or cm.

Students can gain full marks for the correct answer only. However, this should be discouraged to do so.

2. Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are fully sequenced. (5–6 marks)
 Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are fully logically sequenced. (3–4 marks)
 Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified. (1–2 marks)
 No relevant content: 0 marks



Appendix: Sample Results

Data for use if the practical fails or a student is absent from the lesson.

Mass (g)	Force (N)	Original length of spring (cm)	Extension (cm)
0		3.5	
10		3.8	
20		4.1	
30		4.4	
40		4.7	
50		5.0	
60		5.3	
70		5.6	
80		5.9	
90		6.2	
100		6.5	

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Required Practical 7: Acceleration

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.5.4.2.2 Newton's second law	4.7.1.6 Newton's second law
AT criteria	AT 1, AT 2 and AT 3	

This practical investigates Newton's second law of motion, as expressed in the formulae

$$\text{force} = \text{mass} \times \text{acceleration} \text{ or } F = ma$$

The students are asked to investigate this relationship in two sections:

- the effect on the acceleration of an object of a fixed mass when a variable force is applied
- the effect on the acceleration of an object of a variable mass subjected to a fixed force

The students are thus calculating and investigating acceleration using the rearranged formulae

$$\text{acceleration} = \text{force} / \text{mass}$$

It is important that the students have a sound understanding of the concepts of velocity and acceleration before beginning this work. They will also need to be able to calculate both velocity and acceleration by measuring distances and times.

They should be familiar with the formulae for velocity and acceleration:

$$\text{velocity} = \text{distance travelled} / \text{time taken}$$

$$\text{acceleration} = \text{change in velocity} / \text{time taken}$$

Suggested questions

- What is speed?
- How is velocity different from speed?
- What units are used to measure both speed and velocity in science?
- How would you define acceleration?
- What units are used to measure acceleration?
- State Newton's second law of motion.

Practical considerations

There are several methods used to investigate Newton's second law of motion in the laboratory. In this practical, students are directed to use trolleys or cars running along a track or tracks. A variable force is applied to the trolley or car by hanging weights from the end of the bench over a pulley. The video to capture the movement of the trolley along the track. It is advised that the equipment should belong to the school and use a memory card also belonging to the school. Check the memory card before and after use. It is not recommended to use camera equipment, memory cards or the teacher or the students in class. If you decide to do so, please check your school's policy on school recording devices, and be aware of the potential issues of allowing personal equipment to be used in school.

Many institutions may have more elaborate apparatus, including air tracks and computer interfaces. These may be used in place of the suggested set-up if desired. However, it is important that the students collect the data themselves, rather than using graphs or precalculated tables from a computer. This is a requirement of AT 1.

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Care should be taken to ensure the falling weights, that provide the force, do not fall to the floor or to people. Placing a blanket or folded towel below the masses can help. The trolley can easily be pulled off the bench; therefore, care should be taken to ensure it does not fall and to instruct them to catch or stop the trolley before this happens.

Using this method, the average velocity over the length of the track/run is calculated and acceleration from rest. Although this introduces some error, it is accurate enough to compare between force, mass and acceleration.

Students should take all their measurements over a set distance as this will make the analysis section of this practical.

This practical includes optional sheets for the student to design their own investigation. A student design sheet has been included for this purpose. These sheets are intended to replace the student design sheet if students have not previously seen one. If the trolley and track in operation, a brief demonstration lesson, before they begin, will aid their understanding and help highlight the factors to consider in the design.

Apparatus

- Stop clock / stopwatch
- Metre ruler
- Track or length of bench around 1.5 m to 2 m
- Trolley or toy car large enough to attach the string to
- String
- Pulley and clamp
- 1 × 1 N stack of weights with holders (holder plus 9 × 10 g masses)
- 4 × 100 g masses plus holder
- Blu-Tack
- Electric balance
- If available, something soft to place on the floor below the falling weights to prevent them falling to the floor. Note: this is not listed in the students' set of instructions as it is at the teacher's own discretion.
- Video camera

Each student or group of students will need a complete set of apparatus.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Student design sheet – an alternative to the student instructions to allow student design
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and conclusions
- Exam-style questions – GCSE style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities:** parts A and B will require a total of **30 minutes**
- **Student design sheet:** allow **15 minutes** for this activity
- **Analysis:** **20 minutes** to draw the graphs with lines of best fit and complete the evaluation
- **Evaluation:** **15 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected and used for holding a class discussion.
- **Exam questions:** **15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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Acceleration required practical: pre-lab task

Useful formulae for this practical:

- resultant force = mass \times acceleration: $F = ma$
- velocity = distance travelled \div time taken: $v = s \div t$
- acceleration = change in velocity \div time taken: $a = \Delta v \div t$

The symbol ' Δ ' is used in formulae to mean 'a change in'. So Δv means 'change in velocity'. ' Δ ' is pronounced 'delta'.

1. If a car travels a distance of 15 metres in three seconds, what is its average velocity?

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2. What is the difference between velocity and acceleration?

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3. A toy car starts at rest and is pushed by a 10 N force so that it moves forward and reaches a velocity of 1.6 m/s. What was its acceleration over these four seconds?

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4. Two shopping trolleys are pushed with the same force. The first trolley is empty and the second trolley is full of shopping and has a mass of 15 kg. Which trolley will accelerate more?

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5. If a person is cycling along a flat road at a velocity of 2 m/s and then accelerates to a new velocity after the five seconds, what is their new velocity?

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Acceleration required practical: student instructions



CAUTION

Be aware of falling weights and moving trolleys in this practical. Do not let the floor. Do not place hands or feet in the way of falling weights or

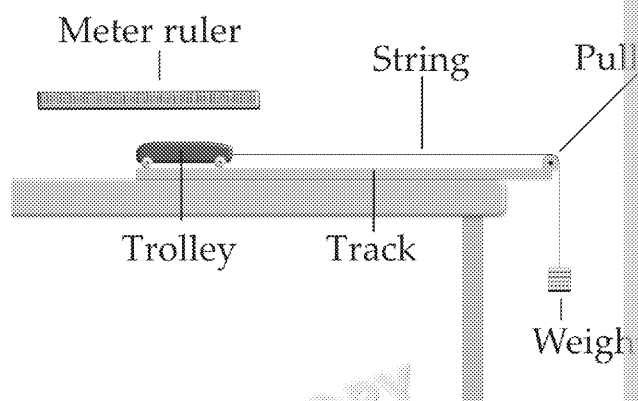
Apparatus

- Stop clock / stopwatch
- Metre ruler
- Track or length of bench around 1.5 m to 2 m
- Trolley or toy car large enough to attach the string to
- String
- Pulley and clamp
- 1 × 1 N mass with holder (holder plus 9 × 10 g masses)
- 4 × 100 g masses plus mass holder
- Blu-Tack
- Electric balance
- Video camera

Part A: Investigating the effect of force on the acceleration

Method

1. Draw a results table to record the time taken for the trolley to move along each 10 cm of the track; use this to calculate the velocities and acceleration of the trolley for the five different forces.
2. Set up the apparatus as shown in the diagram below.



3. Use the metre ruler to mark along the side of the track at 10 cm divisions.
4. Place the trolley at the far end of the track from the pulley. Set up the camera so that the length of the track; ensure that the divisions are visible.
5. Place the weight holder and one additional weight on the end of the string; this gives a total force of 0.2 N.
6. Start the video recording and then release the trolley. **Remember to catch the weights when you stop the video recording.**
7. Review the video on slow motion if possible. Using either the built-in timer or a stopwatch, record how long it took the trolley to move between each of the 10 cm divisions. Complete the table of results.
8. Add two more weights to the stack, adding an additional 0.2 N of force. Repeat the process until you have reached 1 N of force.

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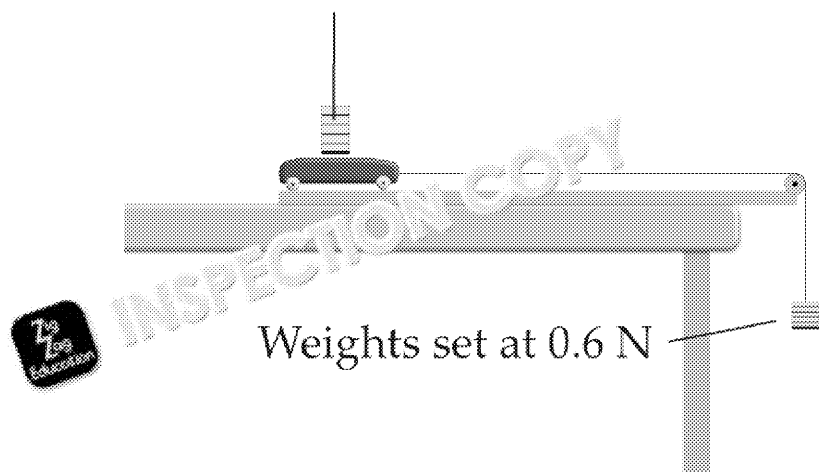
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Part B: Investigating the effect of mass on the acceleration

1. Draw a new results table with enough space to record the effect on the trolley for different magnitudes of mass.
2. Measure the mass of the trolley and record this next to your table of results.
3. Change the set-up of the apparatus as shown.

Additional masses blu-tacked to trolley



4. Run the trolley along the track with **no** additional masses added. You **do not** run. Adjust the 0.6 N pulling force so that the trolley runs slowly along the track. This should not be changed for the rest of the practical.
5. Run the trolley with no additional masses added and record the times in your table, using the video as described in the previous method.
6. Add 100 g to the top of the trolley and secure with Blu-Tack. Record the new times in your table, before measuring the times taken to travel along the track.
7. Repeat step 6 adding 100 g each time until you have 500 g additional mass on the trolley. Note: the masses do not have to be stacked one on top of the other, they can be placed along the trolley for increased stability and safety.
8. Remove the masses from the top of the trolley and from the end of the string and reset the apparatus.

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Acceleration required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

Part A: Investigating the effect of force on the acceleration of a trolley

1. Use the data to calculate the average velocity for each section of the journey

$$\text{velocity} = \text{distance travelled} \div \text{time taken}$$

Distances must be in metres not centimetres.

Repeat this for each level of force used.

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2. Calculate the average acceleration for each section of the journey along the ramp. The initial velocity is 0 m/s for the first section. For each subsequent section, the start velocity is the final velocity from the previous section of the journey.

$$\text{acceleration} = \text{change in velocity} \div \text{time taken}$$

Repeat this for each section force used.

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3. On one graph, plot the acceleration along the ramp for each 10 cm of the journey for each of the forces used. Add a key so that each force can be clearly identified.

Part B: Investigating the effect of mass on the acceleration of a trolley

Repeat the calculations of the velocities and acceleration for this part of the investigation. Draw a graph showing the change in acceleration over distance for the range of masses used in the investigation.

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Evaluation

- For each of the two graphs, write a paragraph to describe the relationships between

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- Newton's second law of motion can be expressed by the formula: $force = mass \times acceleration$. Use your data and your graphs to explain whether your investigation agrees with this law. (Force in newtons, mass in kg)

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- Using the data for your trolley with no additional mass and a force of 0.6 N, calculate the acceleration using the formula above.

- Compare this with the average acceleration over the length of the ramp.

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- Suggest reasons why these two values are not identical.

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- Write an evaluation of the method used for this practical to identify any sources of error, assumptions that might affect the repeatability or accuracy of your data. You should also make a suggestion to improve either of the methods used.

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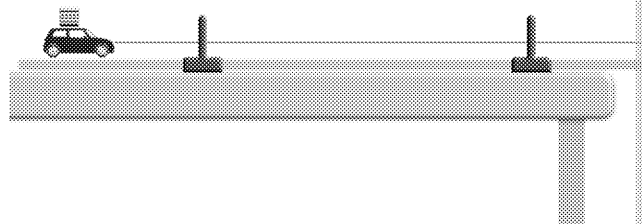
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Acceleration required practical: exam-style questions

1. A toy car of mass 250 g was timed as it passed between two light gates. The data was then sent to a computer that calculated the acceleration of the toy car.



The measurements were repeated, and each time additional mass was added to the car. The effect this would have on the acceleration of the car was recorded.

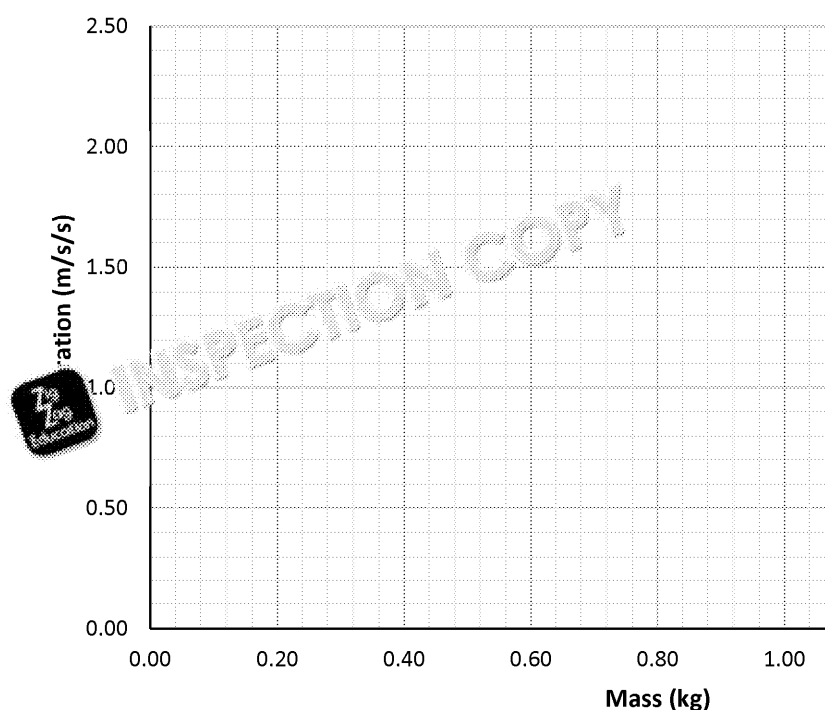
The data from the computer is presented below.

Mass (g)	Mass (kg)	Acceleration (m/s^2)
1500	1.50	0.68
1250		1.05
1000	1.00	1.41
750	0.75	1.78
500	0.50	
250	0.25	2.33

- a. Complete the data table by adding the missing values for mass (in kg) and acceleration (m/s^2).

- b. Give one hazard in this practical method and suggest how the risk of injury could be reduced.

- c. Use the axes provided to plot the acceleration against the mass in kg. Include a line of best fit.



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d. Describe the pattern shown in the graph.

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2. An empty carriage for a new roller-coaster ride is tested with different levels of force. The acceleration is measured using an accelerometer from a smartphone attached to the carriage. The results are shown in the table below. Each test was repeated three times for each force.

Force (N)	Acceleration (m/s^2)			Average
	1	2	3	
1000	8.34	8.30	8.45	8.33
2000	16.53	16.76	16.72	
3000	24.97	25.06	24.97	
4000	33.00	33.28	33.71	33.33

- a. Complete the table by calculating the missing average accelerations.

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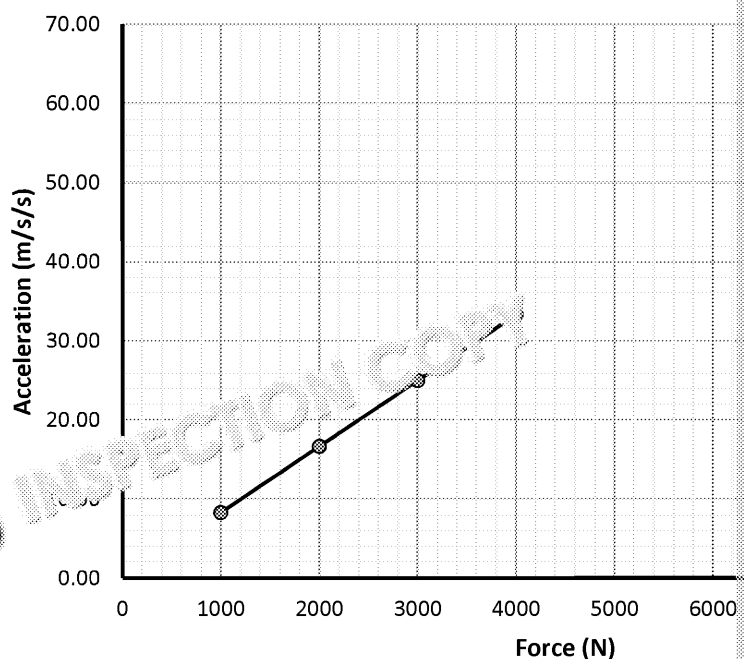
- b. Use the data from the table to calculate the mass of the carriage to the nearest 10 kg.

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- c. The higher the acceleration on the ride, the more exciting people find it. Above 5 G (approx. 50 m/s^2) there is a risk that the passengers will lose consciousness. Using the graph of the data below, suggest the maximum force that could be used on the ride. Give your answer.



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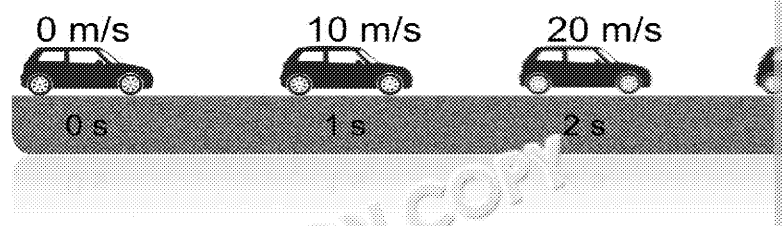
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Acceleration required practical: student design sheet

Your task is to design and carry out a practical to investigate the effects of mass and acceleration of a toy car or trolley. This should be done in two separate stages.

Acceleration = 10 m/s^2



- Stage 1: investigate the effect of changing the force applied to the trolley on its acceleration
- Stage 2: investigate the effect of changing the mass of the trolley on its acceleration

It is important to carry out each stage separately so that you are changing **either** mass or force, but not **both** at the same time; this would not be a fair test.

Apparatus available for this practical

- Stop clock / stopwatch
- Metre rulers
- Track or length of flat bench
- Trolley or toy cars
- String
- Pulley and clamp
- 10 g masses and mass holders
- 100 g masses and mass holders
- Blu-Tack
- Sellotape
- Electric balances
- Video camera

You may use any other apparatus available in your lab, with your teacher's permission.

Your plan must include the following:

1. A complete list of the apparatus to be used.
2. A clear method that provides step-by-step instructions, either as a list or in a flowchart.
3. A clear statement of any hazards and how you will manage these to reduce the risk of injury or damage to the apparatus.
4. A diagram for the set-up of each stage of the practical. Each diagram must be clearly labeled.
5. A results table for each stage of the practical.
6. An indication of how you will process your data to find the acceleration, and how you will present your analysis and evaluation.

Do not set up your apparatus or begin collecting data until your teacher has said 'Go'.

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Acceleration required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1. velocity = distance travelled \div time taken
velocity = $15 \div 3 = 5 \text{ m/s}$
2. Velocity is the rate of change of displacement (distance) with respect to time, or how quickly an object is moving in a given direction.
Acceleration is the rate of change of velocity with respect to time, or how quickly an object is speeding up (slowing down) or changing direction.
3. acceleration = change in velocity \div time
acceleration = $(1.6 - 0) \div 4 = 0.4 \text{ m/s}^2$
4. The trolley with the lower mass will have the higher acceleration. In accordance with Newton's second law, acceleration is inversely proportional to mass for a fixed force ($a = f \div m$).
5. acceleration = change in velocity \div time
acceleration = (final velocity - initial velocity) \div time
final velocity = (acceleration \times time) + initial velocity
final velocity = $(3 \times 5) + 2$
final velocity = 17 m/s

Analysis

Parts A and B

- 1 and 2. In both parts of the analysis, the answers will vary according to the student's own data. The student has converted their distances to metres before carrying out the calculation.
3. Each graph should have a clear key so that the change in acceleration for each condition is clear.

Evaluation

1. There should be a linear trend line for both sets of data. Students should recognise that for a fixed mass, and that there is an inversely proportional relationship for mass for a fixed force. Allow some variance to this in light of the data actually collected by the student.
2. Students are expected to link their descriptions (in 1, above) to the formula.
3.
 - a. The answer will depend on the student's own data; however, they will probably find the theoretical value greater than that observed.
 - b. The actual data is subject to experimental error; the calculation uses average of multiple trials; travel along the track; the real data is affected by inertia and friction.
4. Assumptions: the acceleration is constant from being to end of the journey; there is no delay in the release of the trolley should happen at the same time as starting the stop clock, but the use of light gates or other data-logging solutions would improve the accuracy of the experiment. Use of a smartphone to attach to the trolley and using the inbuilt accelerometers.

Exam-style questions

1. a.

Mass (g)	Mass (kg)	Acceleration (m/s ²)
1500	1.50	0.68
1000	1.00	1.05
750	0.75	1.41
500	0.50	2.13
250	0.25	2.33

2 marks for correctly calculating all four averages; 1 mark only if two or more are incorrect.

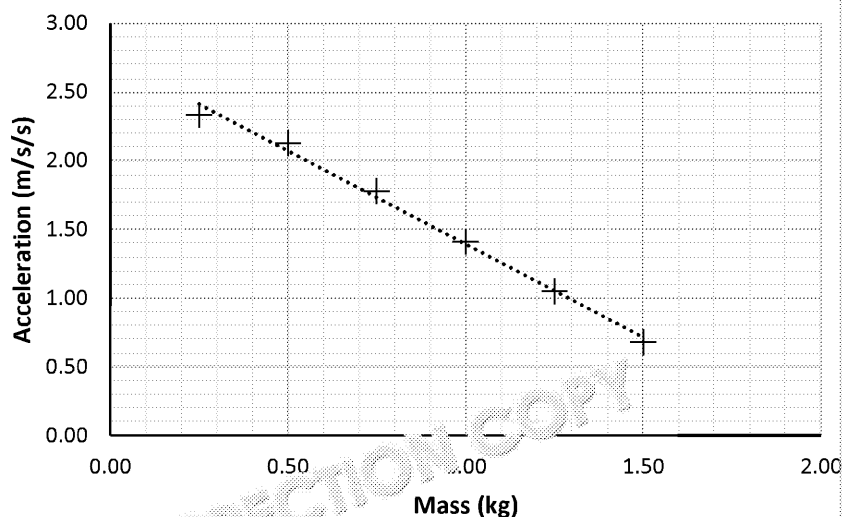
- b. Possible answers include

- Injury from the falling masses. Solution: do not place hands, etc. in the way of the falling masses.
 - Injury from the moving car. Solution do not place hands, etc. in the way of the moving car.
- 1 mark for identifying any reasonable hazard; 1 mark for suggesting how to reduce the hazard.

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c.



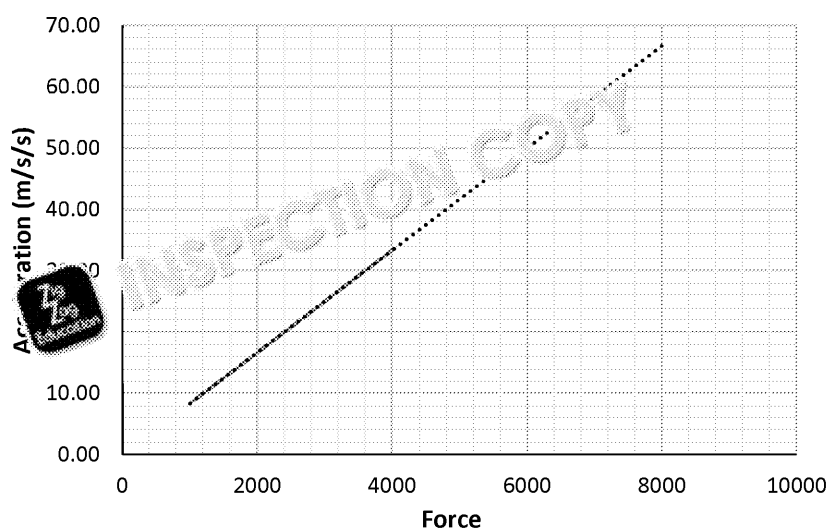
- Data points correctly plotted (2). Deduct 1 mark if two or more data points are incorrectly plotted. (1)
- Line of best fit – as shown; straight line fitting close to the data points. (1)
- d.
 - Recognition that as the mass increases the acceleration decreases. (1)
 - Use data to provide examples of this. (1)
 - An attempt to quantify the relationship by describing the angle of the line of best fit. (1)

2. a.

Force (N)	Acceleration (m/s²)			Average
	1	2	3	
1000	8.34	8.20	8.45	8.33
2000	16.53	16.76	16.72	16.67
3000	24.97	25.06	24.97	25.00
4000	33.00	33.28	33.71	33.33

- b. Any pair of data points from the table, using the average acceleration (1)
 force = mass \times acceleration
 \therefore mass = force \div acceleration (1)
 mass = $1000 \div 8.33$ (1)
 mass = 120 kg (1)

c.



Extrapolation of the line past the 50 m/s² point on the y-axis (1)
 Maximum force = 6000 N (1)
 Justification based on maximum force relating to this acceleration (1)

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Appendix: Sample Results

Data in case the experiment does not work or a student is absent from the lesson.

Time (s)	Force (N)				
Distance (cm)	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1
0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0.27	0.19	0.15	0.13	0.12
20	0.53	0.37	0.31	0.26	0.24
30	0.80	0.56	0.46	0.40	0.35
40	1.06	0.75	0.61	0.53	0.47
50	1.33	0.94	0.77	0.66	0.59
60	1.59	1.12	0.92	0.79	0.71
70	1.86	1.31	1.07	0.92	0.83
80	2.12	1.50	1.22	1.06	0.94
90	2.39	1.69	1.38	1.19	1.06
100	2.66	1.87	1.53	1.32	1.18

Time (s)	Mass (kg)				
Distance (cm)	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.65	0.75
0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	0.15	0.17	0.19	0.22	0.24
20	0.30	0.34	0.38	0.44	0.48
30	0.45	0.51	0.57	0.66	0.72
40	0.60	0.68	0.76	0.88	0.96
50	0.75	0.85	0.95	1.10	1.20
60	0.90	1.02	1.14	1.32	1.44
70	1.05	1.19	1.33	1.54	1.68
80	1.20	1.36	1.52	1.76	1.92
90	1.35	1.53	1.71	1.98	2.16
100	1.50	1.70	1.90	2.20	2.40

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Required Practical 8: Waves

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.6.1.2 Properties of waves	4.1.4.1 Longitudinal and transverse waves
AT criteria	AT 4	

The purpose of this practical is for the students to measure both frequency and wavelength of waves: one from a water ripple tank, and the other from the standing wave on a string. The measurements will then be used to calculate the speed of each wave.

Unlike other practicals, it is not anticipated that the students will set up the apparatus individually. It is suggested that the apparatus is set up for the whole class, so they gain an understanding of the equipment in use. The key aspect is to gather the data and complete the calculations in order to satisfy AT4: *'make observations to identify the suitability of apparatus to measure speed, frequency and wavelength'*. Students are encouraged to use the apparatus with help so they can judge its *'suitability'*.

Students should be familiar with longitudinal waves, transverse waves and the key formula: wave speed = frequency \times wavelength $\rightarrow v = f\lambda$

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and conclusions
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Suggested questions

- Give an example of a longitudinal wave and a transverse wave.
- What do we mean by the frequency of a wave, and what SI units are used to measure it?
- What is the amplitude of a wave?
- What units do we use to measure the wavelength of a wave?
- How do we calculate the speed of a longitudinal wave from its wavelength and frequency?

Practical considerations

This practical is carried out in two sections. Firstly, measurements are taken of a transverse wave on a string or cord attached to a signal generator. The speed of the wave is then calculated. The ripple tank will depend on the version owned by the institution. It is important to be familiar with the apparatus prior to the practical. This is also true of the standing wave in the string. It is advisable to have the assistance of a technician in the lab for this lesson.

Given the variable designs for ripple tanks, only general instructions are provided. A detailed procedure will need to be demonstrated in class. However, it is important to allow the students to use the apparatus in order for them to be in a position to achieve AT4, as stated above.

The set-up for a standing wave machine is shown on the following page. Students should be familiar with the set-up at the start of the lesson. However, they should be able to adjust the set-up to obtain a standing wave. The assistance of a teacher or the technician is acceptable.

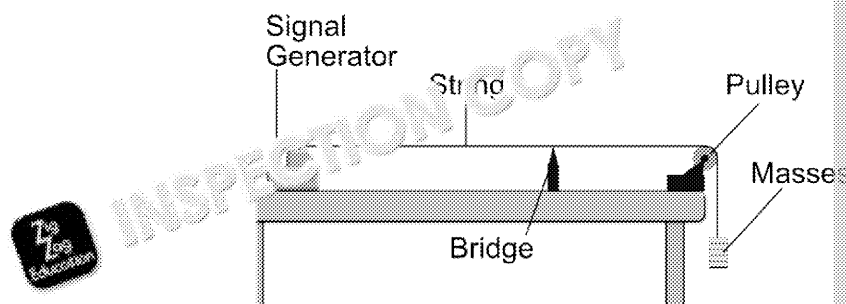
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Apparatus

- Ripple tank
- Metre rulers
- Stopwatches
- Power supply and signal/wave generator
- Masses and holder – variable as required to provide tension
- Pulley with clamp
- String/cord
- Wooden bridge/rest



The set-up needs to be adjusted to form a standing wave. This should be practised and requires adjustments to the wave generated, the tension provided by the masses or rest. It can be explained to students as an analogy of tuning a guitar string to a note. There is no requirement in this practical for students to understand any of waves or resonance, etc.

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities:** both sections will require a total of around **30 minutes**
- **Analysis:** **10 minutes** to complete the calculations
- **Evaluation:** **15 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected holding a class discussion.
- **Exam questions:** **15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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Waves required practical: pre-lab task

1. a. Draw a simple longitudinal wave, such as a string being oscillated vertically, on a grid. Include at least two peaks and two troughs.

- b. Add labels to your diagram to indicate the following:
 - wavelength
 - amplitude

2. A girl throws a stone into a pond and it creates a series of waves heading outwards. She counts 10 waves reaching the edge over a period of two seconds. What is the frequency in hertz (Hz)?

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3. A wave from a simple ripple tank is measured as having a distance of 25 cm between two consecutive peaks. Students count 30 waves over a period of one minute.

- a. What is the wavelength of the wave in metres?
- b. What is the frequency of the wave? Give your answer in standard SI units.

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- c. Calculate the speed of the wave. Give your answer in standard SI units.
- wave speed = frequency \times wavelength*

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4. How could you verify the measurement of the wavelength of a wave in a ripple tank?

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Waves required practical: student instructions

During this practical you will measure some properties of simple longitudinal wave in a ripple tank, and then standing waves in a solid string or elastic cord. You will learn how to measure the wavelength of these waves and determine their frequencies. You will be asked to calculate the speed of each wave in metres per second (m/s).

Note: Some of the apparatus used in this practical may be unfamiliar to you, so you may be given allowed assistance from your teacher and technicians, but **you must decide how to perform your own measurements and calculations**.

Throughout this practical **do not** adjust the apparatus without permission and be careful not to give the correct wave patterns as this can be a time-consuming process.

Part A: Water waves in a ripple tank

A ripple tank is a shallow basin of water with a bar resting on the water's surface connected to a generator that makes the bar vibrate. These vibrations create ripples or waves on the water's surface which can then be observed directly or via a projection system.

Your task is to measure the wavelength and frequency of the waves in the ripple tank.

Apparatus

- Ripple tank and projection
- Metre rulers
- Stopwatch

Method

1. Your teacher will set up and turn on the ripple tank, or show you how to do so.
2. Observe the wave and decide how to measure the wavelength. The wavelength is the distance between two identical sections of the wave, i.e. between two peaks. Hint: you could count the number of waves that pass a fixed point on the tank, and then measure the length of the tank.
3. Take your measurement and record the wavelength in metres.
4. Use the stopwatch to count the number of waves passing a fixed point on the tank in one minute. Record this number.

Part B: Standing waves in a solid (string)

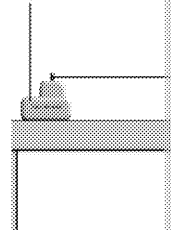
In this part of the practical you will help set up standing waves in a string, using a signal generator. Your task is to measure the wavelength of these waves and determine the frequency for each.

Apparatus

- Power supply and signal/wave generator
- Masses and holder – variable as required to provide tension
- Pulley with clamp
- String/cord
- Metre rulers
- Wooden bridge/rest

1. With assistance, set up the apparatus as shown.
2. Adjust the string to form a standing wave. This can be achieved by adjusting the masses, the position of the bridge and/or the frequency from the signal generator. A standing wave is a wave that looks as though it is not moving. It is easiest to adjust the bridge position first, then add masses *if required*. **Ask for help from a technician if you are unsure what to do.**
3. Measure the wavelength with the ruler, then record the wavelength in a results table. Repeat for four sets of data. Your table will be used to record the wavelength, frequency and speed of the wave.
4. The frequency of the wave can be found from the frequency set on the signal generator. Record this in hertz (Hz). Add this to your table of data.
5. Repeat steps 2 to 4 for three additional frequencies.

Signal
Generator



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Waves required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

The speed of a wave can be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{wave speed} = \text{frequency} \times \text{wavelength} (v = f\lambda)$$

1. Use this relationship to calculate the speed of the water wave. Show your work. Give your answer in metres per second. It is important to make sure your wavelength is in hertz, otherwise your answer will be incorrect.

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2. Use the formula to complete the table for the standing wave in the string at 100 Hz.

Evaluation

1. Describe the procedure you used to adjust the apparatus in part B of this practical with the string. What did you have to adjust, and how easy was it to do?

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2. What sources of error were there when measuring the wavelength of the wave? How might these be reduced?

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3. What would happen to the distance between the top of each wave in the ripple tank if the wave speed was doubled? Explain your answer.

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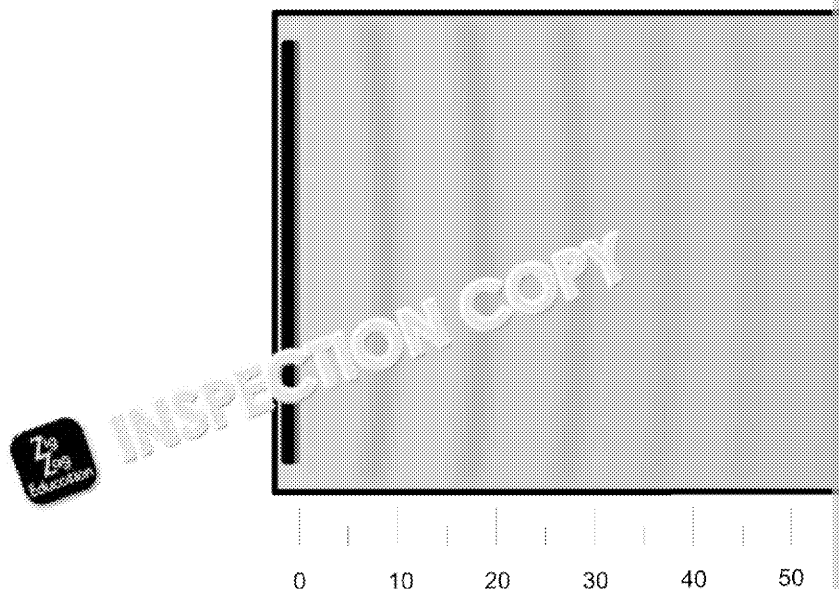
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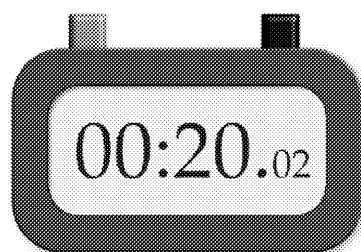


Waves required practical: exam-style questions

- The diagram below shows the projected surface of a ripple tank with the bar the waves to the left side of the tank and a scale below.



The students observed these waves and timed how long it took for the wave to cross the tank. Their stopwatch is shown below.



- To the nearest second, how long did it take for the first wave to cross the tank?

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- What is the wavelength of the waves shown? Give your answer in metres.

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- Use the information provided to calculate the speed of the wave. Use the formula $\text{wave speed} = \text{frequency} \times \text{wavelength}$

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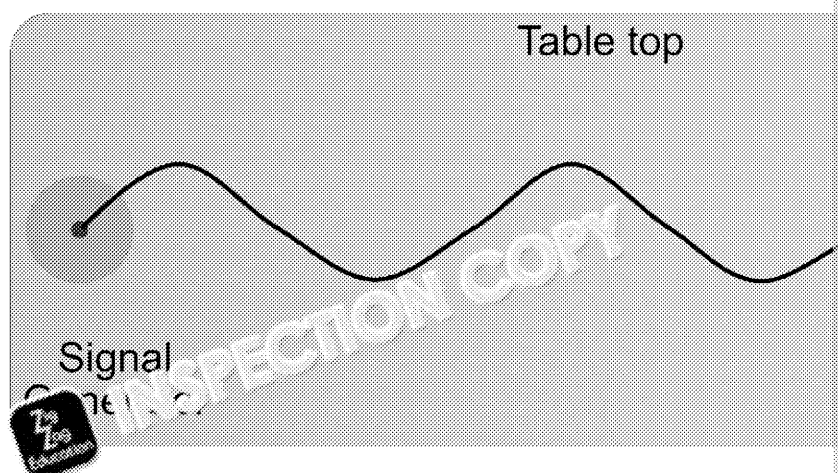
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2. A student is investigating the relationship between the wavelength of a wave signal generator connected to a string held taut by weights hanging from the top. The vibration of the string is controlled by a small wooden bridge placed on the table. The diagram below shows a plan view of the set-up with one of the waves generated.



- a. What apparatus would the student need to use to find the wavelength of the wave?
-
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- b. Describe how the student could find the speed of the wave in this practical.
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- c. During this investigation, the student wishes to change the wavelength of the wave. The signal generator has a fixed frequency. Describe how they could change the speed of the wave.
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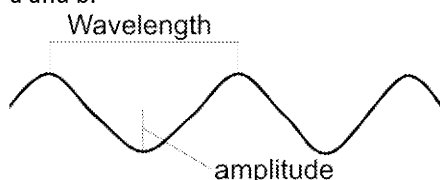
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Waves required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1. a and b.



2. Frequency (f) = waves per second
 $f = 10 \text{ waves} \div 2 \text{ seconds} = 5 \text{ Hz}$

3. a. 25 cm = 0.25 m
 b. 1 minute = 60 seconds
 $f = 30 \text{ waves} \div 60 \text{ s} = 0.5 \text{ Hz}$
 c. wave speed = frequency \times wavelength
 wave speed = 0.5 \times 0.25
 wave speed = 0.125 m/s (ms^{-1})

4. The length of several waves can be measured, and the average found by dividing this by the number of waves. The measurements could be repeated several times by different people to verify the results. Alternatively, count the number of waves visible in the tank, and then measure the length of the tank. This measurement can be repeated several times by different people to verify the results.

Answers using sample results for teacher's reference

Wave	Wavelength (m)	Frequency (Hz)	Speed (m/s)
Water wave (ripple tank)	0.034	4.80	0.163
String (1)	3.25	5	16.250
String (2)	1.45	10	14.500
String (3)	1	15	15.000
String (4)	0.6	20	12.000

Analysis

1. Answers will vary depending on the set-up and individual students' measurements. The standard SI units of hertz and metres have been used in the calculations.
2. See note for 1 above.

Evaluation

1. Although the answers will vary depending on the actual set-up, the students should be aware of the following:
 - a. Adjusting the signal/vibration generator to change its frequency.
 - b. Moving the bridge to change the wave.
 - c. Adjusting the tension in the string by changing the masses suspended on the end. They should make a suitable comment on the difficulties of doing each step they describe.
2. Common errors might include:
 - The waves are not clear so it is harder to determine the exact length of the wave. Measuring several waves to find an average, can help reduce this source of error.
 - Accuracy of the ruler can affect the measurements. This can be reduced by using a ruler with smaller divisions.
 - Knocking the tank disturbs the waves. This can be avoided by projecting the image of the tank before taking any measurements.
 - It can be difficult to count part waves.
3. The distance between the top of each wave is a measure of the wavelength, given the formula:
 wave speed = frequency \times wavelength
 wavelength = wave speed / frequency
 Therefore, if the frequency remains unchanged and the wave speed doubles the wavelength also doubles.

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Exam-style questions

1.
 - a. 20 seconds (1)
 - b. 0.1 m (1)
 - c. frequency = waves per second
 frequency = 6 waves \div 20 s
 frequency = 0.3 Hz (1)
 wave speed = frequency \times wavelength
 wave speed = 0.3 \times 0.1 (1)
 wave speed = 0.03 m/s (1)
2.
 - a. A metre ruler (1)
 - b. Either
 Find the wavelength by using a ruler and measuring the distance between two wave (1)
 Find the frequency from the generator (1)
 Use the formula: wave speed = frequency \times wavelength ($v = f\lambda$) (1)
 Or
 Measure the distance from the generator to the bridge (1) and record the time taken for 10 waves (1)
 Use the formula: $speed = distance \div time$ (1).
 Or
 Measure the distance from the generator to the bridge (1) and record the time taken for 10 waves (1)
 Use the formula: $speed = distance \div time$ (1).
 - c. Measure the position of the bridge (1) and adjust the masses (1) to give a stable wave (1)



Appendix: Sample Results

Results to use in case the practical does not work or a student is absent from the lesson

Wave	Wavelength (m)	Frequency (Hz)	Speed (m/s)
Water wave (ripple tank)	0.034	4.80	
String (1)	3.25	5	
String (2)	1.45	10	
String (3)	1	15	
String (4)	0.6	20	

Students should be provided with the above table and asked to calculate the speeds.

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Required Practical 9: Light

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	N/A	N/A
AT criteria	AT 4 and AT 8	

The purpose of this practical is to observe the refraction of light through two different materials at different angles of incidence, reflection and refraction. Most commonly this will compare glass and Perspex. However, any two transparent materials can be used.

Suggested questions

- What is the difference between reflection and refraction?
- What are the main hazards when using a ray box for light experiments?
- What is the speed of light in a vacuum?
- What happens to the speed of light as it enters a dense material such as glass?
- What is the normal in a ray diagram?

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and conclusions
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Practical considerations

Ideally, this practical should be carried out using rectangular glass and Perspex blocks. Lenses for this practical as these will distort the results and make it difficult for the students to observe the refraction of the materials on refraction.

The rays of light can often be very dim on the page; therefore, it is usually necessary to carry out the practical in a dark room, with blinds closed and/or lights turned off. It is, therefore, sensible to have the apparatus assembled and that they have marked the position of the block and the position of the lights. Instruct the students that they should not move about the classroom when the lights are off. Student instructions indicate when the lights should be turned off. A general reminder about safety practices in a lab is advisable before the start of this practical.



CAUTION

Remind students that the top of the ray boxes can become hot during use. They should not touch this part of the box when they move it. This, and the considerations of working in a dark room, should be covered as part of the introduction to the practical.

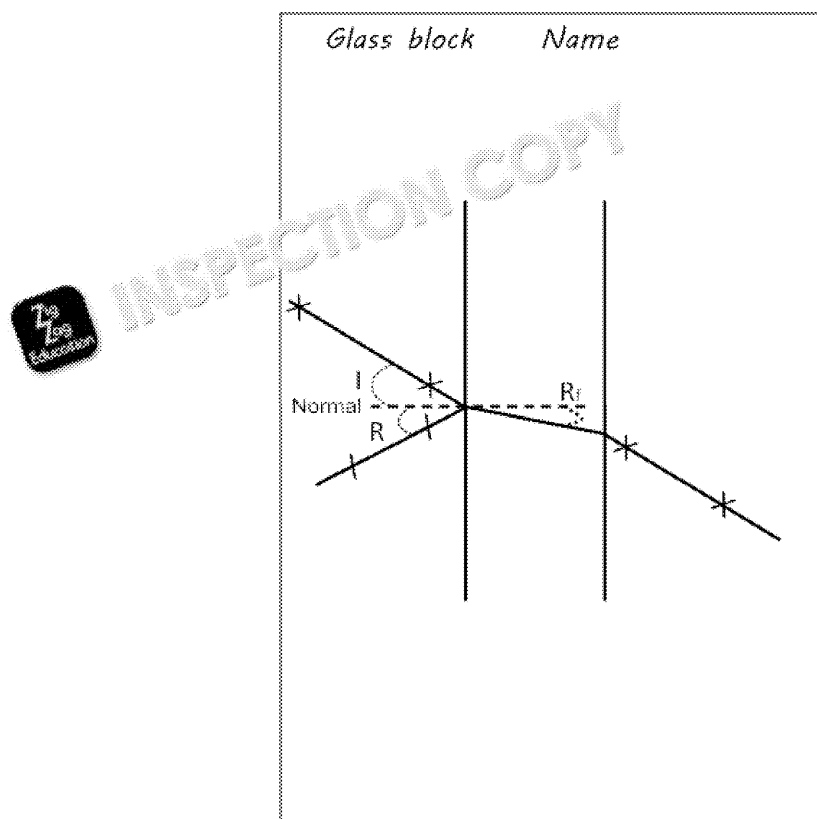
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Students should work in pencil and have access to an eraser for this practical. And in the instructions and the apparatus list it is suggested that a protractor is used. can measure to whole degrees.

At the end of the practical, the students should have two ray diagrams. On each angle of incidence (I), the angle of reflection (R) and the angle of refraction (R_f). It add their names to their work, along with the material of the block. An example of the diagram below.



Apparatus

- Ray box
- Single slit grating
- Pencil
- Eraser
- 2 × A4 sheets of plain paper
- 30 cm ruler
- Protractor
- 2 × transparent blocks of different materials (glass, plastics, Perspex, etc.)

Each student will need access to the apparatus. Students need only one transparent block as the apparatus can be shared.

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities:** both sections will require a total of around **20 minutes**
- **Analysis:** **10 minutes** to complete the measurements
- **Evaluation:** **15 minutes**, plus discussion time if desired
- **Exam questions:** **15 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise

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Light required practical: pre-lab task

1. When a person looks into a plain mirror, they see an image of themselves. What happens to the light to form this image?

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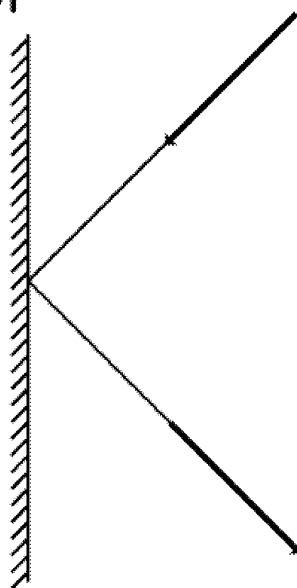
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2. The diagram below shows a ray diagram for a plain mirror. Add a normal to the mirror, label this 'N', and the angle of incidence (label this 'i') and the angle of reflection (label this 'r').



Mirror



3. Glass has a higher refractive index than Perspex. When a ray of light is shown in the diagram below, it will be refracted. Predict which material will result in the greatest angle of refraction.

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Light required practical: student instructions

During this practical you will shine a ray of light from a ray box into two blocks of different materials. Your task is to measure the angles of incidence, reflection and refraction and compare the effect on the light of the two materials.



CAUTION

The ray box will become hot during use. Handle with care and avoid touching the box.

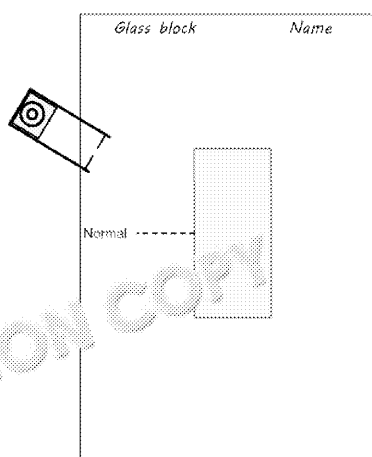
During this practical you will need to work with the lights turned off or turned very dim. Please do not use mobile phones in class during this time. Work at your own bench with your own equipment.

Apparatus

- Ray box with a single slit
- Pencil
- Eraser
- 2 × A4 sheets of plain paper
- 30 cm ruler
- Protractor
- 2 × transparent blocks of different materials – glass, plastic, Perspex, etc.

Method

1. Place a piece of plain A4 paper flat on the desk. Write your name at the top of the paper. The first block you use for your first block is made from.
2. Place your block in the centre of the A4 paper. Using a **pencil**, mark the two corners of the block.
3. Draw a *normal* line halfway down the left-hand side of the block. This should be perpendicular (90°) to the edge of the block.
4. Plug in the ray box and place it near the edge of the paper. Place the single slit of the ray box. Aim it so that the ray of light will shine on the point where the normal meets the block. See the diagram below.



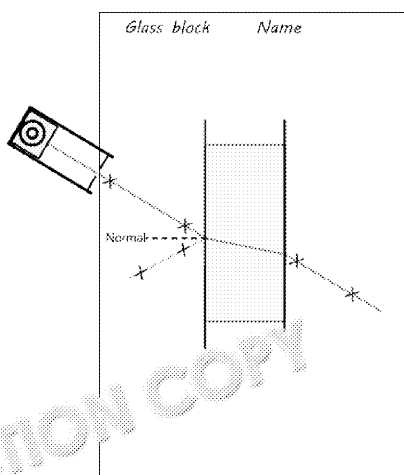
5. Turn on your ray box. Your teacher will now dim the lights to make it easier to see the ray. Adjust the ray of light so that it intersects with the normal and the edge of the block in the following positions, ensuring that the middle of each cross is in the centre of the block:
 - i. Close to the point where the ray exits the ray box
 - ii. Close to the edge where the ray enters the block
 - iii. Close to the point where the ray exits the block on the opposite side
 - iv. About 3 cm or 4 cm along this ray, after it has exited the opposite side of the block

Find the pale ray of light that has 'reflected' off the surface where the ray enters the block.

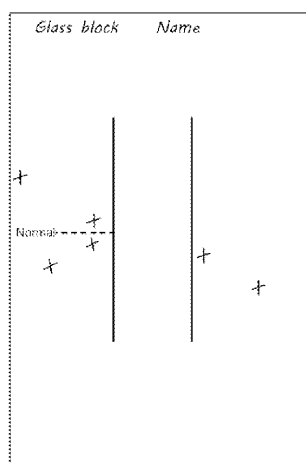
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- v. Add two crosses to the reflected ray, similar to the crosses previously drawn. See the diagram below as an example of how your work should look.



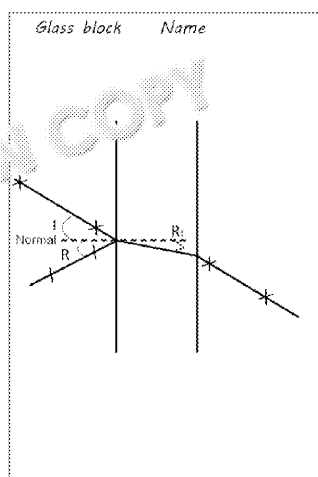
6. Turn off the ray box and carefully move it to one side. Remove the block from the table and look at the diagram below.



7. Using a ruler and a pencil, join up the crosses to show the path of the rays of light through the block area as shown.

Label the following angles:

- angle of incidence – i
- angle of reflection – R
- angle of refraction – R_r



8. Repeat the method using the second block of a different material. Use a fresh sheet of paper.

It is important to keep the angle of incidence the same for both blocks.

9. Unplug the ray box and leave it to cool before packing it away.

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Light required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Draw a simple table in which to record your results. You will be measuring the method for each of the two materials.

2. Measure the angles of incidence, reflection and refraction on both ray diagrams. Angles are measured between the ray of light and the normal. Add these results to

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Evaluation

1. Compare the angles of **reflection** for both materials. What can you say about

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2. Compare the angles of **refraction** for the two materials. What can you say about

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3. Comment on the reliability of your measurements. Were there any sources of

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4. Compare your results with the results of two other students in your class. Do your results agree? Comment on how their results compare to your own, and what this says about your own measurements.

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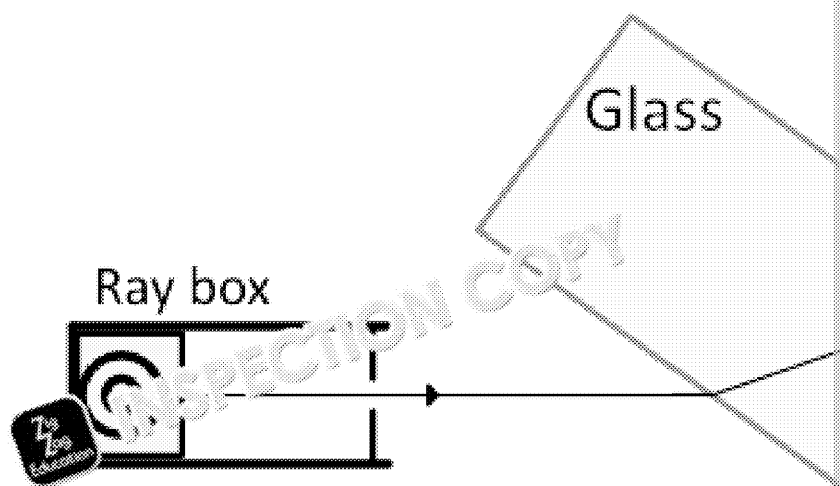
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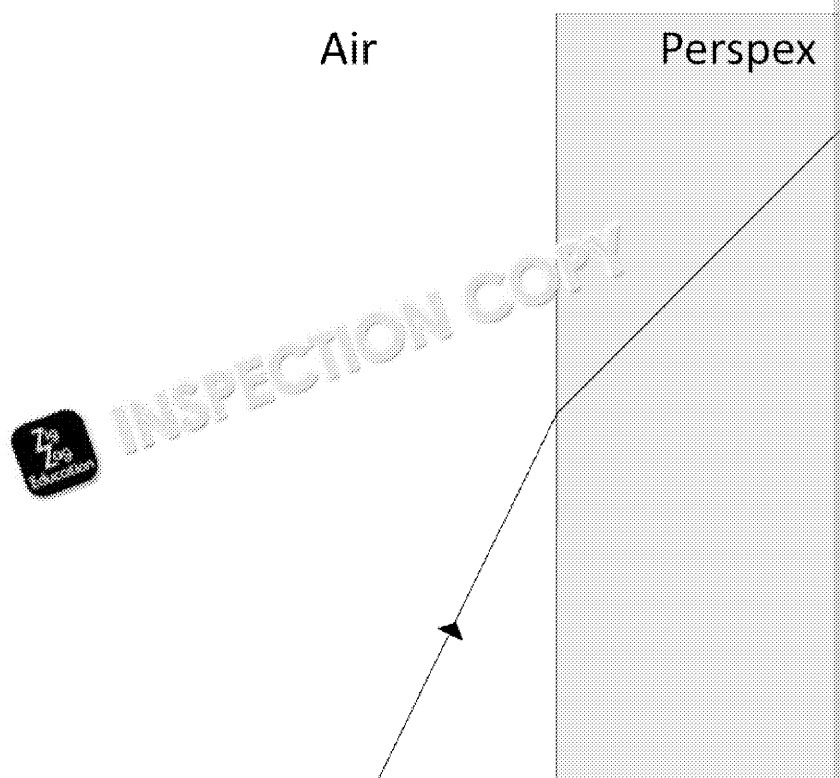


Light required practical: exam-style questions

1. The diagram below shows part of a ray of light incident on a block of clear glass.



- Add a normal to the diagram at the point where the ray of light is incident so that it can be used to measure the angles of incidence and refraction. Label this 'N'.
 - Add a line to represent the ray of light as it exits the glass block. Label this 'R'.
 - Draw in the ray of reflected light. Label this 'RL'.
2. A ray of light is shone from the air into a block of Perspex. The diagram below shows the ray of light entering the Perspex block.



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- a. Determine the angle of refraction. Show on the diagram how you have

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- b. A student wishes to investigate how the angle of refraction changes with materials. They have access to blocks of Perspex, glass and a clear acrylic.

Write a method for the investigation, giving a full list of apparatus. You measure the refractive index of each material.

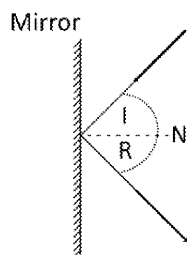
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Light required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1. The light has been reflected from the boundary between the two different materials: mirror.

2.



3. Glass – the greater density results in a greater change in the speed of the light and, therefore, a greater refraction.

Analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Suggested table structure is shown on the previous page.
2. Values will vary with the angles of incidence used and the materials. However, the ratio of the angles should be constant for a given material. The ratio of the angles will vary with the angle of incidence.

Evaluation

1. The two values should be identical in both materials.
2. One of the angles will be greater than the other. Typically, glass will produce a greater angle of refraction than Perspex, but this can vary.
3. Students must comment on their results and the degree to which they have measured the angles. They should also comment on the accuracy of the measurements they completed the diagrams. Common sources of error include:
 - not placing the crosses in the centre of the ray of light
 - the ray of light being very dim and hard to map
 - the normal not being at right angles to the medium interface
 - measuring the angles from the ray to the medium interface rather than to the normal
4. Students should comment on the degree to which the pattern in the other students' results is similar to their own. Although the values will differ, they should all see that the angles of incidence and refraction are related. The angle of refraction is different for the two materials. They should make a sensible comment on the accuracy of their work. Their work is accurate, based on the similarities in the patterns in the other students' work.

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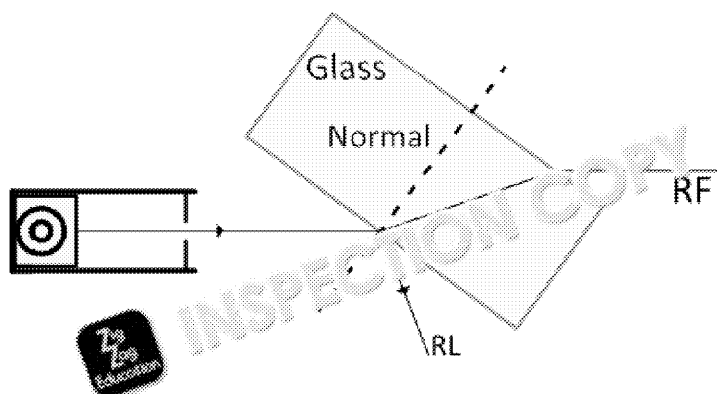
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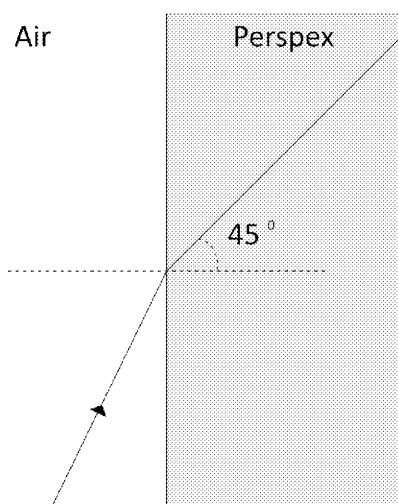
Exam-style questions

1. a. The normal should be drawn at right angles to the glass block surface at the point of incidence (1). The normal extends inside the block (1).
- b. The line labelled 'RF' should exit the glass and be parallel to the ray of incidence (1).
- c. The ray 'RL' should emanate from the point where the ray of incidence touches the glass. The angle of refraction must be equal to the angle of incidence (1).

Diagram for a, b and c.



2. a.



Normal line at right angles to the medium interface (1)

Angle correctly identified and measured from the normal to the ray (1)

Angle measured as $45^\circ \pm 2^\circ$ (1)

- b. Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are correctly sequenced. (5–6 marks)
- Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are correctly sequenced but not fully logically sequenced. (3–4 marks)
- Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are missing or unclear. (1–2 marks)
- No relevant content: 0 marks

Indicative content

- Use of a suitable ray or light from a suitable light source
- Identification of the point of incidence, which the rays of light can be marked and recorded for measurement
- Identification of a normal to material at the point of intersection of the ray of incidence
- Recognition that the angles are measured from the normal to the ray of incidence
- A suitable list of apparatus
- Same method used for all three materials

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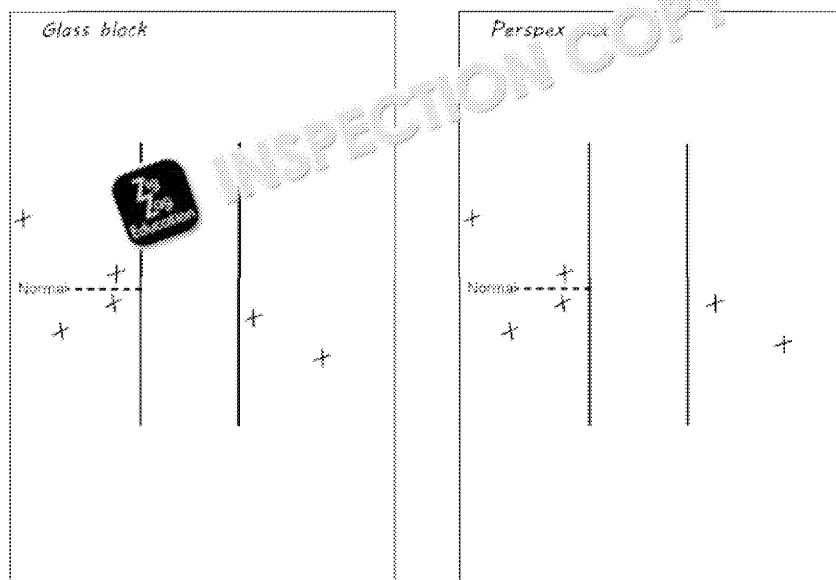
Appendix: Sample Results

Results in case the practical does not work or a student is absent from the lesson.

Material	Angles		
	Incident	Refraction	Reflection
Glass	20.0	14.5	20.0
Perspex	20.0	12.0	20.0

Alternatively, the student(s) can be given the diagrams below and asked to perform their

Example results for a glass block and a Perspex block



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Required Practical 10

Radiation and Absorption – Leslie cube

Teacher's notes

Before the required practical

	Trilogy	Synergy
Specification reference	6.6.2.2 Properties of electromagnetic waves	4.1.4.3 Properties of electromagnetic waves
AT reference	AT 1 and AT 4	

The purpose of this practical is to compare the intensity of infrared radiation emitted from a Leslie cube. This is a metal cube with four different surfaces – usually a matt black, a silvered surface, a matt white surface and a gloss white surface.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – work for the students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and conclusions
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Suggested questions

1. Name the parts of the electromagnetic spectrum.
2. How is infrared radiation detected by the human body?
3. What happens to the energy of electromagnetic radiation when it is absorbed?
4. Although the human eye cannot detect infrared radiation, what can we use to detect it?
5. What happens to the wavelength of an EM wave as the energy carried by the wave increases?

Practical considerations

It is not a requirement that each student should have individual access to a Leslie cube. However, it is advisable to allow the students to help collect the data and to make sure that the data should be collected.

Please remind students that the cube will be filled with hot water and should be handled with care. It should always be kept on a heatproof mat (when not used or empty) as a matter of good practice.

Ideally, the radiation or temperature should be measured using an infrared detector with a digital display. It is possible to measure the radiation emitted from each surface using a standard glass thermometer. When using this apparatus, the bulb of the thermometer will need to be painted with matt black paint. This method is less reliable and accurate than using a digital infrared detector.

Whichever method is used to measure the level of infrared radiation, it is important that the distance between the surface of the Leslie cube and the detector / thermometer bulb is kept constant for all measurements. Although the cube will retain heat for a reasonable amount of time, if the data is protracted it may be necessary to refill the cube with hot water. Please ensure that the temperature of the water is kept constant to ensure that it is a fair comparison.

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Apparatus

- Leslie cube
- Kettle
- Infrared detector with meter or suitable alternative
- Heatproof mat
- 30 cm ruler

Although providing these for individuals or small groups would be ideal, this can be done with the students making decisions about how to collect the data.

Timings

- **Pre-lab task** plus starter questions: **10 minutes**
- **Practical activities:** around **20 minutes**, including time for the students to heat the cubes
- **Analysis:** **10 minutes** to complete the measurements
- **Evaluation:** **10 minutes** for discussion time if desired
- **Exam question:** **10 minutes** should be allowed for this exercise



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Radiation and absorption required practical: pre-lab task

1. During this practical you will be using a metal cube filled with hot water, known as a calorimeter. What are the hazards associated with using this apparatus? How can you ensure the class remain safe?

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2. a. Look at the game cube you will be using. Which surface do you think will come up most often and which the least?

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- b. Justify your choice. You can refer to scientific explanations and examples to help explain your ideas.

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Radiation and absorption required practical: student instructions

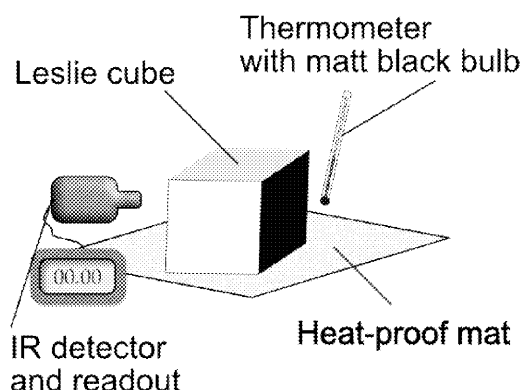
During this practical you will be using a device called a Leslie cube. This is a metal cube with four different surfaces. The cube is filled with hot water, and the amount of infrared radiation emitted from each surface can be measured using an infrared detector or a standard thermometer.

Apparatus

- Leslie cube
- Kettle
- Infrared detector with meter or suitable alternative
- 30 cm ruler
- Heatproof mat

Method

1. You will be measuring the amount of infrared radiation emitted from each of the four surfaces of the Leslie cube. You will repeat this process to verify your measurements. Create a table to record your results. The units you will use will depend on the measuring apparatus, so check this with your teacher.
2. Place the Leslie cube on the heatproof mat. Carefully fill it with boiling water from a kettle.
3. It is important to take the readings at the same distance from the surface each time. For your experiment, take some preliminary readings from one of the surfaces to determine a suitable distance. Use this data to choose the distance you will use in your investigation.
4. Place the detector in front of the first surface and measure the amount of radiation emitted.



5. Repeat the process for each of the different surfaces of the cube.
6. Carefully empty and refill the cube to repeat the process to gain a second set of readings. Ensure the temperature is the same each time.

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Radiation and absorption required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Calculate an average for the amount of radiation detected for each surface.

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2. Present your data in a suitable chart. (As the input variable is discontinuous a simple bar chart.)

Evaluation

1. At what distance did you place the detector from the cube to take your readings? Referring to your preliminary data in your answer.

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2. Your response to pre-lab question 2 forms a simple hypothesis for this investigation. Comment on your prediction. State whether your original idea is supported or not. What has happened?

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3. Use your scientific understanding about radiation, absorption and emission to explain the results of your investigation.

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4. Compare the two sets of data that you collected for each surface. What does this tell you about the reliability of your data?

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5. Suggest an improvement to the method that could increase the accuracy of your results.

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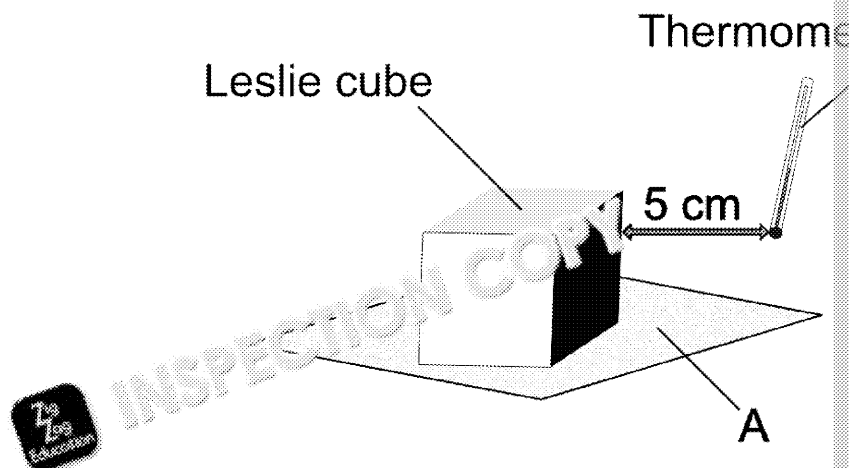
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Radiation and absorption required practical: exam style question

1. A student sets up a Leslie cube as shown in the diagram below. The cube has different finish: matt black, shiny black, matt white and shiny white. The diagram shows the cube with the matt black and the matt white surfaces. The top and bottom of the cube are not visible.



The set-up above shows the thermometer being held at a distance of 5 cm from the surface.

- a. What is the name of the item labelled 'A' in the diagram?
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- b. When the thermometer is moved to take a measurement from the white surface, from the surface should the thermometer be placed?
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The student took readings from four of the surfaces, each of which had a different finish. They took their readings three times. Their data is shown in the table below.

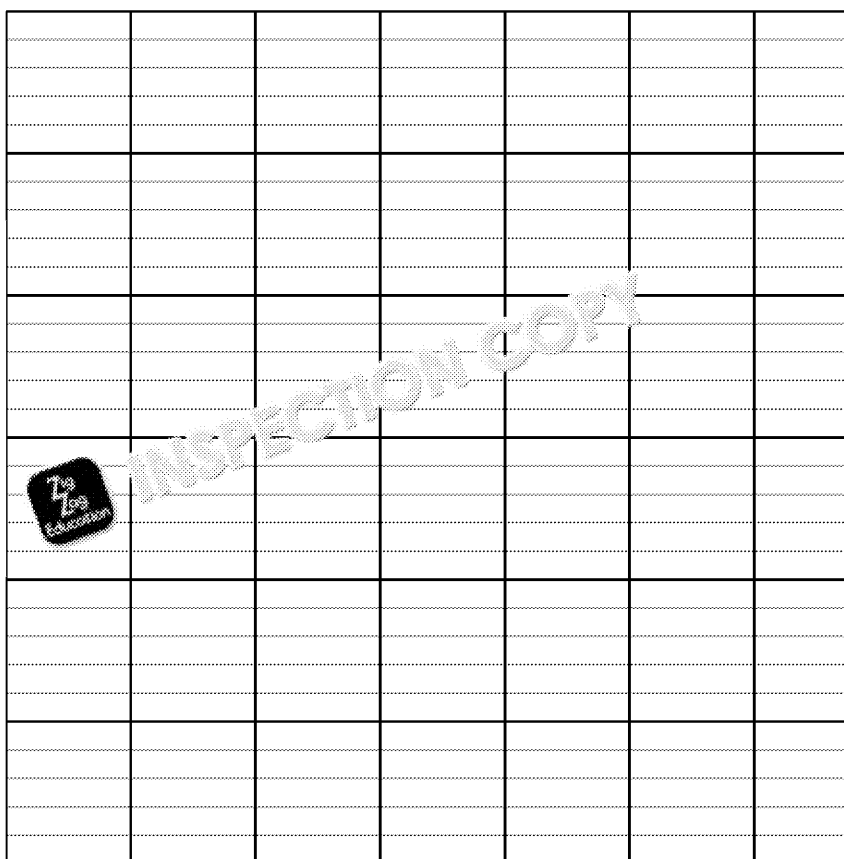
Surface	Temperature (°C)			
	1	2	3	Average
Black – Matt	50.5	51.0	51.5	
White – Shiny	21.5	23.5	22.5	
White – Matt	29.0	27.5	26.5	
Black – Shiny	32.5	34.0	33.5	

- c. Calculate the missing averages to one decimal place to complete the table.
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- d. Draw a graph of the results.



- e. Which set of data is the **least** reliable? Justify your answer.

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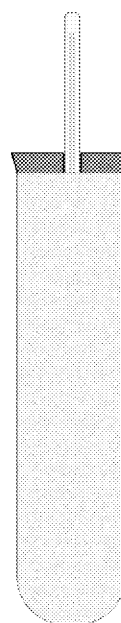
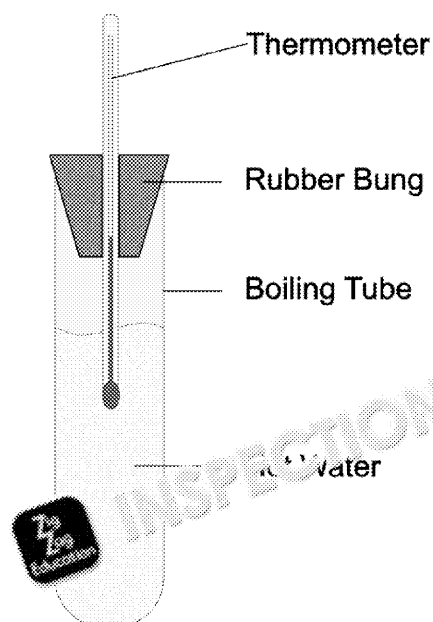


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2. Two boiling tubes are set up containing hot water, a thermometer and a burnable material. One tube is wrapped in shiny silver foil and the other with a thin layer of matt black paper. The foil and the



Silver Foil

Describe a method that could be used to compare how the two surfaces affect radiation emitted by the two tubes over a given period of time. Your method ensure this is a fair test and how the results will be collected. You should also consider any safety considerations. Include a list of any **additional** apparatus your method requires.

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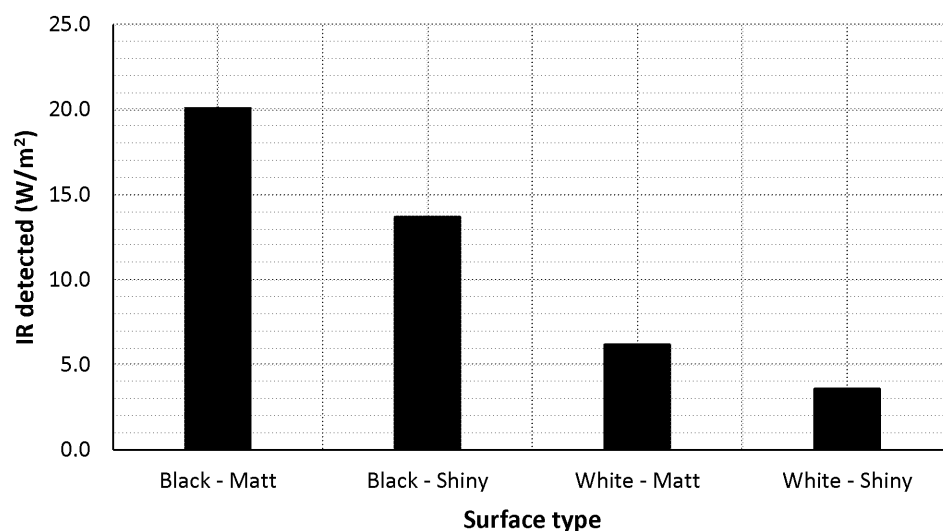
Radiation and absorption required practical: answer sheet

Pre-lab task

1. Hazards – hot water, the cube will become hot
Handle with care; keep on a heatproof mat; use heatproof gloves when handling
2. a. This will depend on the cube being used and the student's opinion; however, the more energy than the paler gloss surfaces.
b. Students can link their ideas to theory and to ideas from everyday experience, e.g. black is hotter than white/shiny ones in the sun. At this stage their ideas do not have to be based on a reasoned opinion to form a basic hypothesis for the practical.

Answers using sample results for teacher's reference

Surface	Infrared radiation level (W/m ²)		
	1	2	Average
Black – Matt	19.8	20.4	20.1
Black – Shiny	13.2	13.2	13.7
White – Matt	6.4	6.0	6.2
White – Shiny	3.1	4.1	3.6



Analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Check averages have been calculated correctly; these will vary depending on apparatus and measurements.
2. The data should be in the form of a bar chart – see example below (using data from the table above).

Evaluation

1. The student should refer to their preliminary data to justify the distance they choose.
2. The student should compare their actual results to their answer to pre-lab 2; their best prediction. They should state the degree their data supports their prediction, and recognise any variation.
3. Black surfaces heat up faster than white/shiny surfaces; this results in them reradiating more energy. Darker surfaces absorb a greater range of the spectrum than white surfaces do. This also includes the infrared part of the spectrum.
4. Answers will vary. Students should recognise that the closer in value the readings are, the more reliable that set of data is.
5. This might include: using an infrared detector if the thermometer was used; using a shield to reduce the impact of ambient radiation interfering with the readings; increasing the distance from the detector to the cube.

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Exam-style questions

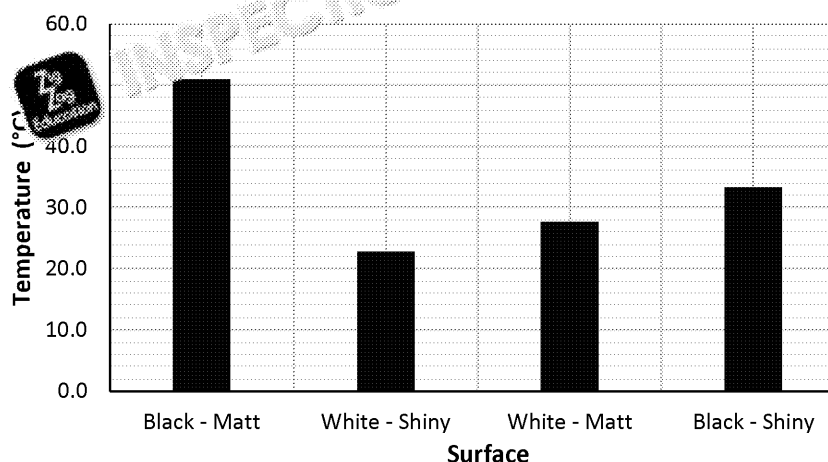
1. a. Heatproof mat (1)
- b. 5 cm (1)
- Accept: Same distance as for other reading.
- c.

Surface	Temperature (°C)			Average
	1	2	3	
Black – Matt	50.5	51.0	51.5	51.0
White – Shiny	22.5	23.5	22.5	22.8
White – Matt	29.0	27.5	26.5	27.7
Black – Shiny	32.5	34.0	33.5	33.3

2 marks for both averages correct; 1 mark if one average is incorrect; 0 marks if there is no requirement from the candidate to display their calculations.

Deduct 1 mark if the answers are not rounded.

d.



Correct axes with labels (1)

Even scale on y-axis (1)

Averages correctly plotted (2) – 0 marks if the data is presented as a line chart

e. Data for the white matt surface (1); this set of data has the greatest variance of

2. Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are sequenced. (5–6 marks)
- Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are fully logically sequenced. (3–4 marks)
- Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified. (1–2 marks)
- No relevant content: 0 marks

Indicative content

- States a given volume of water
- States a temperature for the water or that the temperature must be the same
- Measures temperature drop over a set period of time.
- Includes an instruction to record the data collection at least twice
- Safety consideration: handling hot water



Appendix Sample Results

Data in case the experiment doesn't work or a student is absent from the lesson.

Surface	Infrared radiation levels (W/m ²)		Average
	1	2	
Black – Matt	19.8	20.4	
Black – Shiny	14.2	13.2	
White – Matt	6.4	6.0	
White – Shiny	3.1	4.1	

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Additional Practical

Specific Latent Heat – Melting

Teacher's notes

Before the practical

This practical is **not** a requirement of the AQA specification. In this practical, students change in temperature of ice as it melts. There is no requirement in this part of the specification to determine the latent heat of fusion for water. The end product is a temperature–time graph to identify the point at which the ice is melting and changing state.

This is a good extension for AQA practical 1 – investigating the specific heat capacity.

Included sheets

- Pre-lab task – worksheet for students prior to the start of the practical
- Student instructions – apparatus list and method
- Analysis and evaluation – student instructions for completing calculations, graphs and conclusions
- Exam-style questions – GCSE-style questions focused on the practical
- Answer sheet – answers to all questions, including a set of example data

Suggested questions

1. What is the melting point of pure water?
2. What happens to the temperature of water as it changes to ice?
3. When using a Bunsen burner, what flame (air hole position) should be used?
 - a safety flame?
 - gentle heating?
 - rapid heating?
4. Name two pieces of apparatus that should always be used with a Bunsen burner.
5. What happens to the arrangement of the molecules of water as it melts?

Practical considerations

The normal safety considerations of heating using a Bunsen burner apply to this practical. Specifics of Bunsen burner safety, if required. It is not advisable to heat the contents of the beaker too rapidly, making it harder for the students to collect a clear set of data.

The student instructions suggest the use of a boiling tube, but a 50 ml beaker can be used instead. The ice should be crushed prior to the lesson as this helps give a more consistent set of results.

Remind students NOT to heat the apparatus with the safety flame.

Apparatus

- Boiling tube
- 250 ml beaker
- Thermometer
- Heatproof mat
- Tripod and gauze
- Clamp stand and clamps
- Stopwatch
- Bunsen burner

Students will require their own apparatus.

Timings

Pre-lab task: 10 minutes

Practical: allow 20 minutes

Analysis: 20 minutes to draw graph, add a trend line and complete calculations

Evaluation: 15 minutes, plus discussion time if desired. Sheets can be collected in advance of the lesson, holding a class discussion.

Exam-style questions: 15 minutes

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Specific latent heat required practical: pre-lab task

1. What happens to the structure of a solid as it melts to form a liquid?

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2. Draw diagrams to represent a particle model for a solid and a liquid.



3. When thermal energy is absorbed by a melting solid, what does this energy do?

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Specific latent heat required practical: student instructions

During this practical you will gently heat a sample of ice and record the temperature over a period of around 10 minutes. This will allow you to produce a graph to see how the temperature changes as it melts.

Apparatus

- Boiling tube
- 250 ml beaker
- Thermometer
- Heatproof mat
- Tripod and gauze
- Clamp stand and clamps
- Stop clock
- Bunsen burner
- Goggles

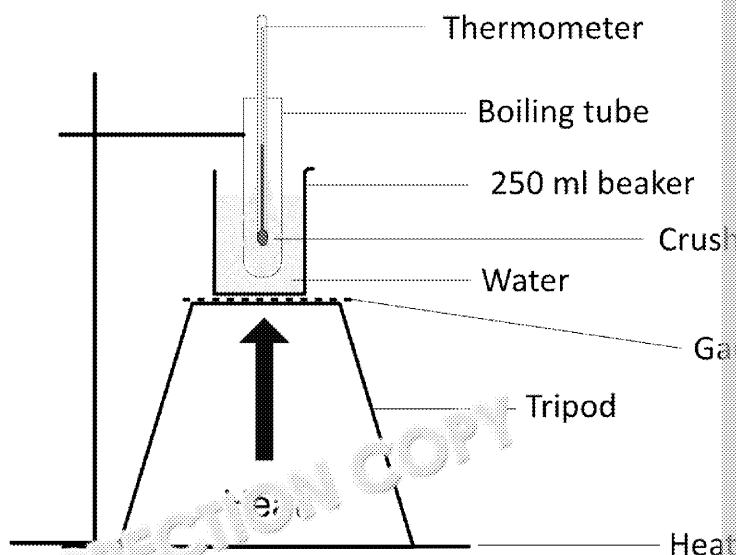
Method



CAUTION!

*Always wear goggles when heating. Tie back long hair.
Place the Bunsen burner and other apparatus on a heatproof mat.
Do not heat any apparatus using the safety flame.*

1. Draw a results table in which to record your data. You will be measuring the temperature over a period of at least 10 minutes.
2. Set up the apparatus as shown in the diagram.



3. Record the temperature of the ice at the start of the investigation **before** the Bunsen burner is lit.
4. Light the Bunsen burner and use a low flame with the air hole half open. Start heating the water bath and ice.
5. Record the temperature of the ice every minute for at least 10 minutes, or until the ice has melted.
6. Turn off the Bunsen burner and leave to cool before tidying away the apparatus.

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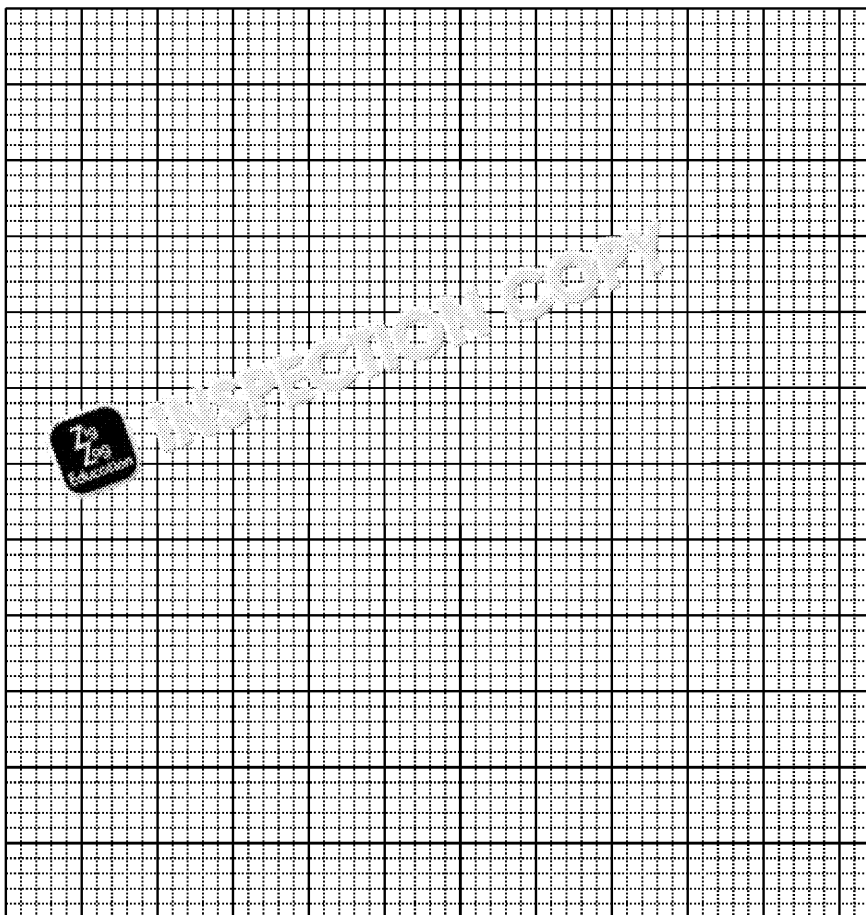
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Specific latent heat required practical: analysis and evaluation

Analysis

1. Draw a graph showing how the temperature of the ice changed over time.



2. Draw a trend line to show the pattern of change in temperature.

Evaluation

1. Mark a coloured line across the graph to show the melting point of pure ice.
2. Describe how the temperature has changed over the period of time illustrated.

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3. What happens to the temperature of ice as it melts to form water?

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4. Why was the boiling tube of ice placed in a beaker of water before heating?

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5. The theoretical melting point of pure ice is 0°C . Did your sample of ice melt? suggest a reason why not.

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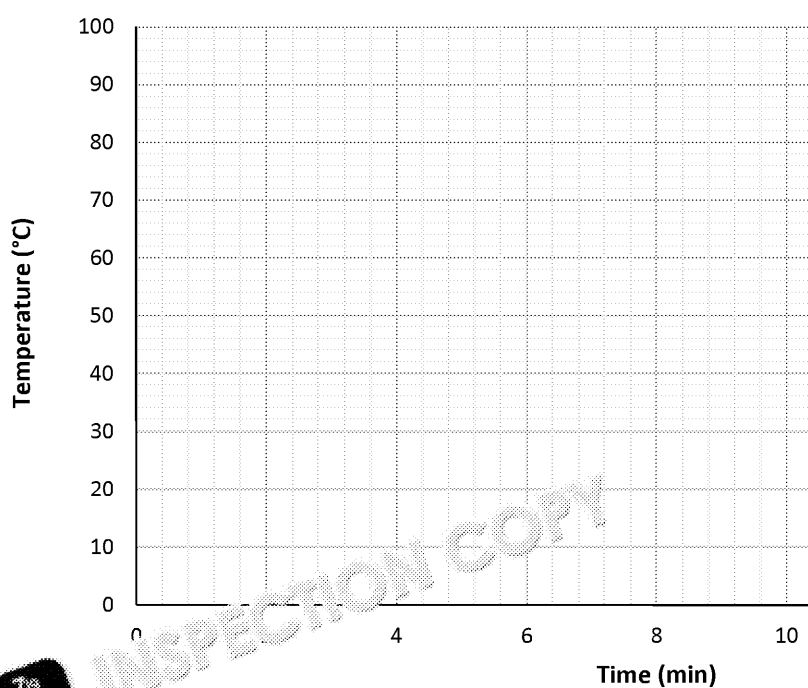


Specific latent heat required practical: exam-style question

1. A boiling tube containing liquid paraffin wax is allowed to cool until solid. The temperature changes over a period of 15 minutes.

Time (min)	Temperature
0	90
1	88
2	83
3	80
4	80
5	80
6	80
7	80
8	80
9	78
10	77
11	74
12	68
13	62
14	57
15	51

- a. Use the data presented in the table to complete the graph to show the change in temperature over time.



- b. Draw a trend line on the graph.
- c. Use the graph to find the melting point of the sample of paraffin wax.

Melting point of the paraffin wax: _____ °C

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- d. Name two pieces of safety apparatus required for any practical involving the

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2. A student wishes to investigate the effect of dissolved salt (NaCl) concentration of water by observing the effect on the melting point of the samples which he has prepared for the student.

Sample A: Ice made from distilled water (0% NaCl)

Sample B: Ice made from 1 % NaCl solution.

Sample C: Ice made from 2.5% NaCl solution

- a. Develop a list of the student could use to carry out this investigation. prepare in advance; you do not need to describe how these are prepared. Prepare an apparatus list and a labelled diagram.

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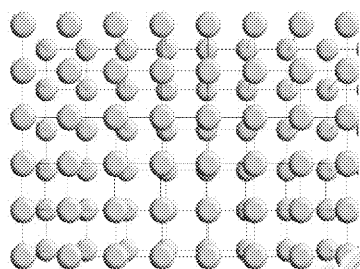
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Specific latent heat required practical: answer sheet

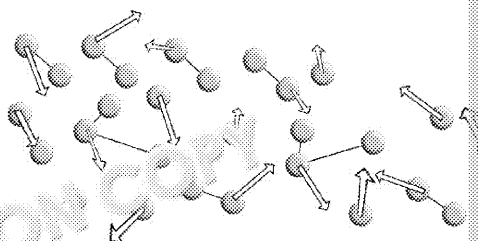
Pre-lab task

- The bonds between the particles are broken.
 - The particles move faster as they absorb thermal energy (their kinetic energy increases).
 - The particles spread out.

2.

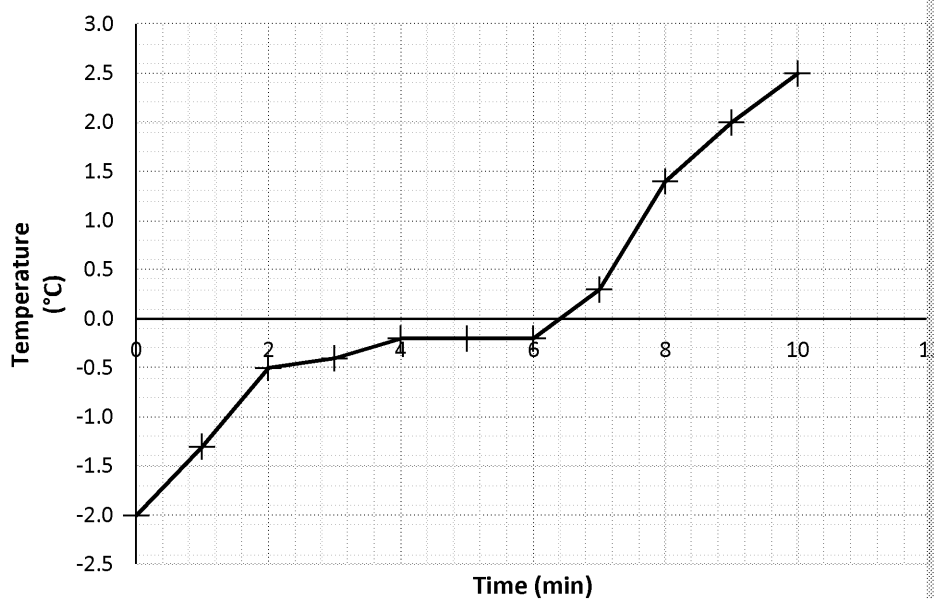


Solid (Ice)



Liquid

- The thermal (heat) energy helps to break the bonds between the particles. (During this change, the temperature of the substance; the thermal energy does not result in a change in the temperature of the substance – latent heat of fusion.)



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Analysis and evaluation

Analysis

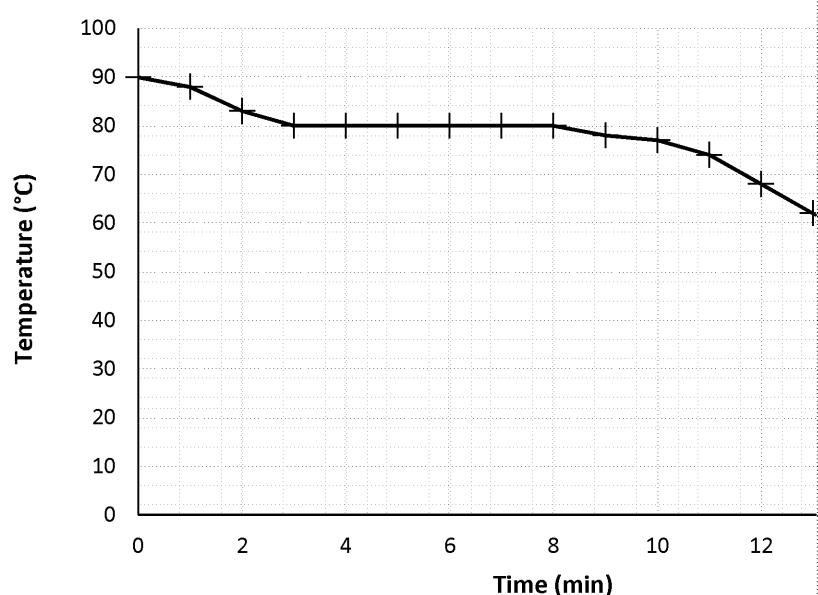
1 and 2. See example above; actual values will differ.

Evaluation

1. The coloured line should run across the graph at 0°C .
2. The key features for the students to identify are:
 - the gradual rise from the starting temperature to the point at which the ice melts
 - the point and value at which the line levels off – the melting point of the sample
 - the gradual rise in temperature after the ice has melted
3. There is no change in temperature as the ice melts.
4. The beaker of water acts as a water bath to allow a more controlled and gradual increase in temperature.
5. Although it is possible that the melting point of the student's sample of ice was exact from tap water, which is impure, this causes a small change in the melting point – not caused by the solutes in the water, for example, putting salt on icy pavements to melt the ice.

Exam-style questions

1. a.



2 marks for all data points correctly plotted; 1 mark if two or more are incorrect or incorrect.

- b. Line drawn as shown above. (1)
- c. Students should draw or mark on the graph the melting point. (1)
Note: Allow both marks if the student identifies the correct melting point without a value. Value = 80°C (1)
- d. Any from:
 - Heatproof mat
 - Goggles or eye protection
 - Tongs or gloves

1. Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. Do not allow any item used to tie up long hair – this is not a safety item.

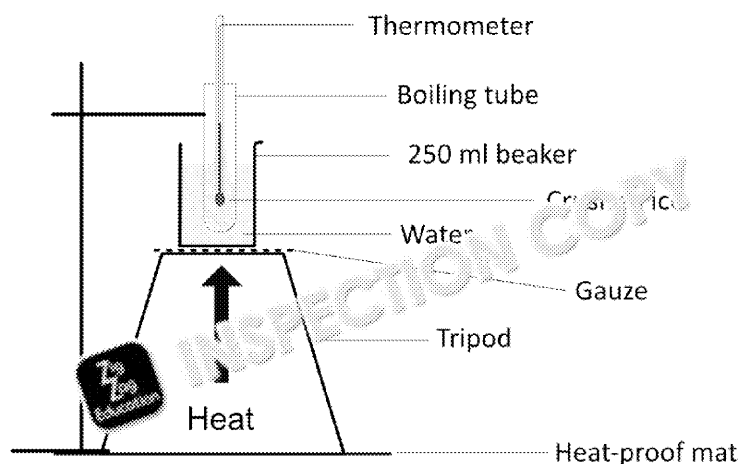
2. Level 3: The method would lead to the production of a valid outcome. All key steps are fully logically sequenced. (5–6 marks)
Level 2: The method would not necessarily lead to a valid outcome. Most steps are fully logically sequenced. (3–4 marks)
Level 1: The method would not lead to a valid outcome. Some relevant steps are identified. (1–2 marks)
No relevant content: 0 marks

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Indicative content

- Labelled diagram
- Apparatus list
- Describes how to monitor the temperature of the ice, using a thermometer or a data logger
- Specifies either a reasonable time (10 minutes) or until the the ice has fully melted
- A reference is made to safety or risk assessment/management
- Use of a water bath or other means to control the temperature increase



Example of diagram and indication of typical apparatus.



Appendix: Sample Results

Data in case the experiment doesn't work or a student is absent from the lesson.

Time (min)	Temperature
0	-2.0
1	-1.3
2	-0.5
3	-0.4
4	-0.2
5	-0.2
6	-0.2
7	0.3
8	1.4
9	2.0
10	2.5

Data obtained with a digital thermometer.

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