

Practical Work

Practical work is an essential and integral part of a course in physics. In your practical work you must keep in mind each of the following:

- (1) Observe carefully and be accurate in measurements and calculations.
- (2) Relate your practical work to the theory which you are studying.
- (3) Be aware of the limits to the accuracy of measurements and observations.
- (4) Make some estimation of the possible uncertainties in your measurements and observations.
- (5) Use correct units for your measurements and calculations.
- (6) Express numerical work to a correct number of significant figures and in standard form.
- (7) Observe proper safety procedures in the laboratory.
- (8) Present your data and other information precisely using graphs, tables and diagrams, in your analysis.
- (9) Analyse and interpret your experimental data and results. You can confidently expect things to go wrong in your experiments!
- (10) Suggest improvements in the design and procedure of your experiments.
- (11) Your report should include the title, the date and names of any partner(s) in your experimental work.

Use the following headings in your report (as appropriate):

1. Aim (To....)
2. Method (Past tense & non-personal) e.g. 100ml of tap water was boiled.
3. Results (Raw data)
4. Analysis of Results (averages & graphs with some comments)
5. Discussion (and answers to questions) – Must give references
6. Conclusion (draw together all your results and findings)