

A group of Year 12 Chemistry students wanted to know whether increasing ocean acidity increases the rate at which sea shells, CaCO_3 , dissolve. They went to a beach to collect seawater and sea shells. In their school laboratory they crushed the sea shells and added 2.00 g of the resulting powder to five clean 250 mL beakers, each of which had been placed on top of its own electronic balance.

They split the seawater into five portions and bubbled carbon dioxide gas into four of the portions for different amounts of time. This gave the students 'natural' seawater plus four seawater samples of different pH. The various seawaters (150 mL portions) were then added to the beakers, with the weight of each beaker and its contents being recorded at timed intervals.

20. Which one of the following pairs of statements on the validity and reliability of the investigation is correct?

	Validity	Reliability
(a)	It is valid because the investigation allows them to determine if seawater pH affects the rate of sea shell dissolution.	It is reliable because the trials were performed in a laboratory.
(b)	It is not valid because the investigation was simulated in a laboratory and not performed in a real ocean.	It is not reliable because only one trial was performed at each different pH value.
(c)	It is not valid because the investigation was simulated in a laboratory and not performed in a real ocean.	It is reliable because trials were performed at five different pH values.
(d)	It is valid because the investigation allows them to determine if seawater pH affects the rate of sea shell dissolution.	Its reliability could be improved by conducting multiple trials at each different pH value.