Some chemistry students were investigating the relationship between concentration and rate of reaction. In the investigation, different concentrations of hydrochloric acid were added to a sodium thiosulfate solution to produce solid sulfur. This reaction was represented by the following equation.

$$2 \; H^{\scriptscriptstyle +}(aq) \quad + \quad S_{_2}O_{_3}{^{_2 \scriptscriptstyle -}}(aq) \quad \to \quad SO_{_2}(g) \quad + \quad S(s) \quad + \quad H_{_2}O(\ell)$$

A piece of paper with a cross drawn on it was placed under the reaction vessel. The time taken for the cross to disappear due to the formation of the precipitate was measured.

- 25. One group chose to have its members take turns observing and timing the cross disappearing. This was poor methodology because
 - (a) it could make the data invalid.
 - (b) it introduced a possible systematic error.
 - (c) more trials would be needed to produce better results.
 - (d) the data would be less reliable.