Year 11 Integrated Science - General

Science Inquiry Skills

Task 1: Microscope Practical Investigation

VALIDATION

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| Student Name: |  | |
| Date: |  | |
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| Total weighting of Task 1: Microscope Practical Investigation: 12.5% | | |
| **Weighting of this task in Investigation 1: 7.5%** | | |
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| I acknowledge that all the information contained in this task is my own work and not taken from other sources. | | |
|  | |  |
| (Student Signature) | | |

Marks:

/ 15

***Read the following information and answer the questions that follow.***

Miranda is a veterinary student and wanted to know what happened to red blood cells when they are exposed to different water solutions. To test this, she was given three samples of blood from an animal at her clinic.

Chart, diagram

Description automatically generatedMiranda exposed the first sample to distilled water (hypotonic solution), the second to a 40% salt solution (hypertonic solution), and the third in an isotonic solution (same concentration as cell). An Isotonic solution is one that has the same concentration as another solution. If these two solutions are separated by a semipermeable membrane, the solution will flow equal parts out of each solution and into the other.

The method of Miranda’s experiment is as follows:

1. Miranda placed a drop of each blood sample on three different slides, labelled them distilled water, salt solution and isotonic, then viewed them under a microscope at 400x magnification.
2. She then calculated the number of red blood cells in her field of view, determined average cell diameter and recorded them in her table.
3. Miranda then added three drops of distilled water to her distilled water slide, three drops of salt solution to her salt solution slide and three drops of isotonic solution to her isotonic slide.
4. She then recorded the any immediate changes to the average cell diameter and recorded them in her table.
5. Lastly, she recorded any changes to the average cell diameter on all three slides every ten minutes for the next thirty minutes.
6. Miranda’s investigation results are in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time (minutes) | Cell Diameter (µm) | | |
| Distilled water | Salt Solution | Isotonic |
| Before | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Initial (0) | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| 20 | 10 | 2.5 | 7 |
| 30 | 0 | 2 | 7 |

***Answer the following questions related to Miranda’s investigation.***

1. What is the aim of the investigation? (1 mark)

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1. What is the independent variable of this investigation? (1 mark)

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1. What is the dependent variable of this investigation? (1 mark)

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1. Write a hypothesis for this investigation *(an “if, then” statement).* (1 mark)

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1. What is the variable the Miranda has controlled in the investigation? (1 mark)

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1. What was the purpose of the isotonic microscope slide? (1 mark)

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1. What would have been the problem if Miranda had put more than three drops of solution on one of her slides? (1 mark)

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1. The following questions are related to the graph below.
2. Using evidence from the graph in your answer, what happened to the blood cells in the distilled water (hypotonic solution)? (2 marks)

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1. Using evidence from the graph in your answer, what happened to the blood cells in the salt solution (hypertonic solution)? (2 marks)

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1. Summarise the results of this investigation. What do these results indicate about how water concentration impacts red blood cells? (2 marks)

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1. Describe one way Miranda could have improved on her red blood cell investigation.

(2 marks)

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