

Hints and tips for practical work

These are some handy tips that, while they may seem obvious, helped me to make my PAG book a useful record of the practicals I had done to help me when it comes to designing your own methods for practicals later in the course and for revision.

- Write all the practicals you do in your PAG book, not just the required practicals.
- work straight into your PAG book or copy up work into your PAG book as soon as possible so you don't forget what the practical is about.
- Always write the date of when you did the practical and where applicable the required practical number, it makes it easier later when making sure you have all the right work.
- Stick sheets in flat or with a tab at the top (when they're double sided) as flat sheets are easier to refer back to and don't make an annoying bulky bit in the middle of your book.
- Draw tables and diagrams in pencil and use colour in your diagrams where applicable, if drawing is not your forte then take photographs of the set-up and stick them in.
- Common calculation errors when analysing the data from practicals seemed to occur from miss-reading scales or units on graphs (the axes may well have different scales on them) and from incorrect / miss-read units in the recorded data (e.g. ml is the same as cm^3 NOT mm^3). These errors often lead to "powers of ten" mistakes.
- Read a burette (or similar measuring equipment) to the BOTTOM of the meniscus (the concave curve at the top of the liquid in the tube).