Performance-based assessments for basic electricity competencies

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The purpose of these assessments is for instructors to accurately measure the learning of their electronics students, in a way that melds theoretical knowledge with hands-on application. In each assessment, students are asked to predict the behavior of a circuit from a schematic diagram and component values, then they build that circuit and measure its real behavior. If the behavior matches the predictions, the student then simulates the circuit on computer and presents the three sets of values to the instructor. If not, then the student then must correct the error(s) and once again compare measurements to predictions. Grades are based on the number of attempts required before all predictions match their respective measurements.

You will notice that no component values are given in this worksheet. The *instructor* chooses component values suitable for the students' parts collections, and ideally chooses different values for each student so that no two students are analyzing and building the exact same circuit. These component values may be hand-written on the assessment sheet, printed on a separate page, or incorporated into the document by editing the graphic image.

This is the procedure I envision for managing such assessments:

- 1. The instructor hands out individualized assessment sheets to each student.
- 2. Each student predicts their circuit's behavior at their desks using pencil, paper, and calculator (if appropriate).
- 3. Each student builds their circuit at their desk, under such conditions that it is impossible for them to verify their predictions using test equipment. Usually this will mean the use of a multimeter only (for measuring component values), but in some cases even the use of a multimeter would not be appropriate.
- 4. When ready, each student brings their predictions and completed circuit up to the instructor's desk, where any necessary test equipment is already set up to operate and test the circuit. There, the student sets up their circuit and takes measurements to compare with predictions.
- 5. If any measurement fails to match its corresponding prediction, the student goes back to their own desk with their circuit and their predictions in hand. There, the student tries to figure out where the error is and how to correct it.
- 6. Students repeat these steps as many times as necessary to achieve correlation between all predictions and measurements. The instructor's task is to count the number of attempts necessary to achieve this, which will become the basis for a percentage grade.
- 7. (OPTIONAL) As a final verification, each student simulates the same circuit on computer, using circuit simulation software (Spice, Multisim, etc.) and presenting the results to the instructor as a final pass/fail check.

These assessments more closely mimic real-world work conditions than traditional written exams:

- Students cannot pass such assessments only knowing circuit theory or only having hands-on construction and testing skills they must be proficient at both.
- Students do not receive the "authoritative answers" from the instructor. Rather, they learn to validate their answers through real circuit measurements.
- Just as on the job, the work isn't complete until all errors are corrected.
- Students must recognize and correct their own errors, rather than having someone else do it for them.
- Students must be fully prepared on exam days, bringing not only their calculator and notes, but also their tools, breadboard, and circuit components.

Instructors may elect to reveal the assessments before test day, and even use them as preparatory labwork and/or discussion questions. Remember that there is absolutely nothing wrong with "teaching to

the test" so long as the test is valid. Normally, it is bad to reveal test material in detail prior to test day, lest students merely memorize responses in advance. With performance-based assessments, however, there is no way to pass without truly understanding the subject(s).

Competency: Soldered wire splice	Version:	
Description		
Strip the ends of a short length of solid copper wire, splicing the ends together so as to form a loop. Use the "Western Union" splice technique, soldering the splice as a final step.		
Given conditions		
Approximately 6 inches of 22-gauge (or simil	ar) solid copper wire.	
25 watt soldering iron		
Electrical solder		
Needle-nose pliers		
Parameters		
(Check)		
Western Union splice well-formed		
Even solder coverage of splice		
No excess solder on splice (can still discern shape of splice)		
Solder joint shiny in appearance		
Splice stronger than wire		

<u>file 01716</u>

Competency: PCB soldering	Version:	
Description		
Solder at least five resistors into a printed circuit board, being careful not to apply excess heat or excess solder. The resistors should lay flat on the board, with the soldered wire ends neatly trimmed.		
Given conditions		
Five resistors, 1/4 watt each		
Printed circuit board with copper pads		
25 watt soldering iron		
Electrical solder, small-diameter		
Needle-nose pliers		
Miniature diagonal cutting pliers		
Parameters	(Check)	
Five resistors soldered in place (flat on bo	` ┌── ′	
Even solder coverage of all pads and	leads	
No excess solder on p (solder has concave pro	I I	
No cold solder joints		
All soldering flux cleane	ed off	
All leads neatly trim	med	
No overheated or lifted	pads	
Good "wetting" of solder on all	pads	

<u>file 01971</u>

Competency: Voltmeter usage Version: Description Build a simple one-source, one-lamp circuit and use a multimeter to measure the lamp voltage. Schematic diagram Pictorial diagram $\boldsymbol{V}_{\text{supply}}$ Meter Lamp Explanation Should the voltmeter be connected in series or in parallel with the lamp in order to measure voltage? What will happen if the meter is connected the wrong way (series vs. parallel)?

file 01637

Competency: Voltmeter usage	Version:	
Description		
Build a simple one-source, one-lamp circuit and use two multimeters to measure the lamp voltage.		
Schematic diagram		
$V_{\text{supply}} \stackrel{\perp}{\stackrel{\perp}{=}}$	V Meter Lamp	
Pictorial diagram		
V _{supply} - + •	Meter Lamp	
Parameters		
$\begin{array}{c c} & \text{Measured} \\ V_{\text{lamp}} & \hline \\ & \text{(with analog meter)} \end{array}$	Measured V _{lamp} (with digital meter)	
Explanation		
Should the voltmeter be connected in <i>series</i> or in <i>parallel</i> with the lamp in order to measure voltage? What will happen if the meter is connected the wrong way (series vs. parallel)?		

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01715}$

Competency: Ammeter usage		Version:
Description		
Build a simple one-source, one-lamp circuit and use a multimeter to measure the lamp current.		
Schematic diagram		
V _{supply} <u>—</u> —	A Meter	Lamp
Pictorial diagram		
V _{supply} - + •	Meter	Lamp
Explanation		
Should the ammeter be with the lamp in order to		•
What will happen if the (series vs. parallel)?	meter is connec	ted the wrong way

IMPORTANT NOTE: do not actually try to connect the ammeter improperly in the circuit, as the meter may be damaged in the process! $\underline{\text{file } 01638}$

Competency: Ammeter usage	Version:	
Description		
Build a simple one-source, one-lamp circuit and use two multimeters to measure the lamp current.		
Schematic diagram		
$V_{\text{supply}} \stackrel{\perp}{=} $	A Meter Lamp	
Pictorial diagram		
V _{supply} - + •	Meter Lamp	
Parameters		
Measured	Measured	
I_{lamp}	${ m I_{lamp}}$	
(with analog meter)	(with digital meter)	
Explanation		
Should the ammeter be co with the lamp in order to m	nnected in <i>series</i> or in <i>parallel</i> neasure current?	
What will happen if the me (series vs. parallel)?	ter is connected the wrong way	

IMPORTANT NOTE: do not actually try to connect the ammeter improperly in the circuit, as the meter may be damaged in the process! $\underline{\text{file }01714}$

Competency: Ohmmeter usage	Version:	
Description		
Interpret the color codes for several resistors, and then compare their rated resistances with the indication given by an ohmmeter.		
Schematic diagram		
Ω Meter ξ	l ≷ Resistor	
Pictorial diagram		
Meter	stor □	
Given conditions and parameters	Predicted Measured	
Resistor colors:	Tredicted Weasured	
Resistor colors:		

<u>file 01639</u>

Competency: Sources of electricity	Version:
Schematic	
Source V Meter	
Given conditions	
(Descriptions of source types; i.e. photovoltaic, ch	nemical, etc.)
Source 1 = Source 2 = Source 3 =	
Parameters	
Greatest voltage produced Predicted Measured	
Least voltage produced	

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01677}$

Competency: Circuit with switch	Version:	
Schematic		
$V_{\text{supply}} \stackrel{\textstyle \sum}{=} V_{\text{supply}}$		
Given conditions		
$V_{ ext{supply}} = I_{ ext{lamp}}$ (nominal) =	
Parameters		
$\begin{array}{c c} & \text{Predicted} & \text{Measured} \\ \hline V_{lamp} & & & \\ \hline I_{lamp} & & & \\ \hline V_{switch} & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$	— With switch closed (on)	
Predicted Measured		
V _{lamp}		
I _{lamp}	With switch open (off)	
V _{switch}		

<u>file 01640</u>

Competency: Ohm's La	w	Version:
Schematic		
$ m V_{sup}$		R_1
Given conditions		
$V_{supply} = R_1 =$		
Parameters		
Predicted Me	easured	
Fault analysis Suppose component	R ₁ fails open shorte	othered
What will happen in the	circuit?	

<u>file 01603</u>

Competency: Ohm's Law	Version:
Schematic	
V _{supply} —	R_1
Given conditions	
V_{supply} = (see multiple values given	below)
$\mathbf{R}_1 =$	
Parameters	
Given	Predicted Measured
$V_{\text{supply}} = $ I_{total}	
Fault analysis	
Suppose component fails	open other
What will happen in the circuit?	shorted

<u>file 01625</u>

Competency: Ohm's Law	Version:	
Schematic		
I _{supply}	\geqslant R ₁	
Given conditions		
$I_{\text{supply}} =$ (see multiple values giv $R_1 =$	en below)	
Parameters		
Given	Predicted Measured	
$I_{ m supply} = oxed{V}$	R1	
$I_{\text{supply}} = $	RI	
$I_{ m supply} = oxed{V}$	R1	
$I_{supply} = $ V	R1	
Fault analysis		
Suppose component open other shorted		
What will happen in the circuit?		

<u>file 01626</u>

Competency: Ohm's Law	Version:
Schematic	
DC source	\geqslant R_1
Given conditions	
$V_{supply} =$ (see multiple values given $I_{supply} =$ (see multiple values given by $R_1 =$	
Parameters	
$V_{supply} = $	Predicted Measured
Fault analysis Suppose component fails What will happen in the circuit?	open other shorted

file 01629

Competency: Curren	t-limiting resisto	or Version:
Schematic		
V	supply =	R_1
Given conditions		
$V_{\text{supply}} =$	$I_{\rm maximum} =$	
Description		
is as clos		nch that the circuit current maximum without exceeding it.
Parameters		
Predicted	Measured	
R_1		
I		
	_	

file 01924

<u>file 01654</u>

Competency:	Determining wire length by resistance	Version:
Schematic		
	Meter	
	I _{supply} A R _{wire} Wheter	
Given condition	ons	

$T_{room} =$	$I_{supply} =$	
Parameters		
"Kelv Meas R _{wire}		

<u>file 01695</u>

Competency: Electromagnetism	Version:
Schematic	
Compass Coil	I _{supply}
Given conditions	
Vary the power supply current, a noting the effects on the co	
Parameters	
Qualitative answ	-
Predicted M Low current	easured
Higher current	
Reverse polarity Low current	
Reverse polarity Higher current	
Analysis Identify the places on the coil when the coil wh	nere the field is strongest.

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01645}$

Competency: Electro	magnetic induction	on Version:
Schematic		
Magr	net & Coil	V Meter
Given conditions		
Set voltmet	er to the most sens	sitive range possible!
Move the magne	et slowly toward the	e coil, and then slowly away
Move the magne	et quickly toward th	ne coil, and then quickly away
Parameters	Overlitative anav	un anh i
	Qualitative answ	•
$ m V_{coil}$	Predicted M	leasured
Slowly, toward		
$ m V_{coil}$ Slowly, away		
$ m V_{coil}$ Quickly, toward		
$ m V_{coil}$ Quickly, away		
		ignet have any effect f the induced voltage?
Does the direction of approach to the coil have any effect on the magnitude of the induced voltage?		

file 01644

Question 19

Competency: Series DC voltages	Version:
Description	
Connect three DC power source the specified total voltage.	es together to achieve
Given conditions	
$\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{supply1}} =$	$\mathbf{V}_{ ext{total}}$ $=$
$V_{ m supply2} =$	
$V_{\text{supply}3} =$	
Schematic diagram	
$V_{\text{supply1}} \stackrel{\perp}{=} V_{\text{supply2}} \stackrel{\perp}{=}$ Pictorial diagram	$V_{\text{supply3}} \stackrel{\perp}{\stackrel{-}{=}}$
Pictorial diagram	
$V_{supply1}$ $V_{supply2}$ $ +$ \odot \bullet	V _{supply3} - + •

<u>file 01610</u>

Question 20

Competency: Parallel DC currents	Version:
Description	
Connect three DC power source the specified total current.	ces together to achieve
Given conditions	
${ m I_{supply1}}=$	$I_{ m total} =$
$I_{ m supply2} =$	
$I_{ m supply3} =$	
Schematic diagram	
$I_{supply1}$ $I_{supply2}$	I _{supply3}
Pictorial diagram	
$\begin{array}{c c} I_{supply1} & I_{supply2} \\ \hline - & + \\ \hline \bullet & \bullet \\ \end{array}$	I _{supply3} - +

Caution! Consult your instructor to see how to set up each power supply to be a safe current source before attempting to connect them together! $\underline{file~01678}$

Competency: Series resistances	Version:
Schematic	
$\begin{array}{cccc} R_1 & R_2 & R_3 \\ \hline \longrightarrow & \swarrow & & & \\ \end{array}$	
— / /////	
Given conditions	
ם ח	
$R_1 = R_2 = R_3 =$	
Parameters	
Predicted Measured	
R _{total}	
total	
Analysis	
Equation used to calculate R_{total} :	

<u>file 01634</u>

Competency: Series DC resistor circuit	t Version:	
Schematic Schematic	version.	
V _{supply} =	R_1 R_2	
Given conditions		
$V_{\text{supply}} = R_1 = R_2$	2=	
Parameters		
$\begin{array}{c c} \text{Predicted} & \text{Measured} \\ I_{\text{supply}} & & & & \\ V_{R1} & & & & \\ V_{R2} & & & & \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c c} \text{Predicted} & \text{Measured} \\ I_{R1} & & & \\ I_{R2} & & & \\ \end{array}$	
Analysis		
Relationship between resistor volta	age drops and total voltage:	
Fault analysis		
Suppose componentfails open other What will happen in the circuit?		

<u>file 01627</u>

Competency: Series DC resistor circuit	Version:	
$\begin{array}{c c} \hline Schematic \\ \hline \\ V_{supply} & = \\ \hline \\ R_3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	R_2	
Given conditions		
$V_{\text{supply}} = R_1 = R_2$	$R_3 =$	
Parameters		
Predicted Measured I _{supply} V _{R1} V _{R2} V _{R3}	$\begin{array}{c cccc} & \text{Predicted} & \text{Measured} \\ I_{R1} & & & & \\ I_{R2} & & & & \\ I_{R3} & & & & \\ \end{array}$	
Analysis		
Relationship between resistor volta	age drops and total voltage:	
Fault analysis	open other	
Suppose component open other shorted		
What will happen in the circuit?	inortea	

file 01604

Competency: Series dropping resistor for LED Version:	
Schematic	
V _{supply} LED	
Given conditions	
$V_{ m supply} = I_{ m LED} =$	
Parameters	
Measured $V_{LED} @ I_{LED}$	
Predicted	
R_1	
Predicted Measured	
I _{total}	
P_{R1}	

file 01636

Competency: Parallel resistances	Version:
Schematic	
R_1 R_2 R_3	
Given conditions	
$R_1 = R_2 =$	$R_3 =$
Parameters	
Predicted Measured	
R _{total}	
Analysis Equation used to calcula	ate R _{total} :

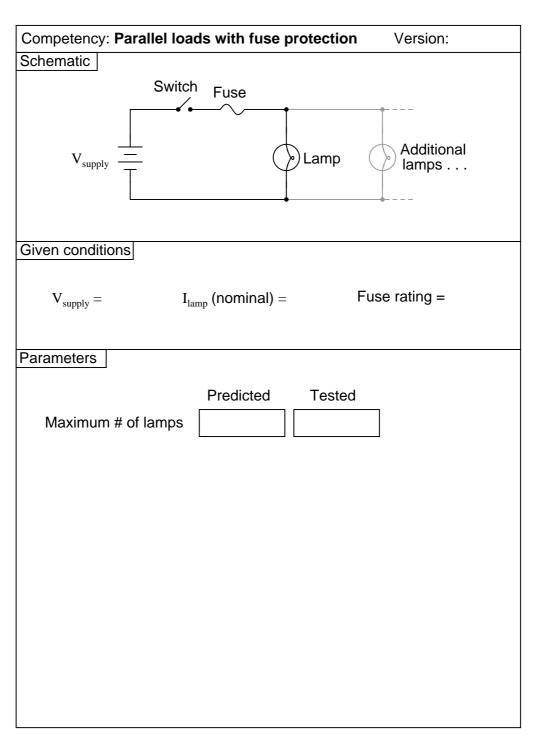
 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01635}$

Commission of the Portal of the Commission of th				
Competency: Parallel DC resistor circuit Version:				
Schematic				
$V_{\text{supply}} \stackrel{=}{=} \qquad \qquad \qquad \geqslant R_1 \qquad \geqslant R_2$				
Given conditions				
$V_{ ext{supply}} = ext{$R_1$} = ext{$R_2$} =$				
Parameters				
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				
Relationship between resistor (branch) currents and total current:				
Fault analysis				
Suppose component fails shorted shorted				

 $\underline{\text{file } 01628}$

Out of the Board of Board of the State of th					
Competency: Parallel DC resistor circuit Version:					
Schematic					
V _{supply}		$\geq R_1$	R_2	≥R ₃	
Given conditions					
$V_{ m supply} =$	$R_1 =$	$R_2 =$	R ₃ =	=	
Parameters					
Predicted I _{supply} V _{R1} V _{R2} V _{R3}	Measured	$egin{array}{c} I_{R1} \ I_{R2} \ I_{R3} \ \end{array}$	Predicted	Measured	
Analysis					
Relationship between resistor (branch) currents and total current:					
Fault analysis open other					
Suppose component fails shorted What will happen in the circuit?					

<u>file 01605</u>



 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01641}$

(Template)

Competency:	Version:
Schematic	
Given conditions	
Parameters	
Predicted Measured	

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01602}$

Answers

Answer 1

Instructor will certify quality of splice.

Answer 2

Instructor will certify quality of solder joints.

Answer 3

Connect the voltmeter in parallel with the component whose voltage is to be measured.

Answer 4

Connect the voltmeter in *parallel* with the component whose voltage is to be measured.

Answer 5

Connect the ammeter in series with the component whose current is to be measured.

Answer 6

Connect the ammeter in *series* with the component whose current is to be measured.

Answer 7

The ohmmeter's indication is the "final word" on resistance.

Answer 8

The real-life measurements you take constitute the "final word" on which sources generate the most significant voltages.

Answer 9

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 10

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 11

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 12

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 13

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 14

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 15

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 16

Measure the wire length to check your calculation!

Answer 17

I won't reveal the answer here as to what effect magnitude has on magnetic field strength, but I will suggest a way to test for strength: place the compass at a distance from the coil, where the coil's field has a relatively small effect on the needle position in relation to the ambient magnetic field.

Answer 18

The magnitude of the induced voltage is a direct function of the magnetic flux's rate of change over time $(\frac{d\phi}{dt})$.

Answer 19

Use circuit simulation software to verify schematic diagram. Your real circuit will verify the pictorial diagram.

Answer 20

Use circuit simulation software to verify schematic diagram. Your real circuit will verify the pictorial diagram.

Answer 21

Use circuit simulation software to verify schematic diagram. Your real circuit will verify the pictorial diagram.

Answer 22

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 23

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 24

Note: be careful to choose a resistor with an adequate power rating (Watts)!

Answer 25

Use circuit simulation software to verify schematic diagram. Your real circuit will verify the pictorial diagram.

Answer 26

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 27

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 28

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Answer 29

Here, you would indicate where or how to obtain answers for the requested parameters, but not actually give the figures. My stock answer here is "use circuit simulation software" (Spice, Multisim, etc.).

Notes 1

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure students can solder a good wire splice.

Notes 2

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure students can make good solder joints on a printed circuit board.

Notes 3

The purpose of this exercise is to make absolutely sure students can safely measure voltage with a multimeter.

A good extension of this assessment is to have students demonstrate competency using both digital and analog multimeters!

Notes 4

The purpose of this exercise is to make absolutely sure students can safely measure voltage with a multimeter.

Notes 5

The purpose of this exercise is to make absolutely sure students can safely measure current with a multimeter.

A good extension of this assessment is to have students demonstrate competency using both digital and analog multimeters!

Notes 6

The purpose of this exercise is to make absolutely sure students can safely measure current with a multimeter.

Notes 7

The purpose of this exercise is to make absolutely sure students can accurately measure resistance with a multimeter, and also that they can interpret resistor color codes. Select resistors that span a wide range, from less than 10 ohms to millions of ohms.

I recommend the following resistor color codes for students to try (all 5% tolerance):

- Blk, Brn, Grn, Gld
- Brn, Red, Brn, Gld
- Blu, Gry, Blk, Gld
- Red, Red, Org, Gld
- Brn, Grn, Yel, Gld
- Org, Org, Red, Gld

A good extension of this assessment is to have students demonstrate competency using both digital and analog multimeters!

In this performance assessment, different electricity sources are suggested by way of conversion phenomena. In other words, the instructor will list such things as *photovoltaic* and *piezoelectric*, and students will have to choose the correct components to demonstrate conversion of energy into electrical form. Then, students will demonstrate each conversion for the instructor, ranking them in order of the voltage magnitude generated by each demonstration.

The purpose of this exercise is not only for students to obtain a practical understanding of electricity sources, but also to understand the relative magnitudes of each one. It is important for students to know, for instance, that thermoelectricity is a rather weak effect compared to piezoelectricity. This will help them understand the relative sensitivity of sensors and other electrical devices in the future.

Possible sources to list for student demonstration are:

- Photovoltaic
- Piezoelectric
- Electromagnetic
- Chemical
- Thermoelectric

Of course, your selection of sources for student demonstration depends on the parts and equipment available to them.

Notes 9

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply a suitable DC voltage for the incandescent lamp.

Notes 10

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify a standard resistor value, somewhere between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

If using this question as a lab exercise rather than an assessment, I recommend specifying a voltage that is standard for batteries, so students don't necessarily have to have an adjustable power supply available to do this lab.

For example, specify V_{supply} as 6 volts and R_1 as 33 k Ω . The resulting current is sufficient to provide a nice, strong needle deflection on most cheap analog ammeters, too!

Notes 11

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify a standard resistor value, somewhere between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

Notes 12

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify a standard resistor value, somewhere between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

When students set their power supplies for a certain amount of current, it is often helpful to have them do so while it is powering the resistor (rather than connecting their ammeter directly across the power supply to set its current output). This helps avoid the possibility of blowing the fuse in their ammeter!

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify a standard resistor value, somewhere between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

An interesting "twist" on this exercise is to specify the value of resistor R_1 in colors. For example: Red, Vio, Red, Gld instead of 2.7 k Ω .

When students set their power supplies for a certain amount of current, it is often helpful to have them do so while it is powering the resistor (rather than connecting their ammeter directly across the power supply to set its current output). This helps avoid the possibility of blowing the fuse in their ammeter!

Notes 14

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. If using this question as a lab exercise rather than an assessment, I recommend specifying a voltage that is standard for batteries, so students don't necessarily have to have an adjustable power supply available to do this lab.

In this exercise, the student must both quantitatively and qualitatively analyze the circuit, because the ideal resistor value probably does not exist. As the instructor, it is you task to choose voltage and current specifications that preclude exact solutions with common resistor values.

Notes 15

You will need to provide some low-resistance specimens for your students to measure using this technique. Motor armature coils work well for this purpose, as do large power resistors with the labels scratched off.

When students set their power supplies for a certain amount of current, it is often helpful to have them do so while it is powering the resistor (rather than connecting their ammeter directly across the power supply to set its current output). This helps avoid the possibility of blowing the fuse in their ammeter!

Notes 16

You will need to provide some spools of wire for your students to measure using this technique. Your students will need to find wire tables correlating length with resistance (at different temperatures, if the room temperature is significantly different from the standard temperature given in the table).

When students set their power supplies for a certain amount of current, it is often helpful to have them do so while it is powering the wire (rather than connecting their ammeter directly across the power supply to set its current output). This helps avoid the possibility of blowing the fuse in their ammeter!

Notes 17

Old solenoid valve coils work very well for this exercise, as do spools of wire with large steel bolts passed through the center. Students may also wind their own coils using small-gauge magnet wire and a steel bolt. If the coils are hollow, you may experiment with and without ferrous cores, to demonstrate the effects of a ferromagnetic flux path on the field strength produced.

Old solenoid valve coils work very well for this exercise, as do spools of wire with large steel bolts passed through the center. Students may also wind their own coils using small-gauge magnet wire and a steel bolt.

Please note that students will not be able to *predict* the polarity of the induced voltage unless they know the rotation of the coil windings and the polarity of their magnet. This will only be possible if the windings are exposed to view or if the students wind their own coils, and if the magnet has its poles labeled "North" and "South" (or if this is determined experimentally by using the magnet as a compass).

Use magnets that are as strong as possible, and that have their poles on the physical ends. This may seem like a strange request, but I've seen students bring some unusual magnets to class for this experiment, whose poles are *not* located on the ends. One type of magnet that works well is the so-called "cow magnet," used by cattle ranchers to protect cows' multiple stomachs from injury from ingestion of fence staples and other ferromagnetic objects. These are a few inches long, cylindrical in shape (so the cow can swallow it like a big pill), and quite strong.

If students are using analog multimeters to measure the coil's induced voltage, be sure to keep the multimeter far away from the magnet. Analog meter movements are generally quite sensitive to external magnetic fields and may register falsely if positioned too close to a strong magnet.

Notes 19

Use variable-voltage, regulated power supplies to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts.

Notes 20

Use regulated power supplies with adjustable current limits to act as current sources (voltage adjustments set to "full" while current adjustments set the desired output current for each). Keep the currents less than one amp for each supply.

Notes 21

Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

Notes 22

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Notes 23

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 8k2, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, 82k, etc.).

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. For added challenge, set the power supply voltage high enough (at least 15 volts) that a 1/4 watt resistor will be inadequately rated for the power dissipation.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Notes 25

Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

Notes 26

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Notes 27

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k Ω and 100 k Ω (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 8k2, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, 82k, etc.).

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Notes 28

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply a suitable DC voltage for the incandescent lamp. Set the power supply current limit such that it outputs enough to blow the fuse, but not enough to damage anything else. The fuse needs to be rated for a current value practical for a reasonable number of parallel-connected lamps.

Notes 29

Any relevant notes for the assessment activity go here.