

How much? The amount of chemical change · supported focus

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Chemistry · SL

Scope and prerequisites

Supported SL focus. First assessment 2025; current brief acquired; full Chemistry guide not acquired. Remaining guide, assessment and practical requirements retain their recorded holds.

Prerequisites: read the stated quantities and units, use arithmetic and the model conditions below. Each lesson develops its own method before independent transfer.

These are original or explicitly fictional teaching examples, not actual measurements or completed assessed learner investigations.

Titration and a defensible concentration

■ What would explain this observation?

- A burette reading is not the delivered volume. The **titre** is the difference between final and initial readings, and both readings have uncertainty.
 - Start with a prediction. State the quantities or features you would compare, then decide what evidence could distinguish two explanations.
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■ Build the model

- A titration measures the amount of one solution needed to react with a known amount of another. The equation gives the mole ratio. An indicator endpoint approximates the **equivalence point** when a suitable indicator is used.
- titre: The volume delivered between two burette readings; equivalence point: The point of stoichiometric reaction completion.



■ Choose evidence that can test it

- Calculate the known amount first, apply the stoichiometric ratio, then divide by the unknown solution volume in cubic decimetres. Use concordant titres as required by the school method and report the accepted values.
 - Rinse the burette with its solution and the pipette with the solution it transfers. Rinse the flask with distilled water. Add titrant slowly near the endpoint, swirl, and read the meniscus at eye level. Use a white tile and appropriate eye protection.
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■ Work from known quantities

- State the known values and their units. Choose the relation because its assumptions fit this case, then rearrange before substitution.
- Known: 25.0 cubic centimetres of acid reacts 1:1 with 20.0 cubic centimetres of 0.100 mol per cubic decimetre alkali. $n = cV = 0.100 \times 0.0200 = 0.00200$ mol. Acid amount is 0.00200 mol. $c = n/V = 0.00200/0.0250 = 0.0800$ mol per cubic decimetre.

Example:

Burette readings are 1.40 and 23.65 cubic centimetres. Calculate titre. Use the same sequence: known quantities → model → relation → substitution → unit and interpretation.

■ Check the conclusion and its limits

- Adding distilled water to the flask changes volume but not the transferred amount of analyte. Do not average a rough titre with carefully measured concordant values.
- Return to the original observation. Explain what the result supports, which conditions it assumes, and one way to test a competing explanation.

Warn:

A flask must be rinsed with analyte to avoid dilution of its mole amount. This claim is false: Adding distilled water to the flask changes volume but not the transferred amount of analyte. Do not average a rough titre with carefully measured concordant values.

Key:

Titration and a defensible concentration: Calculate the known amount first, apply the stoichiometric ratio, then divide by the unknown solution volume in cubic decimetres. Use concordant titres as required by the school method and report the accepted values.