# Experimental programme

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Physics · HL · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **uncertainty** /ʌnˈsɜːtənti/ | The length is 25.0 cm with an **uncertainty** of 0.1 cm.<br>25.0 cm 0.1 cm |
| **random error** /ˈrændəm ˈerə/ | Small changes in your reaction time cause a **random error**. |
| **systematic error** /ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk ˈerə/ | A scale that reads too high gives a **systematic error**. |
| **zero error** /ˈzɪərəʊ ˈerə/ | The meter shows 0.2 V with nothing connected: a **zero error**.<br>0.2 V |
| **accurate** | An **accurate** result is close to the true value. |
| **precise** /prɪˈsaɪs/ | **Precise** readings are close to each other. |
| **uncertainty bar** | Each point has an **uncertainty bar**. |
| **outlier** /ˈaʊtlaɪə/ | Leave out the **outlier** when you draw the line. |
| **gradient** /ˈgreɪdɪənt/ | The **gradient** of a distance-time graph gives the speed.<br>– |
| **intercept** /ˌɪntəˈsept/ | The line crosses the y-axis at the **intercept**.<br>y |
| **linearise** /ˈlɪnɪəraɪz/ | **Linearise** the data by plotting $T^2$ against L.<br>L 、$T^2$ |
| **research question** /rɪˈsɜːtʃ ˈkwestʃn/ | A good **research question** names what you change and what you measure.<br>、 |



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| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **independent variable** /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt ˈveərɪəbl/ | The **independent variable** is the one you change. |
| **dependent variable** /dɪˈpendənt ˈveərɪəbl/ | The **dependent variable** is the one you measure. |
| **control variable** /kənˈtrəʊl ˈveərɪəbl/ | The temperature is a **control variable**: we keep it the same. |