Experimental programme

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

Word	Example
uncertainty /ʌnˈsɜːtənti/	The length is 25.0 cm with an **uncertainty** of 0.1 cm. 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**. 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. –
intercept /ˌɪntəˈsept/	The line crosses the y-axis at the **intercept**. y
linearise /ˈlɪnɪəraɪz/	**Linearise** the data by plotting T^2 against L. L 、T^2
research question /rɪˈsɜːtʃ ˈkwestʃn/	A good **research question** names what you change and what you measure. 、

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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.

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