Junior Honours
Experimental Physics Laboratory

Feedback on Experiment 1 Group A

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Outcome

• Mean mark 62.29 for reports and 67.29 books
• All bar one passed
• More than half the group above 60 (B/C)
  University mark scheme defines this as ‘Very Good’

Well done!
Reports

Generally well written, spelling and grammar acceptable
Plots etc well-executed

Structure basically right

Evidence of sustained hard work both in the lab and out of it

Most of the B’s showed work in A territory (more later) combined with errors in areas like error propagation, faulty logic, or attempts at proof by assertion in discussion, rather sophomoric introductions

Good first start and many of the problems easily fixable

Logbooks
Clearly contemporary logs
plotting
Commentary
Stop

Capitalizing names of elements.

Using bullet points - tell a story

Avoid too many sub and subsubsections
Start Report

Plan and outline before you start to write

Read carefully and ask yourself does this say what I want to say

Proofread your report.

Have a look at the methods section of a paper to get a sense of what level of detail is required.

Make sure the units of quantities provided are correct.

Be mindful of how many significant figures you (should) provide.

Make sure you understand the limitations of equations that you, for example, fit your data to.

Equations should be numbered

Don't say the plot below (write (see Fig. xxx))
Captions should always be in the same place on plots. Generally below is the standard (definitely not to the side as it looks ugly)

Make sure figures are big.

Text of axes labels should be of a readable size.

Remember to give contact details
Getting an A

The report demonstrates significant evidence of additional research into the topic (for example, evidence of wide reading of the relevant literature and clear and insightful summary of this)

+ The report demonstrates significant originality of insights or creativity. (For example, a novel method of taking or analysing data or extensive exploration of sources of systematic errors)

+ There is a critical assessment of methods, analysis and results significantly beyond what is usual (For example, extensive discussion of the effects of systematic errors)