

Papers 5 and 6 Tips:

You will take one of these papers that test practical Physics. There are some particular points that are relevant to answering the questions here.

- When plotting a graph it is important to choose the scales so that the plots occupy more than half of the graph grid. Careless, rushed graph plotting can lose several marks. You should always use a sharp pencil and plot small, neat, accurately placed crosses. Then draw a neat thin best-fit line.
- You should understand that if y is proportional to x then the graph will be a straight line through the origin.
- Diagrams should be drawn with care using a sharp pencil.
- It is important to be able to set up a circuit from a diagram, draw a circuit diagram of a circuit already set up and also to draw a circuit diagram from a written description.
- You need to know that to read the current through a component (e.g. a lamp or a resistor) and the voltage across it, the ammeter is placed in series with the component but the voltmeter must be connected in parallel with the component.
- Column headings in tables of readings must be headed with the quantity and unit as in these examples: I/A , or t/s , or y/m . Graph axes are labelled in the same way.
- Final answers should be given to 2 or 3 significant figures.
- When carrying out practical work there are usually measurements that are in some way difficult to take in spite of taking great care. You should comment

about these difficulties

when asked about precautions taken to improve accuracy.

- You should understand that the control of variables is an important aspect of practical work. You should be able to comment on the control of variables in a particular experiment.

- You should understand the significance of wording such as 'within the limits of experimental accuracy'.

- If you are asked to justify a statement that you have made it must be justified by reference to the readings. A theoretical justification in a practical test will not gain marks