**Physics**

**Writing Procedural Account**

**Points to note**

**1. What is a procedural account ?**

Procedural account writing is to give accurately an account of a scientific activity including its aim, steps, and results or conclusion in order of the significant events.

**2. Common function verbs and sentence patterns of the questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Common action verbs | Examples |
| Describe /outline the procedure … | **Describe the procedures** to be done before taking a reading in order to ensure that the trapped air reaches the same temperature as the water.(set up is given) |
| Describe an experiment…, | Using the apparatus provided, **describe an experiment** to study how the stopping distance of the toy skier depends on its height of release. … |
| Design an experiment … | **Design an experiment** to find the focal length …. |

**3. Why study this particular genre ?**

(a) Procedural account tells step by step how a goal can be accomplished and is very common in writing experimental report.

(b) Questions in public examination requiring the writing of procedural account is very common, some examples are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| HKDSE |  | Sample Paper | Q9a |
|  | 2012 | Practice Paper | Q6 |
|  | 2012 | Paper 1 Section B | Q10 |
|  | 2013 | Paper 1 Section B | Q5 |
| HKCEE | 2010 | Paper 1 | Q3 |
|  | 2009 | Paper 1 | Q6 |
|  | 2008 | Paper 1 | Q6 |
|  | 2007 | Paper 1 | Q8 |
|  | 2006 | Paper 1 | Q7 |
|  | 2005 | Paper 1 | Q6 |

**4. Structure of a procedural account**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parts of Sturcture | Contents and Functions |
| Aim | * State the purpose for the actions or doing something. (usually specified by the question) |
| Steps | * A list the steps of actions in the order they need to be carried out (i.e. in logical sequence). * Specifying the essential conditions or precautions under which an action is taken. * Tell the independent variables and dependent variables. * Tell the measurement to be taken and the instrument used. * May include diagrams or equations. |
| Result and Conclusion | * Summaries the results and infer the conclusion from the result. * Conclusion should be responding to the aim. |

**5. Language features of a procedural account**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Language feature | Examples |
| No personal pronouns: the same action no matter who does it.  Begin a *step* with a verb | Pronouns: I, You, He, She, They  e.g., Switch on the power supply (NOT: ***You*** switch on the power supply.) Move the lens along …; Heat the tube of water … |
| In the *steps* and *result*: passive voice and past tense used when reporting something happened (e.g. report of an experiment done) | e.g., The lens was moved along ….  The tube of water is heated … |
| In the *step*: Words specifying time and the order of happenings to show the connection between steps | Words such as: First, second, then, next, before, after, while, in turn, finally, …  e.g. First, switch on the power, supply. Then take the ammeter reading, |
| Adverbs that describe in what manner things should be done | Words such as: quickly, slowly, steadily  e.g., stir the water thoroughly before taking reading |
| Physics vocabulary | Action words such as vary, observe  Physics concept involved e.g. convection |
| In the *steps* and *result* : Words expressing cause and effect | Words such as: because, since, lead to, therefore, so that, as a result |