

AN EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETED PRACTICALS PRO FORMA

1. Equipment and Facilities

For some reason (?), a large number of beakers were broken during the practical and there were insufficient spares in the cupboard. Implications for Friday's group?

2. Health and Safety

Students finally seem to have appreciated the importance of keeping goggles on at all times. Check who has replaced Ms Biggs as the nearest first aider.

3. Aims and Design

Now that the practicals are on a fortnightly cycle, students at the beginning of the week are more geared up for what's expected of them.

While most groups are coping fine, the second batch on Wednesdays are still having difficulty with getting through the work and neither the demonstrator nor myself can really figure out why. Maybe it's because they're a mixed group and their grasp of the maths we're currently covering in the lectures hasn't had time to bed down?

4. Preparation and Briefing

The instructions given in section 3 need to be made easier to follow as demonstrators this week have ended up giving a lot of additional assistance.

5. Interaction

Students are showing signs of recognising that they can learn a lot from one another and are not relying unduly on staff. Finding time (and energy!) to review what's happened at the end of the practical is still proving problematic - especially for that Wednesday group.

6. Assessment

Students in Chris's practical are complaining that their reports still haven't been returned, but other groups are fine. Reports are often more highly polished than they need to be and students therefore don't seem to have enough time to do the reading. How can we fix this??

Judging by my group's work at least the material covered in week 6 still isn't well understood.

7. Monitoring

Putting the standard report form on the server has really encouraged the demonstrators to report back on a regular basis, as well as in more detail.

Group sizes are okay for now, but if intake increases we'll have to adjust them accordingly (check with Pat at the beginning of next term what the predictions are).

Figure 5.2