ISA advice (from previous students)

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Before the exam

- Don't think it's as 'easy' as GCSE ISAs
- You *can* revise for ISAs, just like any other exam!
- Think of possible questions that might come up and this of answers before you're in the ISA
- Ensure you know the precise method for experiments similar to the topic of the ISA
- Understand concepts around the subject of the ISA
- Don't just revise for the topic your practical's on, the sneaky gits will make obscure links in section 2 so revise everything
- Use previous ISAs /relevant questions on past papers to prepare
- All of the resources you could need are on the internet
- Learn all the stuff on uncertainties, types of error & c.
- Look at the glossary in the textbook and learn definitions of *random error*, *systematic error*, *precise* and *accurate*
- Make sure you know how to work out the gradient and the units of the gradient.
- Know what the gradient / intercept could represent
- Practice converting from milli to kilo & c.
- Remember to bring a calculator

In the exam

- Don't panic.
- Read instructions carefully. Read them twice before doing the experiment. Then, if you don't understand, read them again.
- Check what you need to be measuring.
- Put units in column headings.
- Use the right precision for that equipment when recording results.
- Do repeats of the experiment / take multiple readings.
- Use a sharp pencil when plotting points.
- Get the x and y axes right
- Label your graphs
- Draw your line of best fit lightly first; it will probably be wrong
- Tilt your paper to find a line of best fit. Don't just look front on.
- Same number of points each side of line of best fit.
- Draw a gradient triangle and ensure you use over two thirds of the line
- Go into 'obvious' detail in your answers.
- Check your work at the end for silly mistakes