



Drawing a scientific diagram

Show only what matters, as line drawing, and label it properly.



1 A scientific diagram is simple and clear



It shows only the parts that are useful to understand an experiment or an observation. It is not a picture: it does not try to reproduce every detail, nor the colours, nor the shadows.

2 Example: a labelled diagram

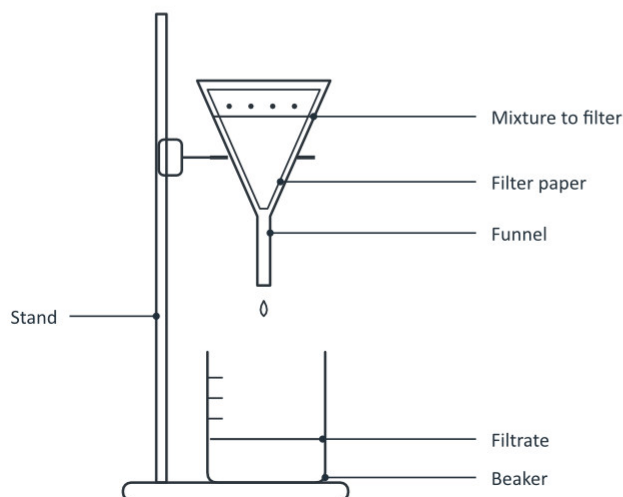


Diagram of the filtration of a sand and water mixture

The title goes below the diagram, and it is underlined.

3 The circuit diagram

The standard symbols

 Cell	 Power supply	 Lamp
 Motor	 Switch (open)	 Switch (closed)
 Resistor	 Diode	 LED

Drawing the circuit in 3 steps

- 1 Draw the power supply, usually on the left.
- 2 Draw the wires as straight lines: the circuit forms a rectangle.
- 3 Put the components on the sides, never in the corners.



4 Tips to follow

- Make the diagram large and in proportion, in pencil, with thin, clean lines.
- Use a ruler for every straight line.
- Show only the useful parts: no colour, no shading, no perspective (3D).
- Leave enough space around the diagram to write the labels.
- Write the labels horizontally, on the same side where possible.
- Label lines touch the part they name, never cross one another, and all stop at the same level. They may be bent at a right angle.
- A symbol set by the teacher needs no label; a symbol you choose must always be labelled.
- Write the title below the diagram and underline it.

Check before handing it in



- ✓ My diagram is large and clear
- ✓ I have used a pencil and a ruler
- ✓ I have labelled the symbols I chose myself
- ✓ The labels are horizontal
- ✓ The label lines do not cross
- ✓ The title is below the diagram and underlined

