

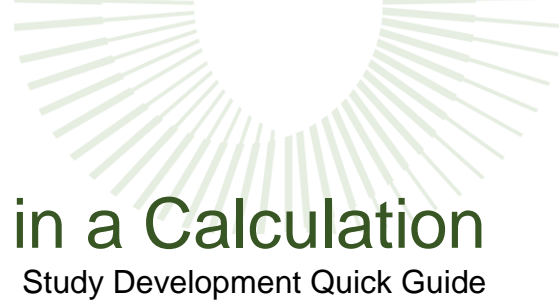


Spotting Errors in a Calculation

Study Development Quick Guide

Checklist

- Does the final value make sense? Is it within a reasonable range? For example, if the bodyweight of an adult has been calculated as 3kg, this is probably wrong.
- Have the appropriate units been included and chosen correctly?
- Have all conversions been completed correctly? For example, say 1L has incorrectly been given as 100mL. This can be very dangerous, especially in dosage calculations, so make sure to check all of these!
- Has an answer been rounded too early on? A good rule to stick to is to only round the final value calculated (if it needs rounding at all), in order to maintain a high level of accuracy.
- Is there a calculator available? If so, check all of the calculations involved- even if they seem obvious!
- Has the right information been selected? Often questions will involve unnecessary information. Make sure to highlight the right information.



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What to do if you think there's a mistake

If in doubt, repeat the calculation with the old calculation covered up. Did you get the same answer the second time? If not, look for mistakes in both.

Another good way of checking your answer is to ask a friend to calculate it as well, and see if you get the same answer.

Check your answer online, if you are able to. There are plenty of websites which will perform calculations for you. Remember though, these are not always correct, and you should not rely on these as you won't have them in your exams.

You can also try working some of the calculations backwards. For example, if you multiplied two numbers together to get an answer, try dividing the answer by one of the numbers. Do you get the other number back? If not, something has gone wrong.

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