



**NANYANG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2021 Sec 4 Physics Practical 05**  
**Resistance of a resistance wire and its length**

**Suggested Markscheme (Total = 15 marks)**

***Record of measurements and calculations*** [3]

- Headings with units with at least 6 sets of readings for  $l$ ,  $I$ ,  $V$ ,  $R$
- Acceptable values and correct d.p for  $l$ ,  $I$ ,  $V$
- correctly calculated and correct s.f. for  $R$
- Wide range (at least 70 cm) and fairly well spread values of length  $l$

***Record of diameter***

- Acceptable values and correct d.p for  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ ,  $d_3$  : 0.39 mm = 0.039 cm [1]
- Accurate calculation and correct d.p. for  $\langle d \rangle$  (2 d.p.) (3 d.p.) [1]

***Graph*** (printed and attached to this practical): correct labelling of axes [4]

***Gradient G*** = within 20% of teachers' value  
=  $0.10 \pm 0.02$  ( $\Omega/\text{cm}$ ) or  $10 \pm 2$  ( $\Omega/\text{m}$ ) [1]

***Resistivity***

- Accurate substitution of values into formula [1]
- $\rho = 1.2 \times 10^{-6}$   $\Omega \text{ m}$  or  $1.2 \times 10^{-4}$   $\Omega \text{ cm}$  [1]

***Conclusion***

**$R$  is directly proportional to  $l$ .** [start graph from origin!] [1]  
(straight line passes through/close to origin)

***Precautions taken (any one)*** [1]

- The circuit was closed only when readings were taken. This prevented the resistance wire from heating up, which could raise its resistance and cause inaccurate results.
- All connections were tightened
  - to prevent the readings from fluctuating due to poor connections OR
  - so that the total resistance of the circuit was not affected (hence affecting the current).
- It was checked that the resistance wire was mounted tautly across the ruler so that the length  $l$  used corresponds exactly to the measured value.
- The jockey was held perpendicularly to make a light contact with the resistance wire, to avoid changing its cross-sectional area (and hence its resistance).

**Possible source of error (any one)**

[1]

- The internal resistance of the plug switch / ammeter / accumulator / connecting wires is not negligible (any one object) Hence, the total resistance of the circuit was affected.
- The internal resistance of the voltmeter was not infinite. A small current could flow through the voltmeter. Hence the current measured by the ammeter was not the current flowing through the resistance wire.
- The resistance wire had kinks (bends) along its length.
  - Its effective length measured is not accurate OR
  - Its cross-sectional area is not uniform, affecting its resistance.