



1 *Measuring*  
weights & volumes



2 *Observing*  
experiments



3 *Collecting*  
scientific data



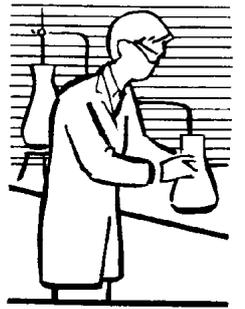
4 *Reporting*  
results



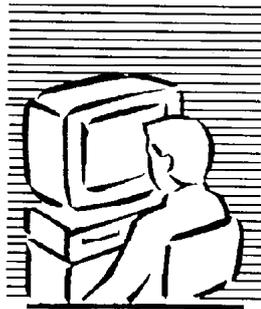
5 *Working safely*  
with chemicals



6 *Listening*  
to a supervisor



7 *Using* laboratory  
equipment



8 *Watching*  
a company video



9 *Performing*  
experiments



10 *Interviewing*  
other staff

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

PLACEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

# *Work Experience*

## **IN A LABORATORY**



Supported by



**Work Experience Learning Framework  
for Pre-16 Students**

## Questions to ask

### 1 *Background to the business*

- a. What type of organisation is it?
- b. What is the history of the business?
- c. What are the basic facts and figures about the business?
- d. What are the main patterns of employment e.g. full/part time?

### 2 *Business organisation*

- a. What are the different departments on the site?
- b. How do the different departments work together?
- c. Do employees have the opportunity to work in different departments?
- d. How many staff are employed in the laboratory where you are working?

### 3 *Employment in science based industries*

- a. What are the trends in employment in science based industries?
- b. What different types of jobs are available?
- c. What career and training opportunities are there?
- d. Is there a recognised trade union or staff association?

### 4 *Equal opportunities*

- a. Does the organisation have an equal opportunities policy?
- b. Are particular jobs carried out by men or women?
- c. Do job advertisements mention equal opportunities?
- d. Are there any arrangements for supporting child care?

### 5 *Working conditions*

- a. What are working conditions like for staff?
- b. What hours or shifts do people work?
- c. Do staff have to wear special clothing?
- d. What changes have there been in working conditions over the past few years?

### 6 *Health and safety*

- a. What health and safety rules do staff have to follow?
- b. How is safety in the laboratory managed?
- c. What happens when there is an accident, including minor accidents?
- d. What is the role of the laboratory worker in safety management?

### 7 *Laboratory layout*

- a. How is the laboratory laid out?
- b. What are the advantages of the current lay out?
- c. What problems are caused by the current layout?
- d. What are the particular issues in the layout of a laboratory?

### 8 *Waste management*

- a. Are there special arrangements for the disposal of solid and liquid laboratory wastes?
- b. What steps does the company take to minimise waste?
- c. How does the company dispose of domestic waste?
- d. Does the company have an active environmental policy?

### 9 *Information technology*

- a. How is e-mail used?
- b. What applications are used in the organisation?
- c. How does IT help the laboratory to function?
- d. How do employees judge when to use IT in their work?

### 10 *Application and responsibility of science*

- a. How do employees apply their scientific knowledge in the laboratory?
- b. How is the impact of scientific developments evaluated?
- c. How are decisions made about competing priorities?
- d. Are industrial, environmental and social issues taken into account when making decisions?

