

WJEC Wales Physics A Level

SP Unit 2 04 : Waves

Practical notes



1. Measurement of Intensity Variations for Polarisation

Equipment:

- Two polarising filters
- A source of light

Method:

1. Turn on the lamp.
2. Hold the polarising filters so they are parallel and aligned in the same direction, and look through both filters. You should be able to see the light at full intensity.
3. Slowly rotate the second filter, making sure to hold the first filter in the original position.
4. The intensity should decrease as the filter is rotated, reaching a minimum when the second filter has been rotated through 90 degrees.
5. Continue to rotate the filter - the intensity should increase back to maximum at 180 degrees.

Safety:

- The lamp may get hot - do not leave it on for long periods of time.
- Never look directly into the light, to avoid causing damage to your eyes.

