Determining Acetic Acid Concentration in Vinegar

SCH3U | Student laboratory assignment | 1 of 4

Prepare for your investigation

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Research question

What is the molar concentration and percentage (m/v) of acetic acid in a vinegar sample?

Learning goal: use the virtual model to gather evidence, explain determining acetic acid concentration in vinegar and communicate a supported conclusion.

Materials: WorksheetGalaxy virtual laboratory, this assignment, calculator or spreadsheet if needed. Virtual observations only; do not recreate hazardous procedures or perform physical fitness tests without teacher approval.

1. Define two relevant scientific terms from the Background Information tab. (K/U)

2. Write a prediction or hypothesis with a scientific reason. (K/U, T/I)

3. Identify the variable or feature compared, the measured outcome and constants or consistent observation criteria. (T/I)

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Perform the virtual laboratory

Open the corresponding virtual lab and read Background Information. Follow the investigation instructions below. Record authentic simulated results; do not invent data.

• Record the standardized NaOH concentration, original vinegar aliquot, and dilution factor.

• Complete one rough titration and at least three careful titrations.

• Record initial and final burette readings and calculate each titre.

• Identify concordant trials (within 0.20 mL), calculate the mean titre, and determine the acid concentration.

• Convert the concentration to % (m/v) and compare it with a typical vinegar label claim of approximately 5%.

• Explain endpoint versus equivalence point, and discuss two possible sources of error.

Record each completed observation using the simulator’s record control when available. Use Data & Graphs to review results. Export CSV if available; attach additional rows or screenshots when needed.

Record the exact settings and any changes to the method.

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Observations & results

Enter the actual results. Keep trial IDs consistent between continued tables. Attach the full exported data or extra sheets when the procedure requires more rows. Include units as displayed.

Data table 1

Trial / item	Type	NaOH (M)	Aliquot (mL)	Dilution	Initial (mL)

Data table 1 — continued (2)

Trial / item	Final (mL)	Titre (mL)	Endpoint pH

Qualitative observations / sample calculation (show units where applicable)

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Analysis, conclusion & assessment

4. Present a labelled graph of a measured relationship, or an annotated diagram / comparison chart for qualitative investigations. Attach it separately. Explain the pattern using recorded evidence. (C, T/I)

5. Analysis: endpoint, equivalence point, and trial consistency (K/U, A)

6. Compare two contrasting observations from your investigation of Determining Acetic Acid Concentration in Vinegar. Explain the difference using the background information. (K/U, A)

7. Use a specific recorded result to answer the research question. Explain the scientific reasoning behind it. (K/U, A)

Conclusion and evaluation: answer the research question, revisit the prediction using evidence, identify a model limitation and propose an improvement. (T/I, A)

Submit this assignment plus your completed Lab Report (printed or saved as PDF from the lab) and any supporting data/figures.

K/U: accurate concepts /10	T/I: method, data, reasoning /12	C: clear tables, units, report /8	A: explanation, conclusion, transfer /10

Total: /40