

Chemistry 12 - Review of Significant Digits

TOTAL = 28

The rules for zeros in significant digits are as follows:

- a) All zeros between non-zero digits are significant.
- b) Zeros at the beginning of a number ( eg. 0.0095 ) are **NOT SIGNIFICANT** !  
If the number 0.0095 was written in scientific notation, it would be:  
 $9.5 \times 10^{-3}$ . The exponent is not counted as significant so this number has 2 significant digits.
- c) Zeros on the right side of a number (at the end) are significant if the **DECIMAL POINT** is shown.
- eg) 50.00 has 4 significant digits  
43.0 has 3 significant digits  
20. has 2 significant digits  
100. has 3 significant digits
- d) Zeros to the left of an **UNDERSTOOD** decimal point are **NOT** significant.
- eg) 300 has 1 significant digit  
10 000 has 1 significant digit  
12 320 has 4 significant digits  
420 has 2 significant digits

1. Find the number of **significant digits** in each of the following measurements:

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) 3.4005 ..... (5)                | f) $9.080 \times 10^{-3}$ ..... (4) |
| b) 2980 ..... (3)                  | g) 1.00 ..... (3)                   |
| c) $3.20 \times 10^{-2}$ ..... (3) | h) 0.0027890 ..... (5)              |
| d) 0.000308 ..... (3)              | i) 320 000 ..... (2)                |
| e) 23.000 ..... (5)                | j) 9 ..... (1)                      |