THE INFLUENCE OF REINFORCEMENT SKILL ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PHYSICS STUDENTS IN OBI-OAKPOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, RIVERS STATE
ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at assessing the influence of reinforcement skill on the Academic Performance of Secondary School Physics students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, using three research questions and one hypothesis. The sample size was sixty teachers and one hundred and twenty students of senior secondary One (SS I) in the sample Area. The questionnaire titled “Teachers Reinforcement Skill Questionnaire” (TRSQ) was part of the instrument and fundamentals of Measurement in Physics. The statistical mean was used to analyse the data for the research questions while standard deviation and Z-test were used to analyze the data to obtain the validity of the hypothesis. The findings revealed that some factors such as insincere reinforcement, adoption of only one form of reinforcement, among others, hinder proper application of reinforcement skill. It was also found that the use of reinforcement influences the academic performance of Physics students. Based on this, it was recommended that teachers should always apply reinforcement skill, be sincere in the application and attend training programmes on teaching skills.

Key words: Reinforcement, Academic Performance, Physics, Secondary School Students, Obio-Akpor.
Introduction

Micro teaching is a process that offers trainee teachers the opportunity to acquire certain teaching skills in order to be competent in a teaching process. Teaching skills are part of the competences to be exhibited by the student-teachers in a micro teaching session and it is a concept that is viewed by different authors to mean overt specific behavioural activities or actions exhibited in the classroom to enhance lesson presentation in order to achieve the specific objectives of the lesson (Cooper and Allen (1970), Otsupius (2014)). There exist a catalogue of teaching skills, such as set induction, stimulus variation, closure, questioning, planned repetition skill, reinforcement skill and others (Mandah, 2014). The skill of reinforcement is the focus of this study. The teacher is expected to use related teaching skills that will enable him present the lesson and achieve the specific objective(s) of the lesson. In this study, attention is focused on the influence of reinforcement skill on the academic performance of secondary school Physics students. Reinforcement skill is one of the teaching skills that can be applied to modify or change behaviour of the learner, and may be positive or negative (Eze, Ngozi and Lillian, 2003). The professional or trainee teacher is expected to apply reinforcement skill at each time a question is asked and students are made to respond which is the focus of the study. It is judicious to anticipate that teachers’ skillful use of positive reinforcement can contribute to overall academic performance and achievement of the students. This can be realized if proper positive reinforcement of students is applied at the right time and with the right method. It is on this premise that the researchers cast doubt on the teachers’ application of reinforcement as a skill in a conventional teaching and learning process.
Statement of Problem

It is a universally acknowledged fact that reinforcement can bring about positive changes in the behaviour of the learner, if applied appropriately. Both professional and trainee teachers ought to apply reinforcement in a teaching and learning process. Depending on the situation and response from the learner, the teacher in the classroom should apply positive or negative reinforcement when necessary during the teaching-learning process.

In 2010, a study was carried out by Mandah and Douglas on the application of planned repetition skill (one of the teaching skills) to remedy lack of understanding as a result of forgetting in learning French among first year students of Rivers State University of Education. The study by Mandah and Douglas (2010) also considered the proper application of the Planned Repetition skill (which is one of the teaching skills) by teachers in French department to enable students understand oral vocabulary and dictation exercises in French. The study had one research question and one hypothesis. Two groups were involved - groups A and B. group A was taught with the application of planned repetition skill and group B was taught without the application of repetition skill on a conventional teaching process. It was found that most students that were treated with the Planned Repetition skill performed better than some that were not treated with the Planned Repetition skill. It was also found that gender does not make any significant difference in application of planned repetition skill. Based on the above finding it was recommended that French teachers should always apply Planned Repetition skill to reduce forgetting and enhance recall.

Back to the focal point of this work and from observation as a teacher, it should be expected that students will have preferences for teachers’ praise as feedback. While some students may not be too comfortable with praises for their academic
performance, others will prefer to be praised as a way of motivating them. There are some other groups of students that prefer not to be praised in the public and those that may not want it at all-publicly or in private, while some want it public. Whereas it can be observed that public praise and feedback may produce discomfort and punishment for some students due to negative social consequences such as bullying, teasing and belittling by other students, these tools are still very important teaching skills that are vital in the teaching-learning process. It is believed that teachers’ application of reinforcement enables students to gain confidence in the teacher’s explanation and their responses as learners when questions are asked by the teacher thereby enhancing the academic performance of the student in any subject.

However, it has been observed that some teachers do not apply reinforcement skill fully resulting in strong negative influence on students’ academic performance. Adequate knowledge of this and other teaching skills can be brought to the attention of the teachers and other stakeholders in education through seminars and other training programmes geared towards updating on current issues in these teaching skills and their applications. The trend at the moment shows that some teachers are yet to understand the meaning of this concept, its application and benefits. Thus, the researchers assume that wrong application of reinforcement can lead to poor academic performance of secondary school students and may lead to high rate of failure. This is what necessitated this study which is aimed at assessing the influence of Reinforcement skill on academic performance of Secondary School Physics students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area Rivers state.
Significance of Study
The result of this study will provide valuable information to teachers on how to handle their students, using reinforcement skill in the class and outside the classroom environment. The study will also lay a foundation for providing policy direction towards improvement on existing teaching skills in academic institutions for School Managements, Government and other stakeholders. It will also assist the Ministry of Education to plan training and retraining programmes for teachers to equip them on the application of reinforcement. Researchers could use information from this research as reference material for their work.

Purpose of study
This study is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To find out the factors that hinder the application of the reinforcement skill in the teaching of Physics;
- To proffer solutions to the identified factor(s) that hinder Physics teachers’ application of the reinforcement skill;
- To ascertain the influence of reinforcement skill on students’ academic performance in physics.

Study Area
The study area is Obio Akpor, one of the Council Areas in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. Therefore, the study Area is one of the major centres of economic activities in Nigeria covering a total land area of 260km$^2$ and, by the 2006 population census has a population of 464,789. The noticeable high number of inhabitants of this area makes assessments of this nature very important as it will help to improve the quality of education in our Secondary Schools.
Research questions

To guide this study three research questions were formulated:

- What are the factors that affect Physics teachers in applying reinforcement skill?
- What are the solutions to the identified factors that hinder the application of reinforcement skill by Physics teachers?
- What influence does the skill of reinforcement have on students’ academic Performance in Secondary School Physics?

Hypothesis:

There is no significant relationship between teachers’ application of reinforcement and students’ academic performance in secondary school physics.

Reviews of Literature

Reinforcement is a skill applied to modify or change pupils’ behaviour positively not negatively (Otupius, 2014; Brown, 1975; Cooper and Allen, 1970) which can be applied by the teacher or presenter to increase positive behaviour of the learners and also discourage learner’s negative behaviour. Generally, reinforcement involves those techniques that results in positive alterations of learning behaviour. There are two main types of reinforcement- positive and negative reinforcement.

Positive reinforcement is the process in which the teacher encourages positive behaviours of learners to enable them achieve the specific objective(s) of the lesson (Collins and Fontenelle, 1982; Cameron and Pierce, 1994; Maag (2001)). The teacher can smile, praise the learner, or make complementary comments such as well done, good, splendid, etc. This process encourages pupils’ attention, maintains motivation and modifies disruptive behavior thereby helping to improved learning.
Negative reinforcement refers to the application of skills and techniques that will reduce, decrease or discourage negative behaviours in the learner (Iwata, 1987; Zarcone, Crosland, Fisher, Worsdell and Herman, 1999). This can be achieved through the teacher giving punishment to the learner’s as a means of making them improve on their performance or discouraging those behaviours that may have led to the poor performance, shouting at the learner, making such comments as too bad, no, very poor, shaking the head or closing his eyes, etc.

Reinforcement has several components as stated by Henderlong and Lepper (2002) in which seven components of reinforcement were identified and described. They comprises:

- verbal reinforcement which involve the ability of teachers to make verbal comments, both positive and negative, depending on the situation while teaching the learners. This type of reinforcement involve the use of such words as good, correct, yes, that’s right, neat work as positive; while no, bad, too ugly, poor etc., are negative reinforcements;

- gestural reinforcement involves the use of facial expression like smile, delightful laugh, bodily expression, clapping, nodding, thumbs up or arms raised by teachers. On the other hand, a teacher can equally apply twitching of face, moody face, a finger crossing the mouth as negative reinforcement;

- proximity reinforcement involves the teachers’ display of interest in the students’ performance by moving nearer, standing next to or sitting close to the students;

- contact reinforcement the teacher can do this by patting the students head, shoulder, back, hand shake, raising the student’s hand up in the class.

- activity reinforcement involve the teacher giving to the students task they prefer as reinforcement for work;
token reinforcement entails the teacher giving award, marks and sweets comment on books, test papers etc.

- rewards like privileges given to the learner or recognition by the teacher falls into this category.

Some of the factors that may hinder the proper application of reinforcement by Physics teachers have been identified by Neitzel (2009) as:

- none readily interested in the application of the skill always
- insincerity on the part of the teacher in terms of praise.
- over use of one type of reinforcement and its relativity to others.

Measures to mitigate these factors include frequent application of reinforcement in the classroom and the fact that the reinforcement should be task-centred and not ego-centred. Reinforcement from teachers should be sincere to the students, warm and full of enthusiasm. Furthermore, the use of reinforcements of various types should also be encouraged. It is believed that reinforcement skill has influence on students’ academic performance because it captures the students’ attention and gets them motivated as a result of some internal feeling of identification and reward. In the process, students’ participation in classroom discussion is enhanced and the study pattern of behaviour of students is improved. Consequently, student’s confidence is increased and disruptive behaviours are modified. It also strengthens teacher/student relationship in the classroom.

This is in agreement with Dewar (2008), and Henderlong and Lepper(2002) who had separately shown that reinforcement skill exist as both a motivating factor or a demotivating factor based on the students’ interpretation of the daily verbal interaction occurring between class teachers and student. Therefore, it can be agreed that verbal interaction between teachers and students influences student
performance level in a positive or negative way. This position is in agreement with Dewar (2008) and Decie and Ryan (2004) who had separately stated that positive interaction between teacher and students spur academic performance or growth.

**Research methodology**

The experimental design adopted in this study was both descriptive and quasi experimental design.

The population of the study was made up of all the eighteen (18) Public Secondary Schools in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers state, and the entire Physics teacher in those public Secondary schools.

**Sample and sampling technique**

From the eighteen (18) secondary schools in the Local Government Area, nine (9) schools were selected for the study through simple ballot technique. The random sampling technique was used to select thirty (30) Physics teachers out of the thirty-six (36) teachers in the (9) selected schools. Similarly, from the two hundred and forty-eight (248) students in the nine (9) selected schools one hundred and twenty (120) were selected through random sampling technique for the quasi experimental study.

The instrument for data collection was the questionnaire titled “Teachers Reinforcement Skill Questionnaire” (TRSQ), which was divided into two sections; Section A was designed to elicit preliminary information concerning the respondents and section B was used to solicit information on the influence of reinforcement on academic performance of the students. This part contained a four (4) point likert scale comprising Agreed (4), strongly agreed (3), Disagreed (2) strongly disagreed (1) as response mode.
The treatment procedure for the experimental group was such that there was no pretest with the one hundred and twenty (120) students being divided into two groups of A and B containing 60 students each with the aid of simple ballot system. Group A was taught fundamentals of Measurements with the application of reinforcement skill for 40 minutes and three days in a week. While group B was taught same without the application of reinforcement skill.

Immediately after the treatment session for groups A and B, a post test was administered to both groups separately. The duration for the research procedure was two weeks. The students were subjected to a set of ten multiple objective questions on fundamentals of Measurements in physics.

**Validity and reliability of the instrument**
The face and content validity of the instrument were ensured using experts in measurement and evaluation. The reliability of the TRSQ was determined by the use of the split half reliability technique. A correlation coefficient of 0.74 was obtained using the Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Coefficient determination technique. This technique adequately confirms that the instrument was highly reliable.

**Administration of the instrument**
The instruments were personally distributed to the respondents by the researchers and all the 30 questionnaires administered were returned.

**Method of data analysis**
The data collected was analyzed with the aid of statistical means ($\bar{x}$) for the research questions, while the hypothesis was analyzed with the aid of standard deviation(S) and Z–test.
Results

The findings of the study are presented and discussed below:

Research Question 1:
What are the factors affecting physics teachers in application of reinforcement skill?

Table 1: Mean Score of Factors affecting Physics Teachers in Application of reinforcement skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>A (4)</th>
<th>SA (3)</th>
<th>D (2)</th>
<th>SD (1)</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>( \bar{x} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Most Teachers praise the students instead of commending them on the tasks they had done right</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teachers lack the interest to apply reinforcement.</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A teacher tends to over use one form reinforcement.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Some teachers praise students even when the student does not deserve it.</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Student’s doubt some teacher’s praise that they are not sincere</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Some teachers do not understand the concept and application of reinforcement</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 above shows the mean responses of the respondents. The table reveals that statement 1 has a mean score of 3.26, statement 2 has mean score of 2.3, statements 3, 5 and 6 have mean scores of 2.9 each and statement 4 has a mean score of 2.5.

Research Question 2
What are the solutions to the factors affecting Physics Teacher in the application of reinforcement skill?
Table 2: Mean Scores of Respondents on the Solutions to the Factors Affecting Physics Teachers in the Application of Reinforcement Skill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>A (4)</th>
<th>SA (3)</th>
<th>D (2)</th>
<th>SD (1)</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>(\bar{x})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Application of Reinforcement should be Frequent</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>It should be task-centred not ego-centred.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Teachers should apply variety of forms of reinforcement.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Application of reinforcement should be warm and full of enthusiasm</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Teachers should apply it with sincerity</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 above shows the mean response of the respondents on solutions to the problems affecting teachers in the application of reinforcement skill. The table shows that statement 1 and 3 have mean scores of 3.1 each while statements 2, 4 and 5 have mean scores of 3.3, 2.9 and 3.4 respectively.

**Research question 3**
To what extent is reinforcement skill influencing academic performance of secondary school Physics students?
Table 3: Mean Scores of Respondents on the Influence of Reinforcement on Academic Performance of Physics Students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>A (4)</th>
<th>SA (3)</th>
<th>D (2)</th>
<th>SD (1)</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>_X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reinforcement Captures Students’ interest and motivates them.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>It enhances students participation in class discussion</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>It improves the study pattern of behaviour of student</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>It increases self-confidence among students</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>It improves classroom discipline and modifies behaviour.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>It creates cordial relationship between the teacher and students</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that items 1 and 4 have mean scores of 3.3 and 3.0 respectively. While items 2, 3, 5, and 6 have mean scores of 3.0, 2.6, 3.0 and 2.3 respectively.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between application of reinforcement and academic performance of secondary school physics student.

Table 4: Mean, standard deviation and Z-test scores on the extent of relationship between reinforcement skill and academic performance of Physics students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reinforcement</th>
<th>_X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Z-test Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Group (A)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Group (B)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the table above at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom of approximately 60, the critical or table value of \( Z = \pm 1.671 \) and the calculated \( Z \)-value is \((6.7)\) which is greater than the \( Z \) – critical value. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between the application of the appropriate form of the reinforcement skill and the academic performance of Physics students.

**Discussions of findings**

The result of this study which is focused on ascertaining the influence of the reinforcement skill on the academic performance of secondary school Physics students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State is here-discussed. The result of the research question one (table 1) indicates that a lot of factors such as teachers’ praise of students instead of commending their task; teachers’ over use one form of reinforcement, students doubting some teachers’ praise and others are some of the barriers to the proper application of the reinforcement skill and adversely affect Physics teachers in their application of the reinforcement skill. This result may not be unconnected to the fact that some teachers lack the capacity to apply reinforcement skills. The findings corroborate the result reported by Henderlong and Lepper(2002) who stated that teachers tend to use only one type of praise and this can contribute to student dependency and mal-adaptive behaviours which can affect their academic performance. Also Dewar 2008; Kohn (1994) reported that some students are aware when teachers offer praise that is insincere and this may hamper the effective application of reinforcement skill.

The result of the research question two (table 2) also revealed that the identified factors in table one and discussed above can be solved remedied if teachers can adequately master the reinforcement skill to the extent that it can be applied frequently. The application of variety of reinforcement types including both verbal
and non-verbal reinforcement types, teachers’ sincerity during the application of reinforcement skill on students, among others, will also help to remedy these identified factors. These findings may not be unconnected with the fact that some teachers need to be retrained in order to help them keep abreast of the techniques of the reinforcement skill. This finding is in line with that of Eze, Ngozi and Lilian (2003) and Mandah (2008) who separately agreed to the use of various types of reinforcement and their frequent application in a teaching and learning process to improve the academic performance of the students.

Research question three reveals that proper application of the reinforcement skill influences academic performance of Physics students. This position is shown by the responses of the respondents which indicate that proper application of the reinforcement skill captures and motivates students, enhances students participation in classroom discussion, modifies disruptive behavior, among others. This finding is in line with that of Bowers (1994) who confirmed that rewards, praise, or extrinsic motivators can enhance students’ academic performance. Finally the result of the null hypothesis indicates that there is a significant relationship between the application of reinforcement and academic performance of Physics students.

**CONCLUSION**

This study was a descriptive and quasi experimental type that focused on the influence of reinforcement skill on the academic performance of secondary school Physics students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. From the findings it is established that factors such as insincere praise, continuous use of one form of reinforcement and others adopted by Physics teachers during application of reinforcement skill have some negative impact on the academic of the students. It
was also found that sincere reinforcement (praise), frequent use of variety of reinforcement forms are solutions towards factors that affect Physics teachers in their application of the Reinforcement skill. Furthermore, it was found that reinforcement skill influences Physics students’ academic performance by capturing their attention, making them participate actively in classroom discussions, improve on study patterns and others.

**Recommendation**

Based on the findings of the study and the conclusion reached, the following recommendations were made:

- Physics teachers should always apply reinforcement skill while teaching the students. They should use variety of reinforcement skills and be sincere in applying the skill;
- The stakeholders of teacher education should organize seminars, training programmes etc. on the application of teaching skills.
**APPENDIX A**

Tabulation of the Scores of the Experimental and Control Groups

### a). Experimental Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Interval</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>x</th>
<th>FX</th>
<th>x-(\bar{x})</th>
<th>(x - (\bar{x}))^2</th>
<th>F(x - (\bar{x}))^2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>813</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>387</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mean, \(\bar{x} = \frac{\sum Fx}{\sum F} = \frac{813}{60} \approx 14\)

Similarly the Standard Deviation, \(S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum F(x-\bar{x})^2}{\sum F}} = \sqrt{\frac{387}{60}} = \sqrt{6.45} = 2.54\)

### b) Control Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Interval</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>x</th>
<th>Fx</th>
<th>x-(\bar{x})</th>
<th>(x - (\bar{x}))^2</th>
<th>F(x - (\bar{x}))^2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>627</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>891</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mean, \(\bar{x} = \frac{\sum Fx}{\sum F} = \frac{627}{60} = 10.45 \approx 10\)

Standard Deviation, \(S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum F(x-\bar{x})^2}{\sum F}} = \sqrt{\frac{891}{60}} = \sqrt{14.85} = 3.85\)
APPENDIX B
DETERMINATION OF THE Z-TEST

Z-Test is determined as follows:

\[
Z = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}} = \frac{14 - 10}{\sqrt{\frac{2.53^2}{60} + \frac{3.85^2}{60}}} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{\frac{6.40}{60} + \frac{14.8}{60}}} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{0.11 + 0.25}} = 6.7
\]
APPENDIX C
OBJECTIVE MULTIPLE TEST ITEMS ON PHYSICS
TOPIC: MEASUREMENTS

1). Many simple observations and experiments can be done without any special measuring instruments: True   False

2). The latest system of units which has gained universal acceptance is

3). Physical quantities are often divided into __________________________ and __________________________

4). __________________ are products and quotients of the fundamental Units.

5). Instruments such as the micrometer screw gauge, vernier calipers, metre rule, tape rule and clocks can be used to measure the distance between two points: True   False

6). ___________________________ states that the extension Produced in an elastic body is proportional to the applied force provided that the elastic limit is not exceeded.

7). ___________________________is the instrument used to compare unknown masses of objects with known standard masses.

8). The beam balance is based on the principle of ___________________________

9). When measurements are required to an accuracy greater than 1mm, ___________________________ is used.

10). The measuring instrument that is capable of measuring accurately to one-hundredth of a millimeter is the ___________________________
REFERENCES


