

BRAINTEASER

The graduating class had finished their final exams and we'd just done the end-of-year exams for the lower year groups immediately after. Now we were ready to get back into the lab for the final push of new learning before the summer holidays. One of the planned activities was a titration. However, frustratingly, when I checked the deionised water stock in the lab, it seemed to have been contaminated. A quick test with universal indicator solution went yellow in deionised water but remained green in the water from the tap.

Clearly the indicator wasn't at fault, so what could have happened? Perhaps a careless student or staff member had spilt something in there – did I need to resupply the whole stock bottle before my next titration?



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