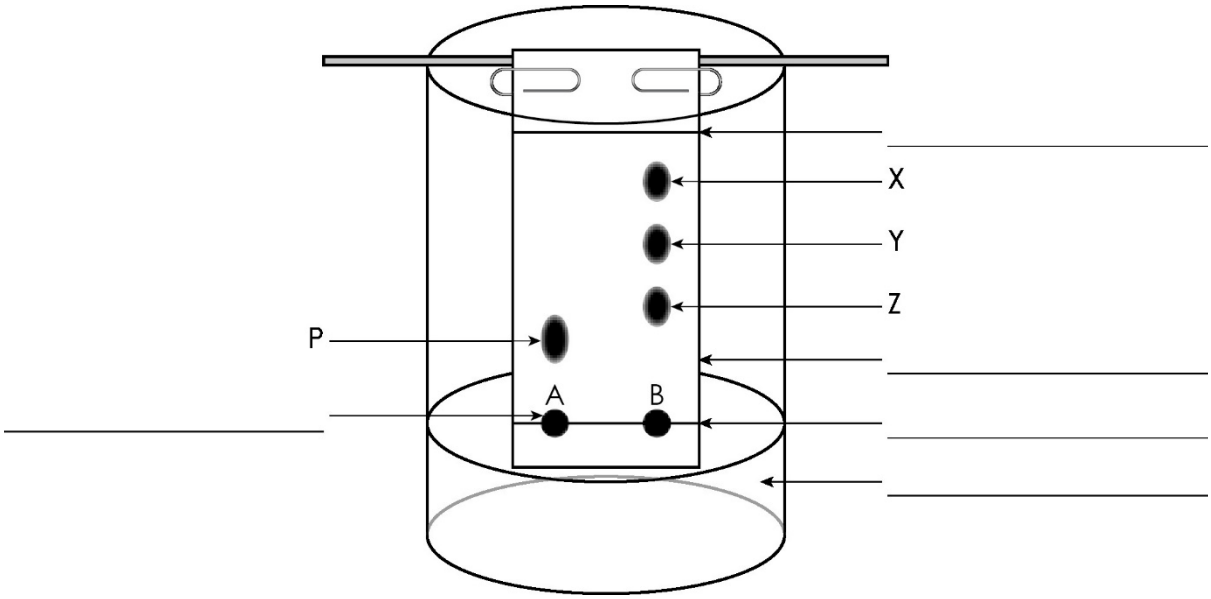
Chromatography: knowledge check

1.1 Learners are completing an experiment to separate the coloured soluble substances in two different food dyes.

The diagram shows the apparatus used and the chromatogram produced.

Label the diagram.



Questions 1.2 to 1.4 are about the experiment in question 1.1.

1.2 The table shows the steps in the chromatography process used to separate the coloured substances, but they are given in the wrong order.

Add numbers to show the correct order for the steps.

	Draw an origin line in pencil about 1.5 cm from one end of the chromatography paper.
	Place the paper inside the beaker. Make sure it just touches the water and it is vertical.
	Check the paper is the right length by lining it up on the outside of the beaker so that the water is below the origin line.
	Use a pipette to add small drops of food colourings **A** and **B** on the chromatography paper.
	Allow the solvent to move through the paper, removing it before the solvent reaches the top.

1.3 Complete the gaps in the following sentences.

The chromatography paper is the _____ _____ . The solvent is the _____ _____ . The different dissolved substances in a mixture are attracted to the _____ and the chromatography paper in different proportions. This causes them to move at different _____ up the _____ _____ .

1.4 Use some of the words to complete the gaps in the following sentences.

pure **impure** **compound** **one** **element**

two or more **three** **four** **mixture**

A pure substance contains one type of element or _____ only.

An impure substance contains _____ different elements or compounds. Food colouring A consists of one substance and is a/an _____ substance.

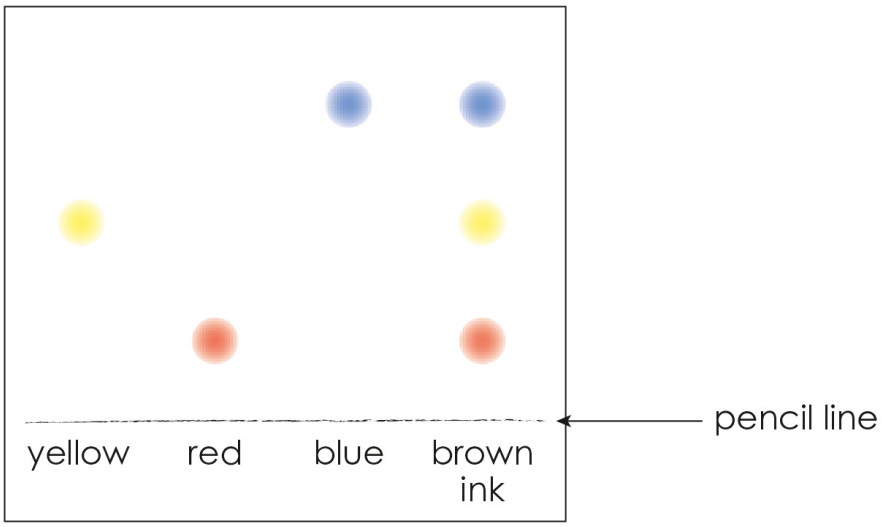
Food colouring B contains _____ different coloured substances.

Food colouring B is a/an _____ substance.

Chromatography: test myself

2.1 Give two uses of paper chromatography.

2.2 This is a chromatogram of four different inks.



Circle the inks on the chromatogram that are pure substances. Explain how you made your choices.

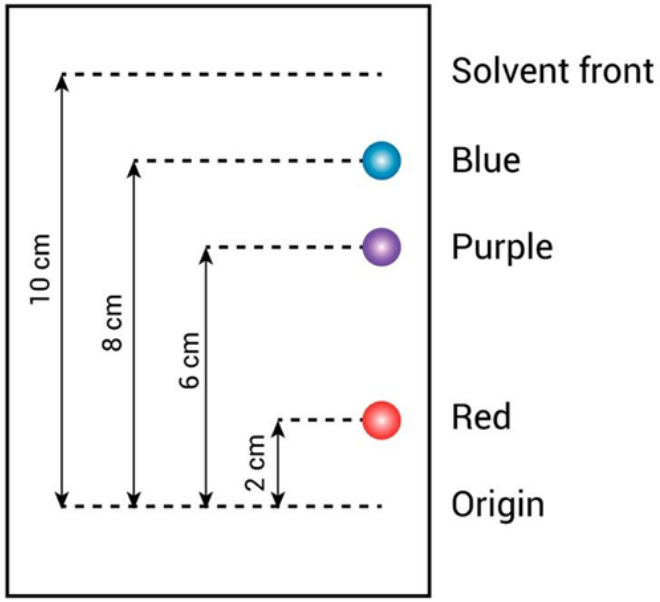
2.3 How is chromatography used to identify unknown substances?

[*Hint: Think about what can be measured and compared on a chromatogram.*]

2.4 Thin layer chromatography uses a glass plate coated with alumina or silica gel.

What does this glass plate replace in the experiment in **question 1.1**?

2.5 This is a chromatogram of dark blue ink.



Use the data shown in the chromatogram to calculate the correct R_f values for the red, purple and blue substances.

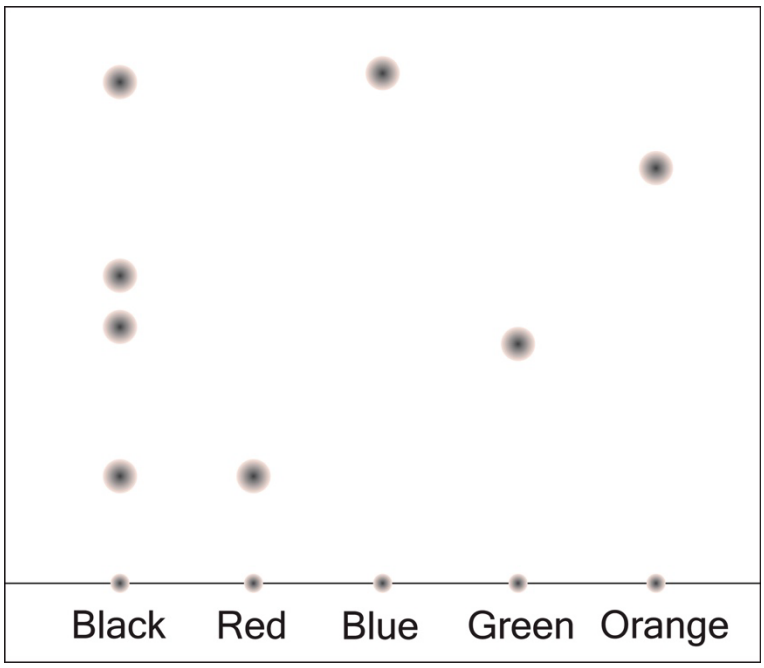
Substance	R_f values
Red	
Purple	
Blue	

2.6 A compound has a R_f value of 0.6. If the solvent travels 16.0 cm up the chromatography paper, what is the distance travelled by the compound in centimetres?

[*Hint: How should the equation for R_f be rearranged to make the distance travelled by the compound the subject of the equation?*]

Chromatography: feeling confident?

3.1 This is a chromatogram of different coloured inks. What can you conclude about the black ink from the chromatogram shown?



Use the words in your answer.

black ink **red** **blue** **green** **orange**

3.2 Substances **A**, **B** and **C** are found in chlorophyll. The R_f values of these three substances can be determined using thin layer chromatography and an organic solvent.

Calculate the missing values in the table.

Substance	Distance travelled by the substance when the solvent travels 10 cm (cm)	R_f value
A	9.8	
B	5.9	
C		0.42

Chromatography: what do I understand?

Think about your answers and confidence level for each mini-topic. Decide whether you understand it well, are unsure or need more help. Tick the appropriate column.

Mini-topic	I understand this well	I think I understand this	I need more help
I can describe the process of paper chromatography.			
I can describe how to prepare a chromatogram.			
I can define a pure substance and an impure substance			
I can interpret a chromatogram.			
I can calculate R_f values.			
I can use R_f values.			
Feeling confident? topics	**I understand this well**	**I think I understand this**	**I need more help**
I can interpret chromatograms of coloured inks.			
I can interpret and use information from chromatograms of chlorophyll.			