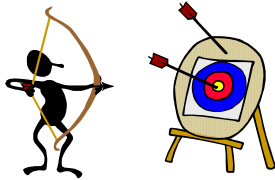# Practical Classes

What is a practical class?

There are two important aspects of practical classes:

- For many subjects, 'doing' is an important part of the knowledge. You learn about the 'doing' part in practical class.
- In practical classes you have to apply the theories in practical situations.

Activity

Have a look at the diagram below…

Each <u>suggested action</u> (small bullet points in 3 rectangular boxes) helps you attain one or more <u>learning goals</u> (big bullet points in the middle big circle) – **Can you see how they are related? Draw a line to link them up!**

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Before a practical class…

- Understand the objectives of the practical work
- Relate the practical work to the concepts introduced in lectures.
- Read related materials, such as the guide for the practical work, background theories, etc.

Some LEARNING GOALS:

- **Deepen understanding** of theories by seeing how they really work in a practical situation.
- Develop **practical skills** for the profession, for example, skills in observation, collecting and handling real data.
- **Gain experience** with the real things in practice, for example equipment, samples, real clients, etc.
- Learn to **think** and **analyse**.
- Learn to **observe** carefully and critically

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

After a practical class…

- Think about what/how you learned and see what/how to improve yourself in the future.
- When you write a report:
  - Analyse the data/information collected for meanings;
  - Relate the results to existing theories and argue for your interpretation;
  - Discuss the errors/uncertainties in depth and comment on the limitation of the practical work;
  - Make recommendations for improving the practical work based on observation and evaluation.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

During a practical class…

- Play an **active** role in doing the work and applying the concepts.
- Work together with your classmates, question each other and share ideas and references
- Observe carefully and jot down what happens

Where to go from here?

1. Are there other learning goals?
2. Are there any other possible actions?
3. Which suggested actions will you try first?