



SCIENCE

CHANGES IN THE PSLE EXAM FORMAT FROM 2017 ONWARDS

PSLE EXAMINATION FORMAT

Standard Science

For P6 2017



The examination consists of one written paper comprising two booklets, Booklet A and Booklet B.

Booklet	Item Type	Number of questions	Number of marks per question	Weighting (%)
A	Multiple-choice	30 28	2 2	60 56
B	Open-ended	14 12, 13	2,3,4 2, 3, 4, 5	40 44

Duration of paper : 1 hr 45 min

PSLE EXAMINATION FORMAT

Foundation Science

For P6 2017

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Booklet	Item Type	No. of questions	No. of marks per question	Marks
A	MCQ – 3 options	16	2	32
		18	2	36
B	Structured	6-7	2-3	14
	Open-ended	6-8	2-4	24
		5-6	2 - 4	20

Duration of paper : 1hr 15 min

A word list is provided.

PSLE Assessment Objectives



I. Knowledge with Understanding

Pupils should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific facts, concepts and principles.

II. Application of Knowledge and Process Skills

Pupils should be able to:

- a. apply scientific facts, concepts and principles to **new situations.**
- b. use one or a combination of the following basic **process skills:**

PSLE Assessment Objectives

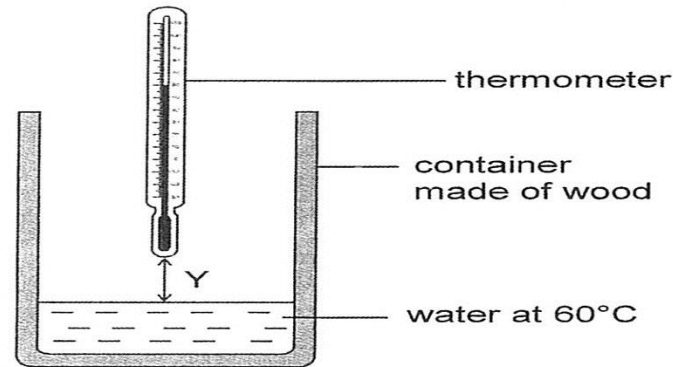


- Observing
- Comparing
- Classifying
- Using apparatus and equipment
- **Communicating**
- **Inferring**
- **Predicting**
- **Analysing**
- **Generating possibilities**
- **Evaluating**
- **Formulating hypothesis**

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Aisha filled a container made of wood with water at 60°C . The temperature of water remained at 60°C throughout the experiment.

She measured the temperature of the air at various distance, Y, from the water surface.



Her results are shown below.

Distance Y (cm)	2	4	6	8	10	12
Temperature of air ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	42	36	32	29	27	27

- (a) What is the relationship between the temperature of the air and distance Y? [1]

- (b) Animal H lives in the desert.

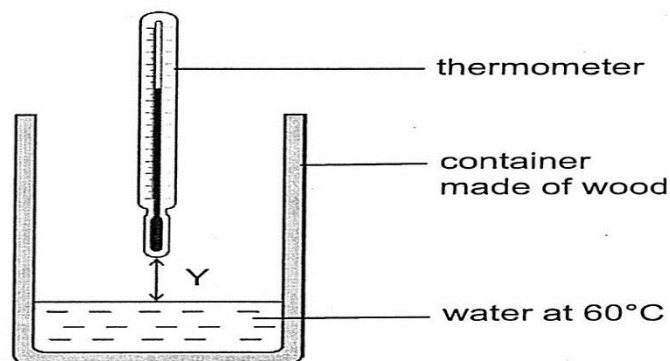


It stands on the hot sand with its four long legs.

Based on the above findings, explain why having long legs is an advantage for animal H. [1]

- 34 Martin filled a container made of wood with water at 60°C . The temperature of water remained at 60°C throughout the experiment.

He measured the temperature of the air at various distance, Y , from the water surface.



His results are shown below.

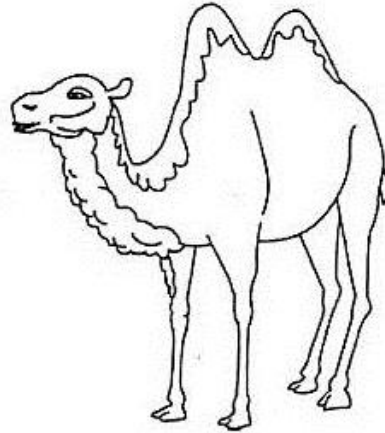
Distance Y (cm)	2	4	6	8	10	12
Temperature of air ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	42	36	32	29	27	27

- (a) Explain how using a container made of wood helped to make the experiment more accurate. [1]

- (b) Give a reason why the experiment had to be conducted over a short period of time. [1]

- (c) Based on the above results, what is the relationship between the temperature of the air and distance Y ? [1]

(d) Animal H lives in the desert.



It stands on the hot sand with its four long legs.

(i) Based on Martin's findings, explain why having long legs is an advantage for animal H. [1]

(ii) The temperature in the desert gets very low at night. Animal H has thick fur to help it adapt to life in the desert. Explain why having thick fur is an advantage for animal H. [1]

What will school do

- Practice papers will use new format
- Mid Year and End of Year Exams will use new format
- Level Worksheets and Practice Papers will incorporate more application type questions.
- Activity Package has more research based activities or questions that require the students to look at their daily lives for examples of concept being used.

What teachers notice about students

- Some not doing the work assigned **to the best of their ability** - leave blanks or wait for answers to be given when they can.
- Some **did not use strategies** taught to answer questions - booklets or worksheets are clean.
- For tougher questions especially, it is crucial that they use the question analysis technique, KRCA and the question answering techniques.

What teachers notice



- Some seem to know the answers when asked verbally but when written, the answers are not detailed or specific enough. **They must make their thinking visible to us** for us to give them the full mark.
- Some **take filing lightly**. Science files are important. Mistakes made before should not be made again. If there are answers to common questions that have been phrased for them, they should try and use the phrasing.¹¹

What teachers notice

- Some **take extra research work lightly**. Remember, PSLE tests application of concepts. Research work gives children opportunity to look beyond the text and into their daily lives and the scenarios might just form part of the PSLE question.
- Some **take lessons lightly** and do not give their fullest attention even though it is hands-on or collaborative.

HOW TO HELP

- The key to doing well in Science is not only to do as many papers before PSLE because many students do that but when they see unfamiliar questions, they still get stumped.
- Hence, to help, please help the children
 - ❑ Maintain **curiosity** about things around them and **read widely**;
 - ❑ Revise files, textbook and notes with **strategy** and
 - ❑ Tackle questions with **strategy**