

## Scoring + Studying Tips: PSLE Science

### Section A (Multiple Choice Questions)

PSLE Science MCQs are worth a whopping 2 marks each. In effect, if you get all the MCQs correct, you would have already passed the paper! Do not rush through the questions. It is very possible to score full marks for this section.

- Read and understand the question.
- Identify the topics. Some questions are embedded with more than one topic.
- Underline and highlight key points or contextual clues in the questions
- Recall the related concepts and write them down.
- Link the concepts to the question.
- Use elimination method to eliminate options that are obviously wrong so that you can focus on options that are close. Some questions have multiple statements and the question might ask “which is correct?” and gives you a choice of “A, B, C”, “B only” etc. You may not know for certain if A is true or false, but if you are sure B is definitely false, you can cross it out and eliminate that answer.
- Look at the diagrams! Students often focus so much on the keywords of the question that they neglect the diagrams. While focusing on keywords is necessary, some MCQs require students to interpret diagrams as they contain additional information.
- Manage your time! You should strive to complete the MCQs within 40 minutes. Granted that some questions can be lengthy, what should you do?
  - Identify those factual questions that require you to recall the facts you have learnt. These questions are straightforward and you can usually answer them immediately without looking at the other options.

Example:

Which of the following is not found in an animal cell?

- (1) Nucleus
- (2) Cell wall
- (3) Cytoplasm
- (4) Cell membrane

The answer is (2). This type of question requires you to recall the facts learnt and should be answered quickly

- Questions that have more than one answer can be tackled by using elimination.

Example:

Which of the following processes made up the water cycle?

- A. Melting
- B. Transpiration
- C. Evaporation
- D. Precipitation
- E. Condensation

- (1) A, C and D only
- (2) B, C and E only
- (3) B, C, D and E only
- (4) A, B, C, D and E

Melting is a process where a solid changes into liquid. This concept is not related to nature's water cycle.

Hence, by understanding that option A is not the correct answer, we can eliminate (1) and (4). The difference between (2) and (3) is the additional option of precipitation. Precipitation includes rainfall, which is part of the water cycle. Hence, the answer is (3).

By doing elimination, we do not have to study each option in detail and this reduces a lot of time in answering the question.