

## **SBS for Foundation Science**

Students sitting for Foundation Science papers usually lament on how taxing and rigorous it is. Hence it would be beneficial if you can approach the paper in a strategic manner to lower down the anxiety level.

### **Pick and Choose Questions**

Firstly, students should always attempt questions that they are most confident in and answer those first. If you are most comfortable with the fill-in-the-blanks type of questions in Section B, then complete those first. The success you feel in being able to complete those questions will calm your nerves.

If you face a question that you can't seem to answer, skip it and come back to it when you can think clearer. Moving past the challenging and complicated questions is encouraged due to the limited time given to students.

Panic attacks and mental blocks are common. Students are advised to remain calm and collected during the paper; use breathing techniques, say a prayer, take a break by shutting your eyes for a few seconds. One tip to avoid panic attacks is to have time management. Divide their time amongst the questions, setting particular limits to each question can motivate students to work faster and decrease the stress of a possible insufficient time to finish the rest of their paper. For example for a MCQ, maximum 3 minutes should be spent answering each of them.

### **Analysing the demands of the Question**

Analysing how much to write for each question according to the marks allocated for the Open-Ended Questions. In order to fulfill the requirements of the given score, you need to decide how much should be written to best answer the question.

A common mistake is writing too little, thus lacking in detail.

Questions such as “describe”, “list”, and “name”, indicate that only a couple of lines are necessary, and the answer should be to the point and precise. Mostly is just stating facts or observations.

However, questions such as “discuss” and “explain” are often of higher marks and hence these require greater detail, and you would need to **answer** to the stem and not merely state a scientific fact.

### **Check Through Your Answers**

A good habit to have every Science exam is to complete the paper at least ten minutes prior to the end. These ten minutes can allow you to check through your

answers. A common mistake in the MCQ-based booklet A is the incorrect shading of answers in the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS), often a reason for some students losing marks despite knowing the answers. It would be a waste to lose marks due to transfer errors as such.

Always attempt every question whether you know the answer or not. Often in MCQ papers you can guess the right answer, and in Booklet B simple definitions or statements could give you a chance to score at least a mark or two. Re-checking your paper before submitting it can save you from many careless mistakes that you might make while attempting the paper and can definitely be a factor in helping you to score better in your PSLE Science paper.