

# Science Parent Workshop (Lower Block)

Greenwood Primary School  
30 January 2021

*To help us admit you into the session on time, we appreciate if you can:*

1. Log in by 8.45am.
2. Rename your log-in identity using this naming convention  
Form Class\_name of child  
( e.g. 5 Empathy\_John Tan)
3. Turn on your camera during the workshop.

# Overview

- GWPS SCIENCE CURRICULUM
  - THINKING STRATEGY FOR MCQ
  - THINKING STRATEGY FOR OE
  - ERROR ANALYSIS
  - Q & A
-

---

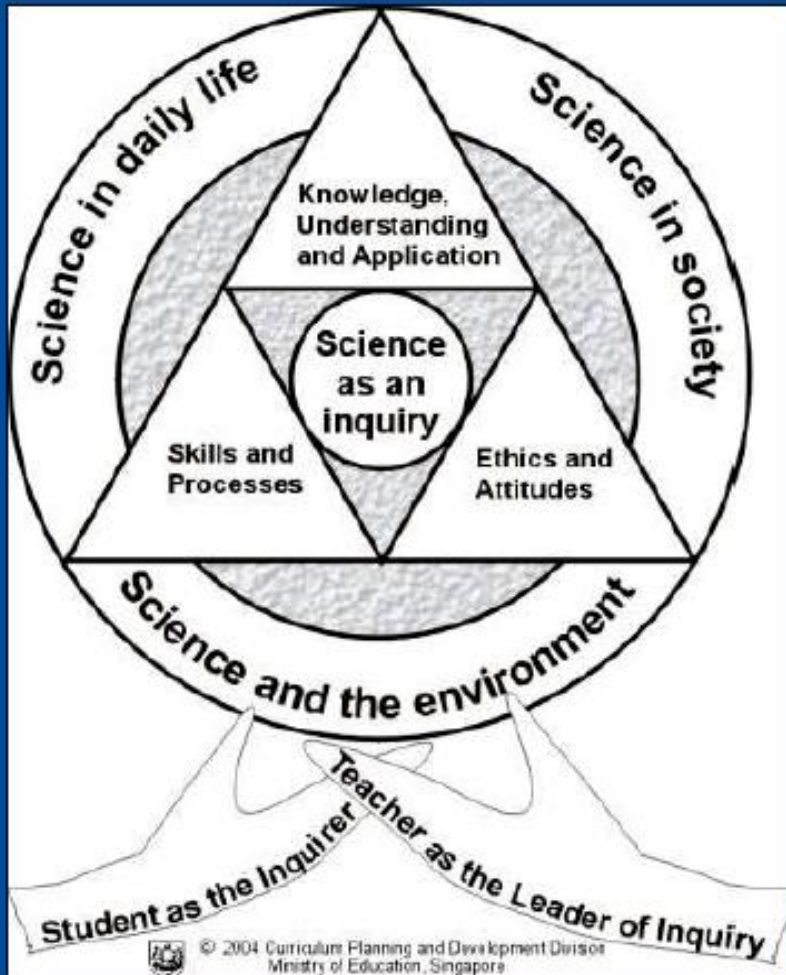
# SYLLABUS BRIEFING

# 2014 Primary Science Syllabus

<b>Syllabus</b>	<b>Year of Implementation</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Primary Science Standard</b>	P3	P4	P5	P6
<b>Primary Science Foundation</b>	-	-	P5	P6

## Primary Education Review & Implementation

### Science Curriculum Framework



#### Balancing Knowledge with Skills and Values

Engaging pedagogy to teach skills and values  
More holistic assessment to support learning

#### Investing in a Quality Teaching Force

Equipping teachers well through training and Professional development

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies Framework



# Primary Science Syllabus (w.e.f 2014)

Themes	* Lower Block	** Upper Block
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of living and non-living things (General characteristics and classification)</li> <li>Diversity of materials</li> </ul>	
Cycles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycles in plants and animals (Life cycles)</li> <li>Cycles in matter and water (Matter)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycles in plants and animals (Reproduction)</li> <li>Cycles in matter and water (Water)</li> </ul>
Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant System (Plant parts and functions)</li> <li>Human System (Digestive system)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant System (Respiratory and circulatory systems)</li> <li>Human System (Respiratory and circulatory systems)</li> <li><u>Cell System</u></li> <li>Electrical System</li> </ul>
Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interaction of forces (Magnets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interaction of forces (Frictional force, gravitational force, <u>force in springs</u>)</li> <li>Interaction within the environment</li> </ul>
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Forms and Uses (Light and Heat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Forms and Uses (Photosynthesis)</li> <li><u>Energy Conversion</u></li> </ul>

## Note:

- \*Lower Block (Primary 3 and 4); \*\* Upper Block (Primary 5 and 6).
- Topics which are underlined are not required for the Foundation Science .



# Primary Science Syllabus (w.e.f 2014)

Themes / Topics	Updated / Removed Learning Outcomes
Diversity of Living and Non-living Things	Recognise some broad groups of living things – animals ( <u>amphibians</u> , birds, fish, insects, mammals, <u>reptiles</u> )
Diversity of Materials	Compare physical properties of materials based on: <del>hardness</del> strength, flexibility, ability to float/sink in water, <u>waterproof</u> , <u>transparency</u>
Cycle of Plants and Animals	Observe and compare the life cycles of animals over a period of time (beetle, butterfly, chicken, cockroach, frog, grasshopper, <u>mosquito</u> )
Electrical System	<del>Recognise that good conductors of electricity are generally conductors of heat</del>
Energy Forms and Uses	<del>Recognise that energy is required to make things work or move</del> <del>Show an understanding that food produced by plants becomes the source of energy for animals</del>

# Primary Science Syllabus (w.e.f 2014)

**Relating *scientific skills and processes* to *essential features of inquiry***

	Engaging with an event, phenomenon or problem through:	Collecting and presenting evidence through:	Reasoning; Making meaning of information and evidence through:
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulating hypothesis</li> <li>• Generating possibilities</li> <li>• Predicting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observing</li> <li>• Using apparatus and equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparing</li> <li>• Classifying</li> <li>• Inferring</li> <li>• Analysing</li> <li>• Evaluating</li> </ul>
	Communicating		
<b>Processes</b>	Creative problem-solving, Investigation and Decision-making		
<b>Essential Features of Inquiry</b>	Question	Evidence	Explain Connect
	Communication		



# Changes in Assessment (w.e.f 2017 PSLE )

Questions are **more applicative in nature** and pupils are expected to understand and apply **Science concepts** learnt and will be required to demonstrate their mastery of a set of **skills and processes**.

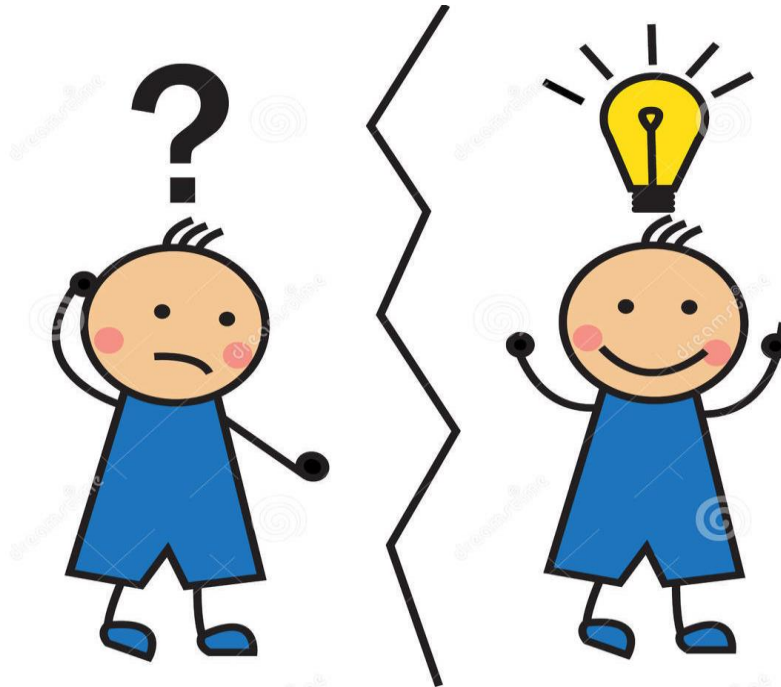
- Pupils take the new syllabus examination where there are **28 MCQs instead of 30**.
- More weightage given to **section B where there would be 1 or 2, 5marks question**
- Focus would be on **real life application questions**
- Foundation pupils will have **more MCQs, 18 instead of 16**.
- **P3 paper would be 80 Marks instead of 100 to give them time to adjust to curriculum.**

Knowledge with Understanding	Application of knowledge and Process Skills
40%	60%

Exam	MCQ	Open-ended
Main Stream	56 marks (28 questions)	44marks
Foundation	36 marks (18 questions)	34 marks

# Shift in Questions

---



# Knowledge Questions

---

## Knowledge Recall

*-recall definitions, facts, or observations.*

## Knowledge with understanding

*-need to observe and use science concept(s)*

# Application Questions

---

To *apply your knowledge to unfamiliar situations* or problems.

To *make inferences* and *draw conclusions* based on the information that you have.

# Knowledge or Application?

---

Which of the following is a function of the skeletal system?

- (1) protects organs in the body
- (2) protects the muscular system
- (3) transports blood around the body
- (4) transports food in the digestive system

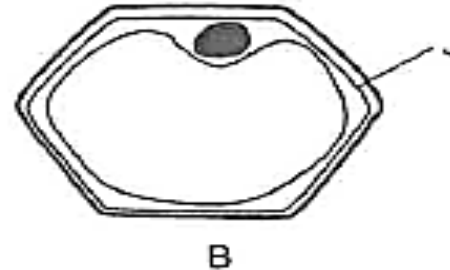
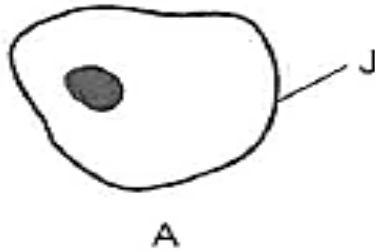
**K**

**Knowledge Recall**

*-recall definitions, facts, or observations.*

# Knowledge or Application?

Two cells A and B are shown.



Which of the following gives the correct classification of the cells and the function of part J?

	Plant cell	Animal cell	Function of part J
(1)	-	A, B	controls movement of substances in and out of the cell
(2)	B	A	controls movement of substances in and out of the cell
(3)	B	A	gives the cell a shape
(4)	A, B	-	gives the cell a shape

**K**

**Knowledge with understanding**

-need to observe and use science concept(s)



# Knowledge or Application?

Aisha conducted an experiment by heating substance P. At the start, P was a solid at 30°C. After 15 minutes of heating, P reached a temperature of 100°C as shown.



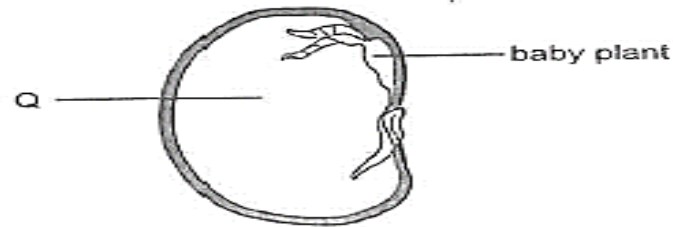
Based on Aisha's experiment, which one of the following is possible?

	Melting point of P (°C)	Boiling point of P (°C)
(1)	20	105
(2)	25	100
(3)	30	95
(4)	50	110

**A**

# Knowledge or Application?

- (a) The diagram shows half a seed. Part Q protects the baby plant.



State another function of part Q.

**K**

- (b) Melvin observed stages in the life of fish T and fish W as shown.

Fish T	<p>egg → young (stage 1) (with stored food) → young (stage 2) → adult</p>
Fish W	<p>young → adult (gives birth to young)</p>

# Knowledge or Application?

- (i) Based on Melvin's observation, state a characteristic of the young of fish T that helps it to survive in stage 1. [1]

---

---

**K**

- (ii) State a characteristic of the young of fish W which gives it an advantage to survive compared to the young of fish T at stage 1. Explain your answer. [1]

---

---

**K**

- (iii) Fish T lays its eggs inside a cave as shown. It is known to protect its eggs.



Explain how laying eggs in a cave helps fish T to protect its eggs.

[1]

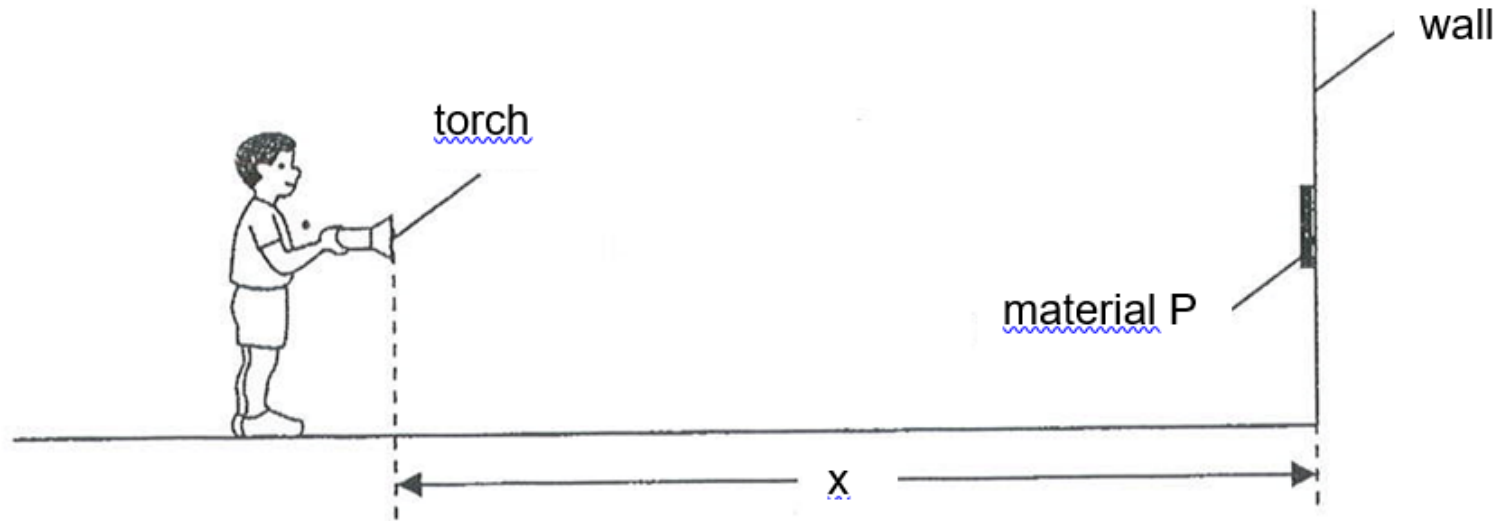
---

---

**A**

# Knowledge or Application?

Zainal had three different materials, P, Q and R. He wanted to investigate which material was best at reflecting light. He set up his experiment in a dark room as shown below.



Zainal shone the light from the torch onto each material and walked towards it. When he could see the material, he stopped and measured the distance  $x$  between the torch and the wall.

# Knowledge or Application?

The results of Zainal's investigation is shown in the table below.

Material	P	Q	R
x / cm	290	330	300

(a) Identify three constant variables in Zainal's investigation.

**K**

Constant Variable 1 : \_\_\_\_\_

Constant Variable 2 : \_\_\_\_\_

Constant Variable 3 : \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Suggest a reason for carrying out the investigation in a dark room.

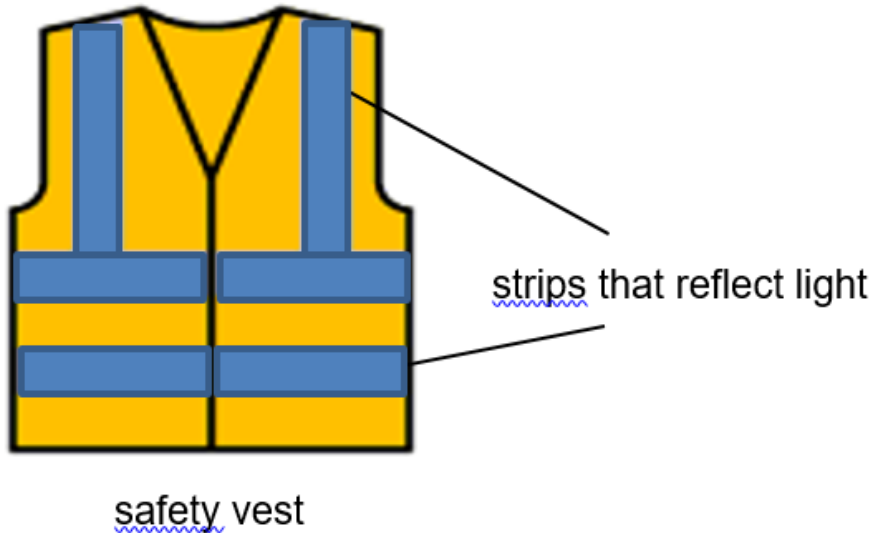
**A**

---

---

# Knowledge or Application?

Safety vests are often worn by construction workers while they are working. Strips that reflect light are sewn onto the vest so that the workers' visibility is increased.



(c) Based on Zainal's results, which material, P, Q or R, should be used to make the strips on the safety vest? Give a reason for your answer.

---

**A**

---



---

# The Greenwood Approach

# Philosophy

---

Science education prepares the students to be able to function and contribute effectively in an increasingly technologically-driven world.

Science is a way of thinking and making sense of the world.

Students should see the pursuit of Science as meaningful and useful.

(adapted from science Syllabus 2014, Pg. 1)

# Rationale

---

Provide students with experiences which build on their interest in and stimulate their curiosity about their environment.

Provide students with basic scientific terms and concepts to help them understand themselves and the world around them.

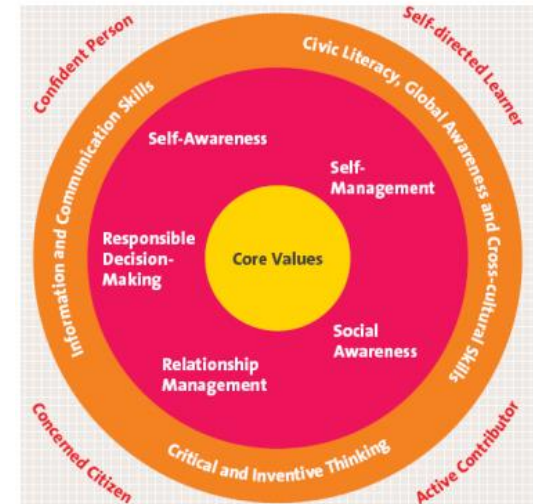
Provide students with opportunities to develop skills, habits of mind and attitudes necessary for scientific inquiry.

Prepare students towards using scientific knowledge and methods in making personal decisions.

Help students appreciate how science influences people and the environment.

# Scientific Literacy

- Science education for the future involves teaching students more than just the basic concepts of science.
- Students need to be equipped with the skills
- to be able to use scientific knowledge to identify questions, and to draw evidence-based conclusions in order to understand and make decisions about the natural world and the changes made to it through human activity.



# Objective

---

As the Science Department, we strive to inculcate attitudes of a scientist such as, critical thinking skills and curiosity, that will serve the pupils well for the rest of their lives.

## **Vision:**

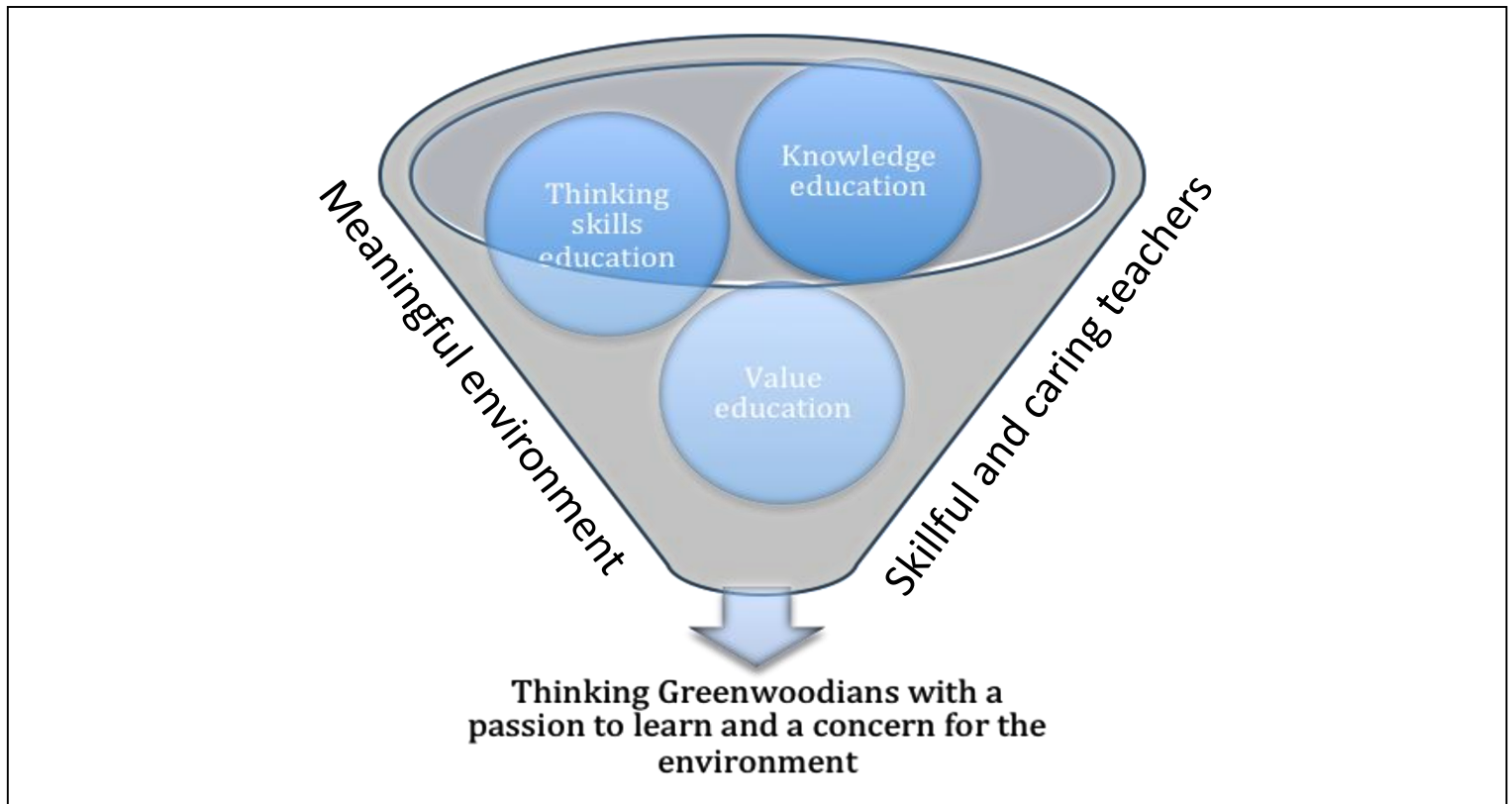
**Thinking students with a passion to learn  
and a concern for the environment**

## **Mission:**

- To nurture students to have a curious mind and a desire to learn.
- To equip students with the skills to carry out critical and innovative thinking.
- To develop in students, a concern for the environment.

# Approach

---



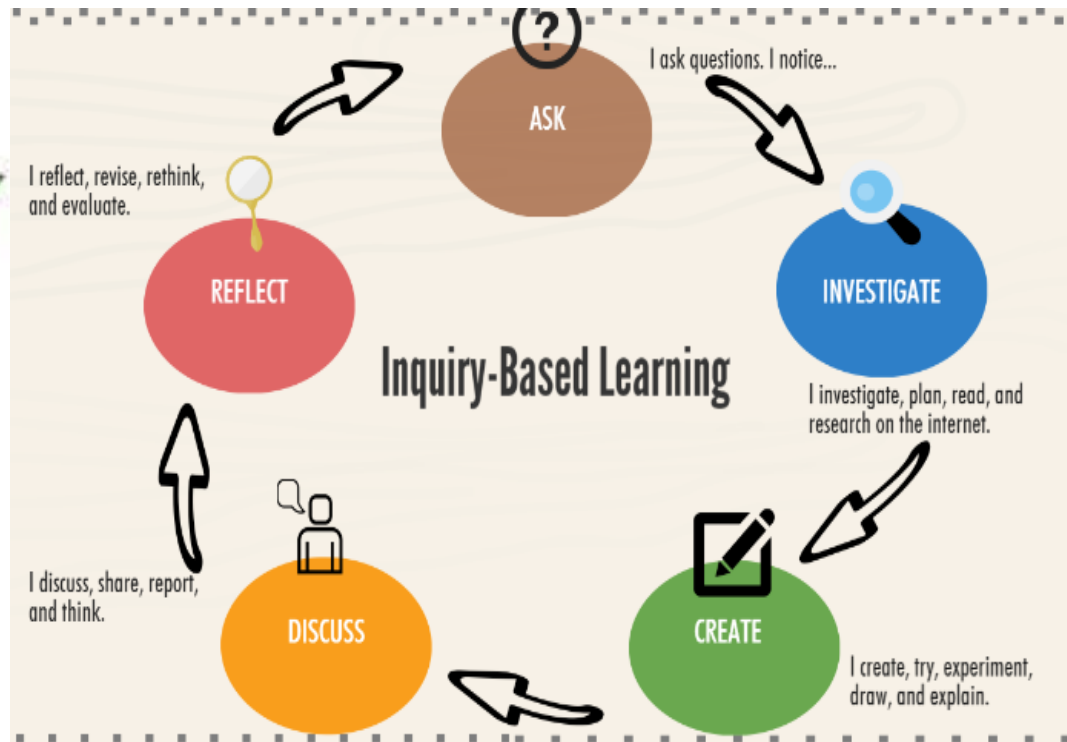


# Pedagogy

## The Learning Cycle



"The 5 E's"



# Level wide Programs

---

School-wide Environmental Education Program (All)

Inquiry Based Learning Booklet (P3-6)

Science Process Skills Package (Skills based 1 per term for P3-5, 1 for P6)

Eureka with Parents (Compiled into a booklet, done termly)

Science Whizzkids (Talent Development program)

JIT (P5 & 6)

- Science Booster
- Science Sparklers

# T&L Resources

---

## **Activities & Experiments**

- Inquiry based (IBL book)

## **Worksheets**

- Consolidation worksheet
  - Knowledge acquisition
  - Readiness for more complex concepts
- Process Skills worksheets [topical (p3-6)and focused(p3-5)]
  - Thinking Skills acquisition
- Misconceptions worksheets/Revision Quizzes (P5/6)
  - Re-teaching and learning

## **Eureka with Parents**

- Extend learning to the natural world (significance)

# Primary 3 to 6 (IBL)

- ❑ In house Inquiry-Based package put into a IBL book
- ❑ Consists of activities that are based on a range of strategies, such as games, investigation and field trip, to facilitate inquiry teaching and learning.
- ❑ Alternative Assessments (E.g *Practical Examination for all levels as a follow up to IBL experiments*)
- ❑ We have infused real life application questions in our IBL package as well as in our existing process skills package.

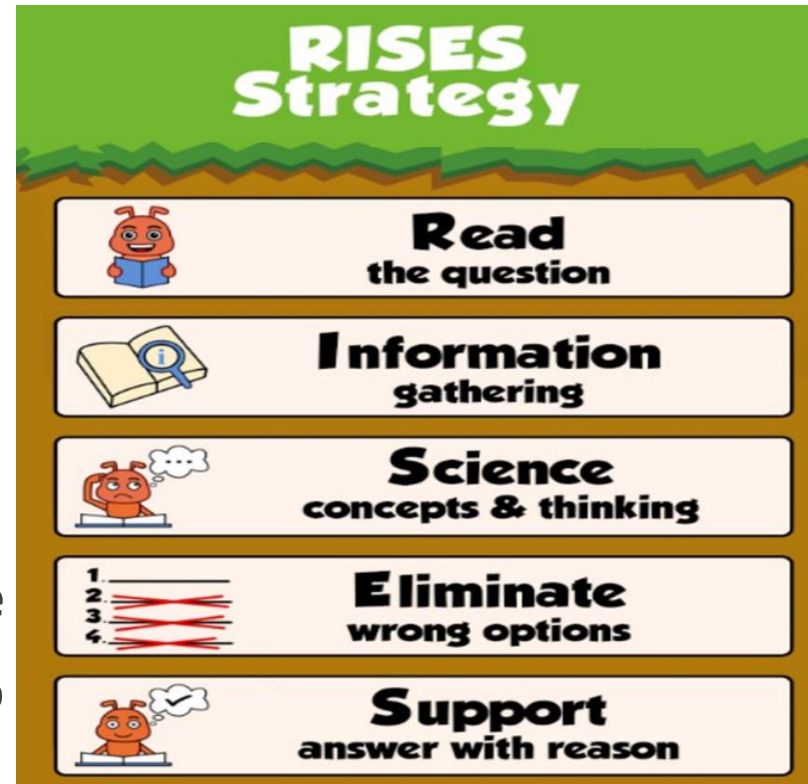
# Eureka with Parents

- ❑ Questions are now in book
- ❑ Teachers to discuss questions with pupils and get them to complete termly.
- ❑ 2 good pieces per class, each term would be selected.
- ❑ These pieces would be put on Eureka Padlet for school and shared with whole School via Padlet.
- ❑ This is to promote discovery of Science through every day phenomenon.

# GWPS approaches

## RISES Thinking Strategy (MCQ)

- ❑ Step by step approach
- ❑ Gives pupils a systematic approach to answer multiple choice questions
- ❑ Gets them to evaluate their choice of answer critically and link it back to Science concepts





# GWPS approaches

## RISSA Thinking Strategy (OE)

---

- R** : Read the question carefully
- I** : Identify important information
- S** : Science Thinking & Concepts
- S** : Select the right Strategy  
( Explain, relationship, comparison)
- A** : Phrase your answer

*(CCC- Context(Evidence), sScience Concept, Conclusion)*

# GWPS approaches

## Error Analysis

---

- ❑ Gets students to be self-reflective.
- ❑ Get them to look at their own responses to see what type of misconceptions, errors or incomplete answers they have.
- ❑ Gives them an opportunity to be self-directed learners.
- ❑ They also become critical thinkers.

# GWPS approaches

## Hinge Point Questioning

---

- ❑ A **hinge question** is a **diagnostic tool** which a teacher employs when their students reach the “**hinge**” **point**.
- ❑ Students’ **mastery of the concept that has just been taught is contingent on them being able to understand the next concept**. Thus, the teacher need to assess students’ levels of mastery before moving on, and this is exactly what a hinge question can do.
- ❑ Students’ responses provide the teacher with **valuable evidence about what their students know, don’t know and need to do next**.

# 2021 Assessment Term 1

Exam Paper	Booklet A	Booklet B
<p>(P3-5 Non-weighted)</p> <p><u>Science Practical</u></p> <p>Duration of Paper: 30 min</p> <p>Total marks: 10 marks</p> <p>(P3-5 Weighted 1)</p> <p><u>Written Paper</u></p> <p>Duration of Paper: 30min</p> <p>Total marks: 30 marks</p>		
	20 marks (10 ques)	10 marks (4 ques)

# 2021 Assessment Term 2

Exam Paper	Booklet A	Booklet B
<p>(P3-5 Weighted 2)</p> <p><u>Written Paper</u></p> <p>Duration of Paper: 55 min</p> <p>Total marks: 50 marks</p>	<p>28 marks (14 ques)</p>	<p>22 marks (5-8 ques)</p>

# 2021 Assessment Term 4

Exam Paper	Booklet A	Booklet B
<b>SA2 (P3)</b> <u>Written Paper</u> Duration of Paper: 1h 25 min Total marks: 80 marks	48 marks  (24 questions)	32 marks
<b>SA2 (P4)</b> <u>Written Paper</u> Duration of Paper: 1h 30min Total marks: 100 marks	56 marks  (28 questions)	44 marks

# *Important Information*

- ☐ Keep all Science books and files and remind your child to revise them periodically.
- ☐ Remind them to use the strategies taught in school.
- ☐ Ensure that your child has sufficient thinking time for each Science question.
- ☐ Allow your child to practice thinking skills.
- ☐ Ask your child to explain the answers/steps to you to ensure that they have learnt.
- ☐ Be encouraging.
- ☐ Let them explore the world around them and understand the natural phenomenon

---

# BOOKLET A

## (MCQ)



# Attributes of a Scientist

---

- Analyses the situation by asking questions
- Gathers information based on data
- Makes association based on previous scientific research
- Infer, predict, evaluate or conclude

---

# **Common Mistakes by Pupils**



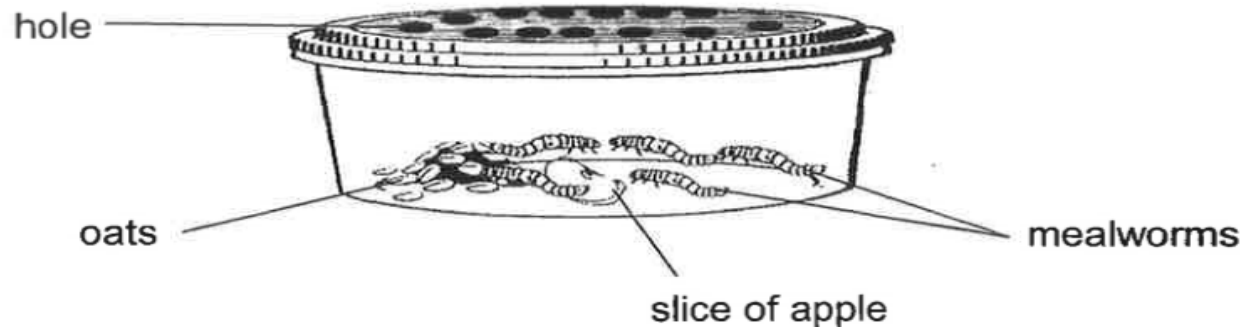
# Main problems in answering Science Multiple Choice Questions

---

- Using the **wrong concepts** to answer the questions.
- Not taking the time to **read and process the information** in the question. (diagrams and prose)
- Not **working out the solutions**.
- Not **eliminating wrong answers** based on Science concepts.

# Pupils' Work

- Nora placed 5 mealworms in a container to conduct an experiment as shown below. She did not add or remove any mealworms throughout the experiment.



Nora recorded her observations in the table below.

Day	Day 1	Day 15	Day 30
Amount of food	10 g	7 g	4 g

→ Lesser

Based on the table above, which characteristic of living things does this experiment show?










- (1) Living things die.
  - (2) Living things grow.
  - (3) Living things reproduce.
  - (4) Living things need food.
- increase in mass!  
→ increase in no. of mealworms.

(4) (X)

Picked option (4). Pupil not sure about the difference between grow and reproduce?

# Pupils' Work

5. Jack grew some seeds of a plant on ~~three~~ trays inside a room. The experimental conditions and results are shown below.

Tray	Soil	Presence of light	Appearance of seeds on Day 5		
A	wet	no			
B	dry	yes			
C	wet	yes			

light not required

seeds germinated

seeds did not germinate

seeds germinated

Based only on the results shown above, what is the correct conclusion for the germination of the seeds?

- (1) light is required
- (2) water is required
- (3) air, water and light are required
- (4) air, water and warmth are required

Picked option (4). Did not read question carefully ?

(4)

(2)

---

# The Greenwood Approach



# RISES Strategy



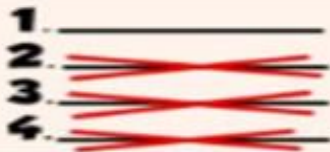
**Read**  
the question



**I**nformation  
gathering



**Science**  
concepts & thinking



**E**liminate  
wrong options



**S**upport  
answer with reason

---

Examples on how to  
use the  
**RISES** strategy





## Lower Block - Example 1:

Nisa placed four different materials, P, Q, R, S, of similar size and thickness into four beakers containing the same volume of water. The materials were weighed individually before they were placed into the beakers.

---

Material	Mass at the beginning	Mass after 20 minutes
P	10g	15g
Q	9g	13g
R	7g	10g
S	8g	9g

After 20 minutes, the materials were weighed again and the results were recorded in the table above. Which material is most suitable for use in making a raincoat?

- 1) P
- 2) Q
- 3) R
- 4) S

## Lower Block - Example 1:

Nisa placed four different materials, P, Q, R, S, of similar size and thickness into four beakers containing the same volume of water. The materials were weighed individually before they were placed into the beakers.

Material	Mass at the beginning	Mass after 20 minutes	
P	10g	11g	$(11-10= 1\text{g})$
Q	9g	16g	$(16 - 9 = 7\text{g})$
R	8g	13g	$(13 - 8 =5\text{g})$
S	7g	10g	$(10 - 7 = 3\text{g})$

After 20 minutes, the materials were weighed again and the results were recorded in the table above. Which material is most suitable for use in making a raincoat?

### Science Concept:

Property of materials

Raincoat = waterproof

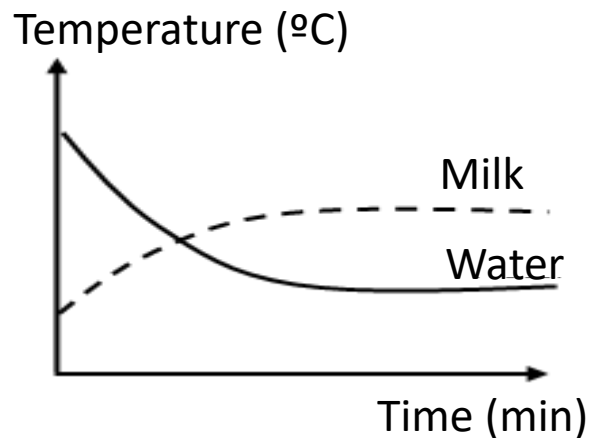
- 1) P ✓
- ~~X~~) Q
- ~~X~~) R
- ~~X~~) S

## Lower Block - Example 2:

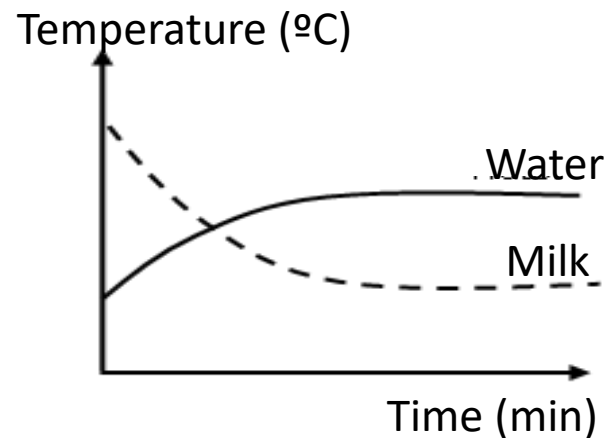
Mrs Ali is preparing breakfast for her son. She took a packet of milk from the refrigerator and placed it in a pot of hot water.

Which one of the following graphs correctly shows the temperature changes in both the milk and water after some time?

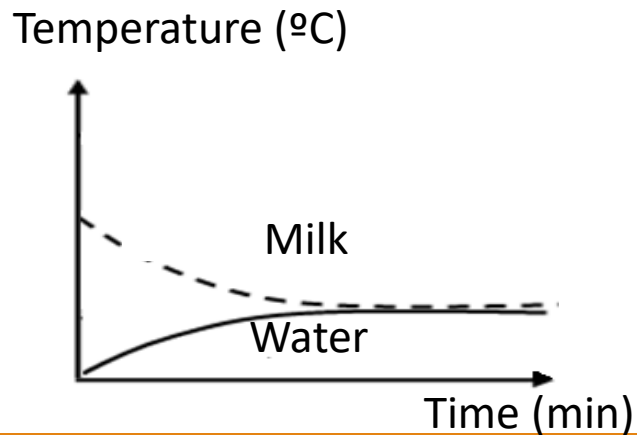
(1)



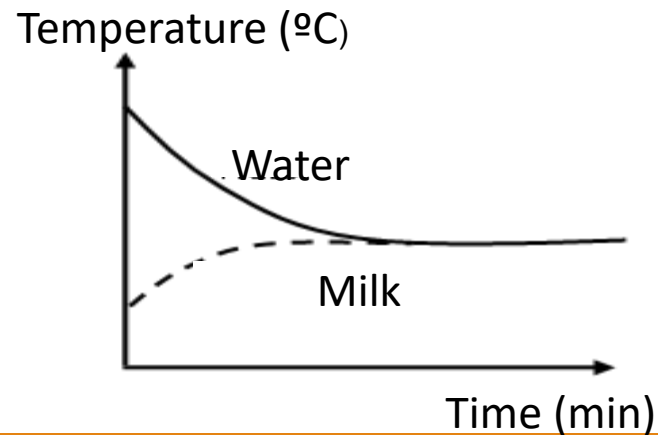
(2)



(3)



(4)

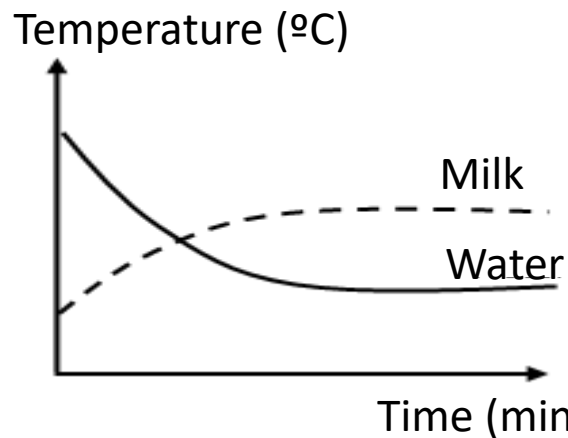


## Lower Block - Example 2:

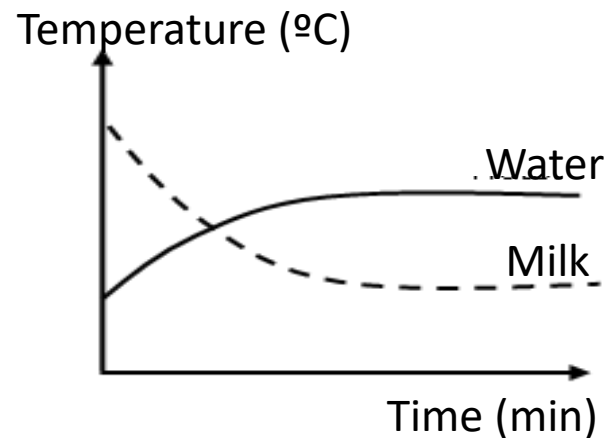
Mrs Ali is preparing breakfast for her son. She took a packet of milk from the refrigerator and placed it in a pot of hot water.

Which one of the following graphs correctly shows the temperature changes in both the milk and water after some time?

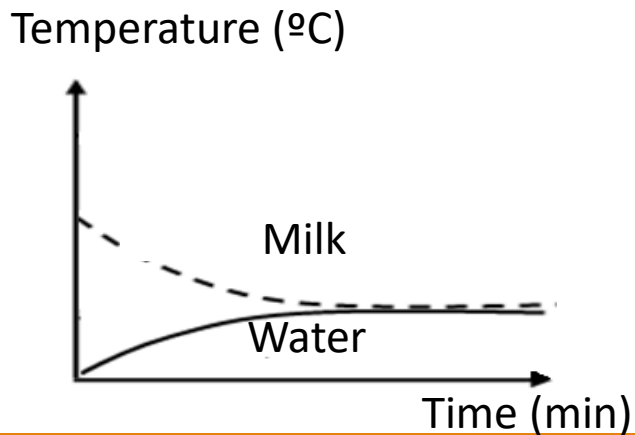
(1)



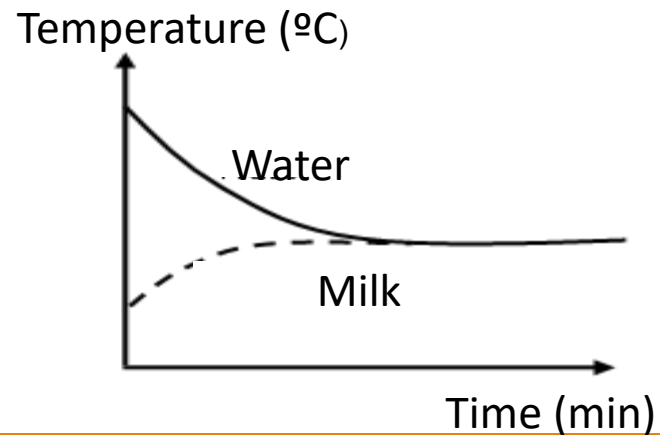
(2)



(3)



(4)



## Science concept

Heat gain and heat loss

---

Cold milk = gain heat

= from lower temperature to higher temperature

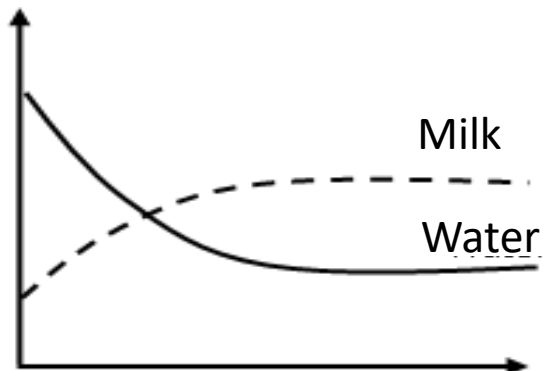
Hot water = lose heat

= from higher temperature to lower temperature

Until both milk and water reaches the same temperature

(X)

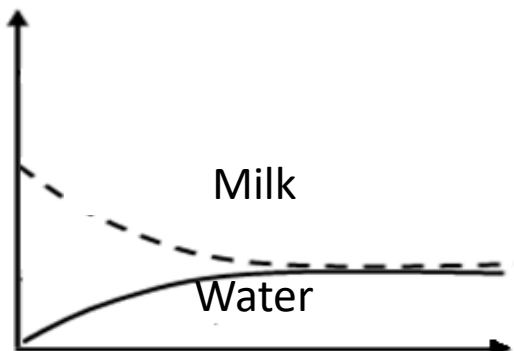
Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Time (min)

(X)

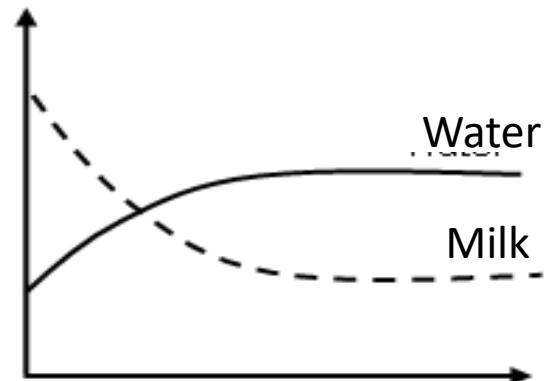
Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Time (min)

(X)

Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

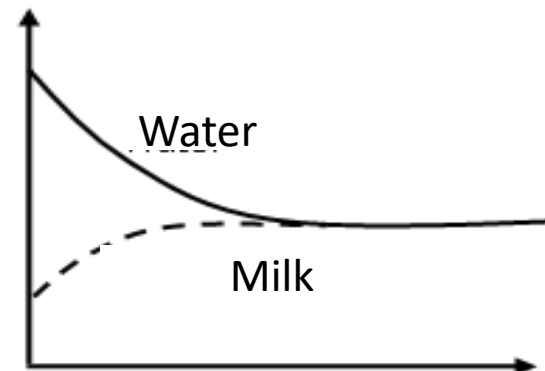


Time (min)

(4)



Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Time (min)

---

# MENTIMETER

---

# BOOKLET A

## (MCQ)



# Attributes of a Scientist

---

- Analyses the situation by asking questions
- Gathers information based on data
- Makes association based on previous scientific research
- Infer, predict, evaluate or conclude

---

# **Common Mistakes by Pupils**



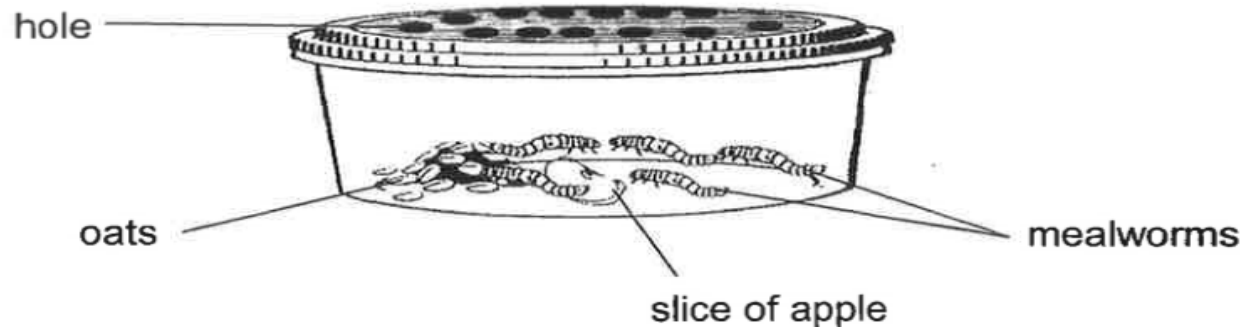
# Main problems in answering Science Multiple Choice Questions

---

- Using the **wrong concepts** to answer the questions.
- Not taking the time to **read and process the information** in the question. (diagrams and prose)
- Not **working out the solutions**.
- Not **eliminating wrong answers** based on Science concepts.

# Pupils' Work

- Nora placed 5 mealworms in a container to conduct an experiment as shown below. She did not add or remove any mealworms throughout the experiment.



Nora recorded her observations in the table below.

Day	Day 1	Day 15	Day 30
Amount of food	10 g	7 g	4 g

→ Lesser

Based on the table above, which characteristic of living things does this experiment show?










- (1) Living things die.
  - (2) Living things grow.
  - (3) Living things reproduce.
  - (4) Living things need food.
- increase in mass!  
→ increase in no. of mealworms.

(4) (X)

Picked option (4). Pupil not sure about the difference between grow and reproduce?

# Pupils' Work

5. Jack grew some seeds of a plant on ~~three~~ trays inside a room. The experimental conditions and results are shown below.

Tray	Soil	Presence of light	Appearance of seeds on Day 5		
A	wet	no			
B	dry	yes			
C	wet	yes			

light not required

seeds germinated

seeds did not germinate

seeds germinated

Based only on the results shown above, what is the correct conclusion for the germination of the seeds?

- (1) light is required
- (2) water is required
- (3) air, water and light are required
- (4) air, water and warmth are required

Picked option (4). Did not read question carefully ?

(4)

(2)

---

# The Greenwood Approach



# RISES Strategy



**Read**  
the question



**I**nformation  
gathering



**S**cience  
concepts & thinking



**E**liminate  
wrong options



**S**upport  
answer with reason

---

Examples on how to  
use the  
**RISES** strategy





## Lower Block - Example 1:

Nisa placed four different materials, P, Q, R, S, of similar size and thickness into four beakers containing the same volume of water. The materials were weighed individually before they were placed into the beakers.

---

Material	Mass at the beginning	Mass after 20 minutes
P	10g	15g
Q	9g	13g
R	7g	10g
S	8g	9g

After 20 minutes, the materials were weighed again and the results were recorded in the table above. Which material is most suitable for use in making a raincoat?

- 1) P
- 2) Q
- 3) R
- 4) S

## Lower Block - Example 1:

Nisa placed four different materials, P, Q, R, S, of similar size and thickness into four beakers containing the same volume of water. The materials were weighed individually before they were placed into the beakers.

Material	Mass at the beginning	Mass after 20 minutes	
P	10g	11g	$(11-10= 1\text{g})$
Q	9g	16g	$(16 - 9 = 7\text{g})$
R	8g	13g	$(13 - 8 =5\text{g})$
S	7g	10g	$(10 - 7 = 3\text{g})$

After 20 minutes, the materials were weighed again and the results were recorded in the table above. Which material is most suitable for use in making a raincoat?

### Science Concept:

Property of materials

Raincoat = waterproof

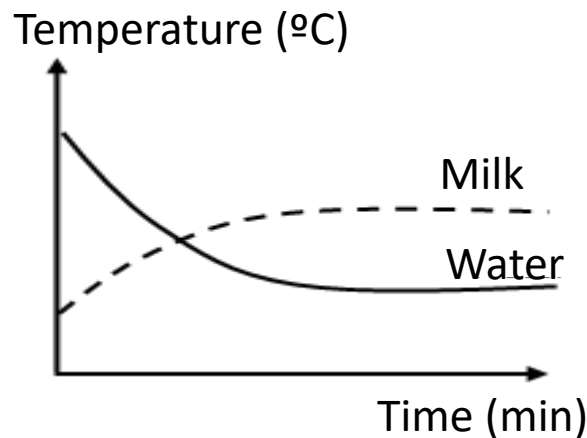
- 1) P ✓
- ~~2) Q~~
- ~~3) R~~
- ~~4) S~~

## Lower Block - Example 2:

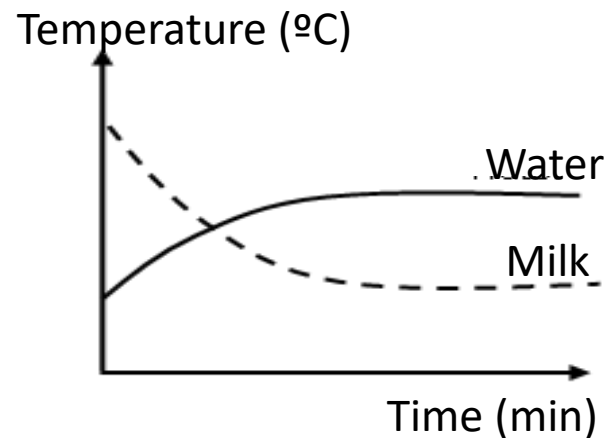
Mrs Ali is preparing breakfast for her son. She took a packet of milk from the refrigerator and placed it in a pot of hot water.

Which one of the following graphs correctly shows the temperature changes in both the milk and water after some time?

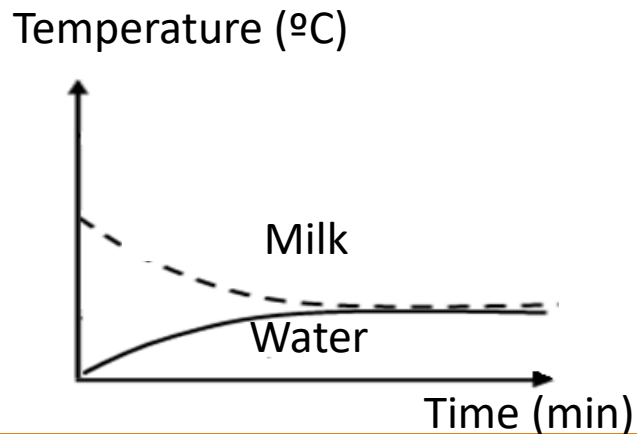
(1)



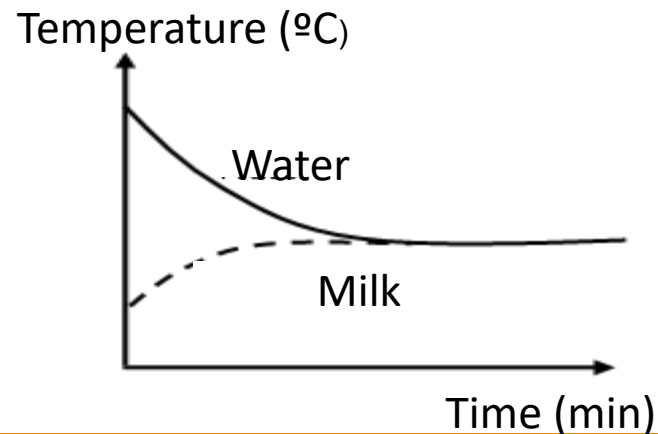
(2)



(3)



(4)

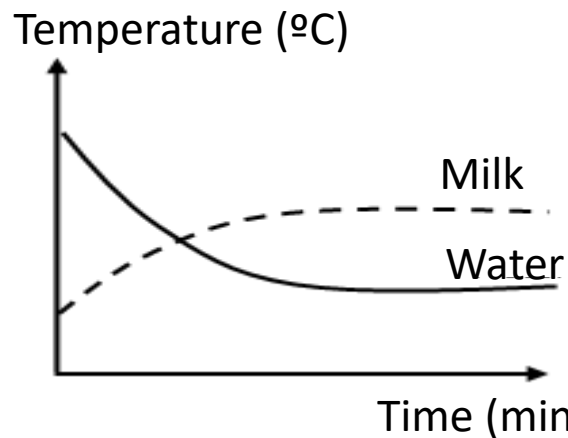


## Lower Block - Example 2:

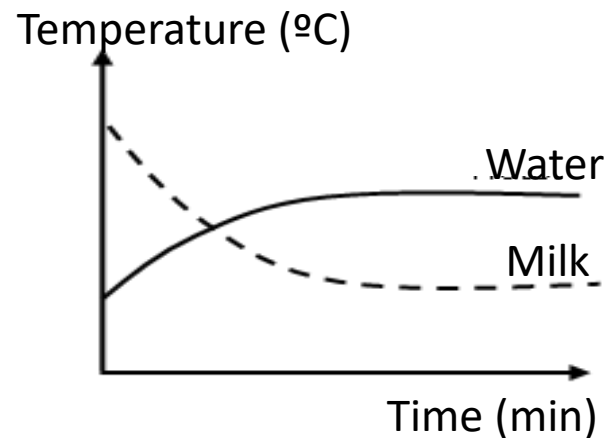
Mrs Ali is preparing breakfast for her son. She took a packet of milk from the refrigerator and placed it in a pot of hot water.

Which one of the following graphs correctly shows the temperature changes in both the milk and water after some time?

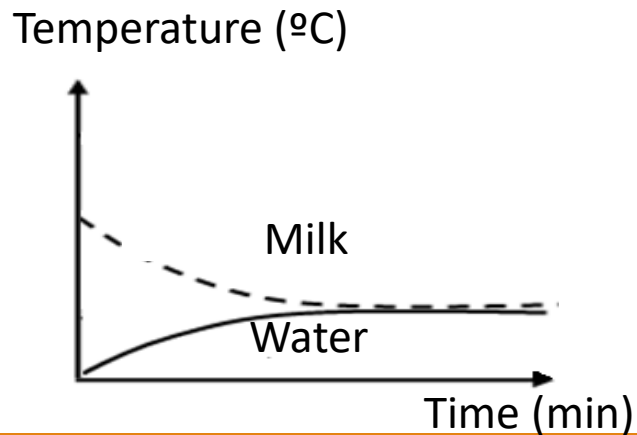
(1)



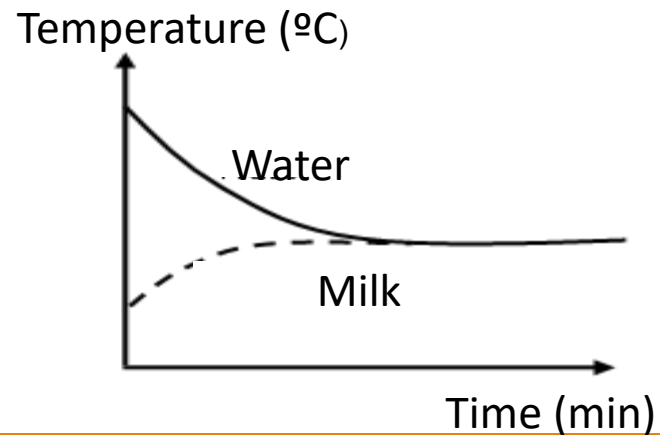
(2)



(3)



(4)



## Science concept

Heat gain and heat loss

---

Cold milk = gain heat

= from lower temperature to higher temperature

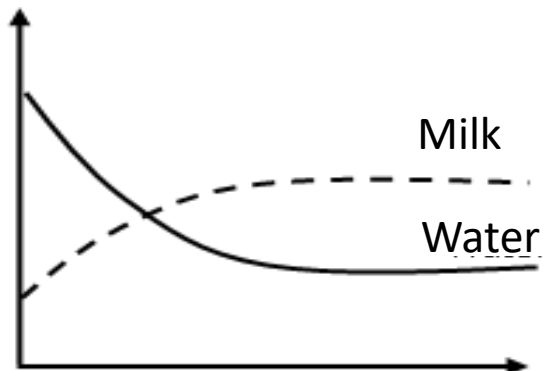
Hot water = lose heat

= from higher temperature to lower temperature

Until both milk and water reaches the same temperature

(X)

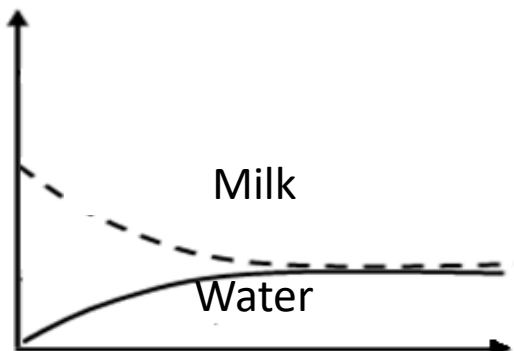
Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Time (min)

(X)

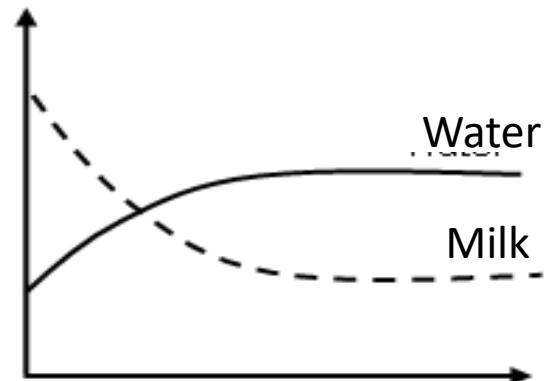
Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Time (min)

(X)

Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

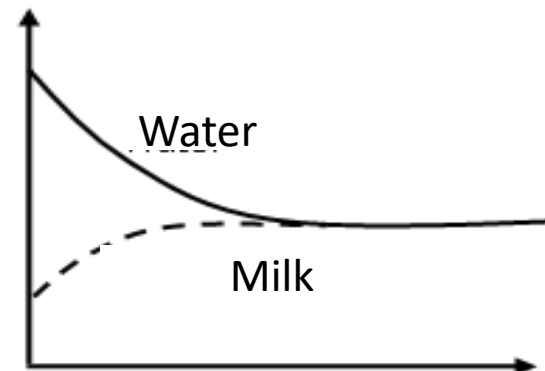


Time (min)

(4)



Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Time (min)

---

**MENTIMETER TIME!**

---

# BOOKLET B

## (OEQ)



# Types of Open-ended Questions

State / Name / Identify / Suggest	Only a direct answer is required
Describe / How	Give detailed and relevant details
Explain / Give a reason	Back up with Science concepts
Infer	Logical deduction based on Scientific concepts

# Types of Open-ended Questions

What can you conclude	Analyse data and give a relationship
What do you think will happen	Predict based on data and Scientific concepts
Similarity Difference	Both / All Mention both sides using "while" or "but"
Relationship	Identify the 2 variables and the cause and effect

# Types of Open-ended Questions

What can you conclude	Analyse data and give a relationship
What do you think will happen	Predict based on data and Scientific concepts
Similarity Difference	Both / All Mention both sides using "while" or "but"
Relationship	Identify the 2 variables and the cause and effect

# Main problems in answering Science Open-ended Questions

- Not taking the time to read and process the information in the question.
- Not able to identify the key information
- Not using Science concepts to answer
- Not linking concepts to the question

# How to do well for open-ended questions?

Think like a Scientist:

- ♣ make associations
- ♣ apply critical thinking skills
- ♣ apply Science concepts to new unfamiliar situations

# The Greenwood Approach

# GWPS approaches

## RISSA Thinking Strategy (OE)

**R** : Read the question carefully

**I** : Identify important information

**S** : Science Thinking & Concepts

**S** : Select the right Strategy  
( Explain, relationship, comparison)

**A** : Phrase your answer

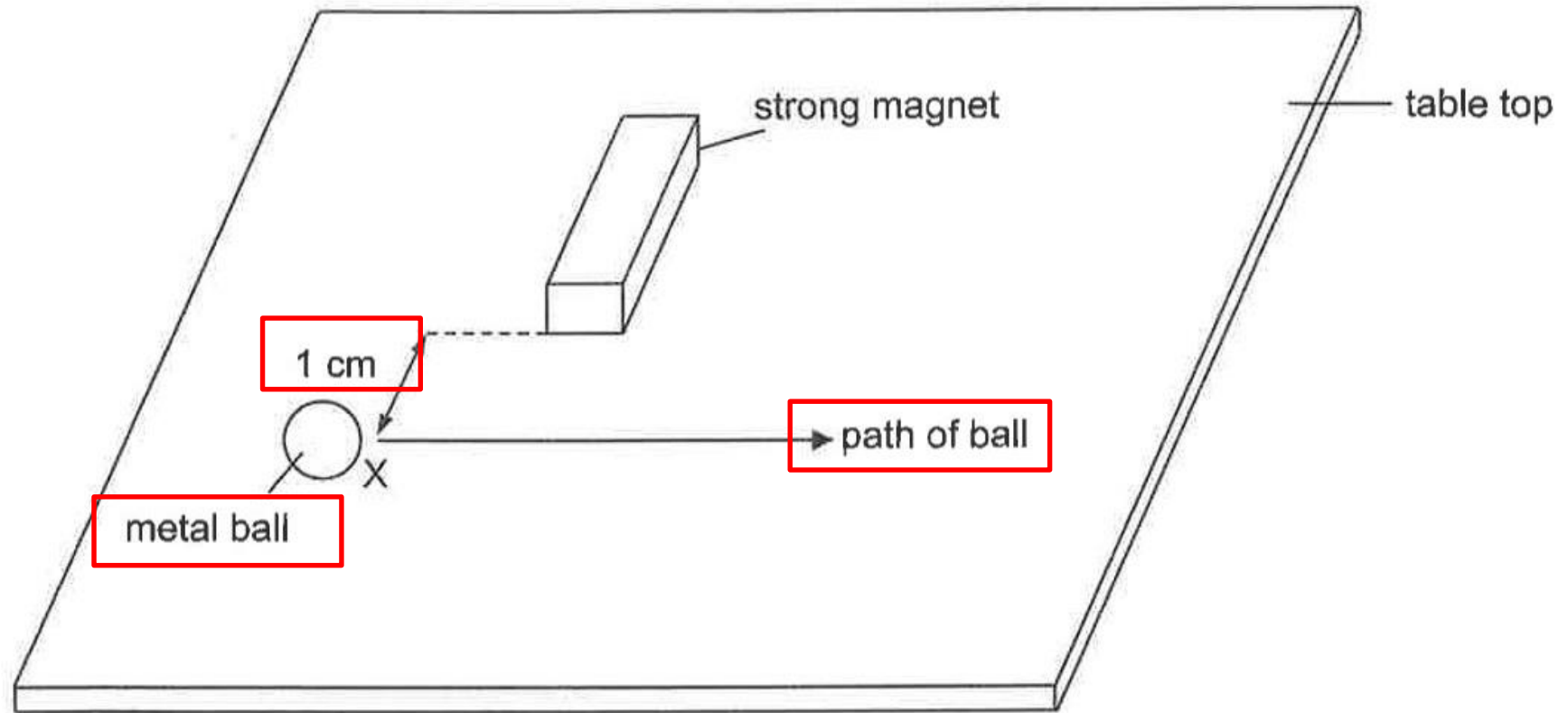
# Why RISSA?

- ❑ A structure to help pupils frame their thinking
- ❑ Guided and more systematic approach to answering open-ended questions



## Lower Block - Example 1:

Ravi rolled a metal ball from point X at a low speed past a strong magnet on a table as shown.



## Lower Block - Example 1:

- (a) Explain why the metal ball moved past the magnet in a straight line.
- 

Context: Rolled a ball

Concept: Ball is metal → a non-magnetic material → will not get attracted by the magnet

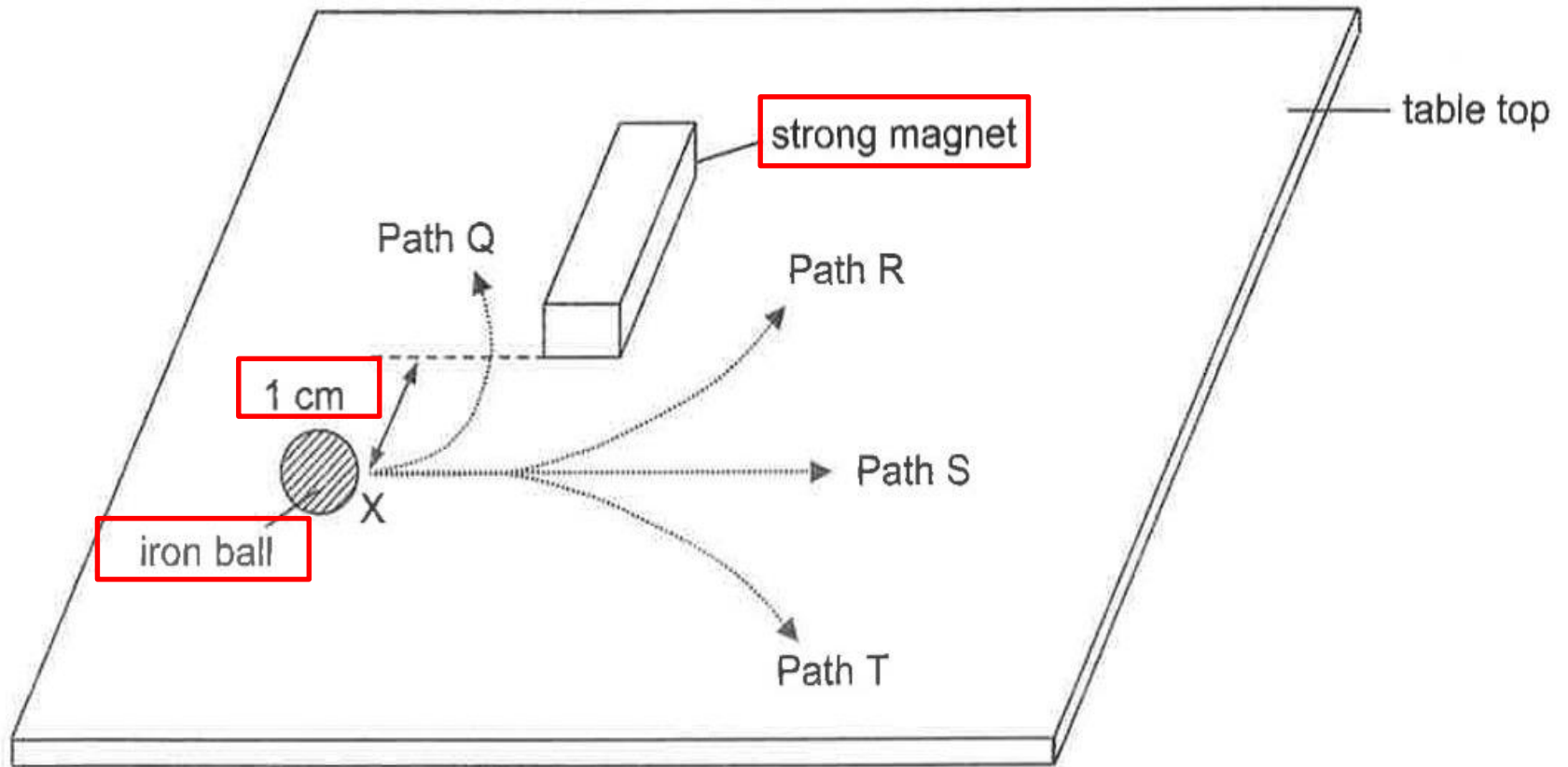
Conclusion: Metal ball moved past magnet in a straight line

### Suggested Answer:

The ball Ravi rolled is a metal ball. The metal ball is made of a non-magnetic material and will not get attracted by the magnet. Hence, the metal ball moved past the magnet in a straight line.

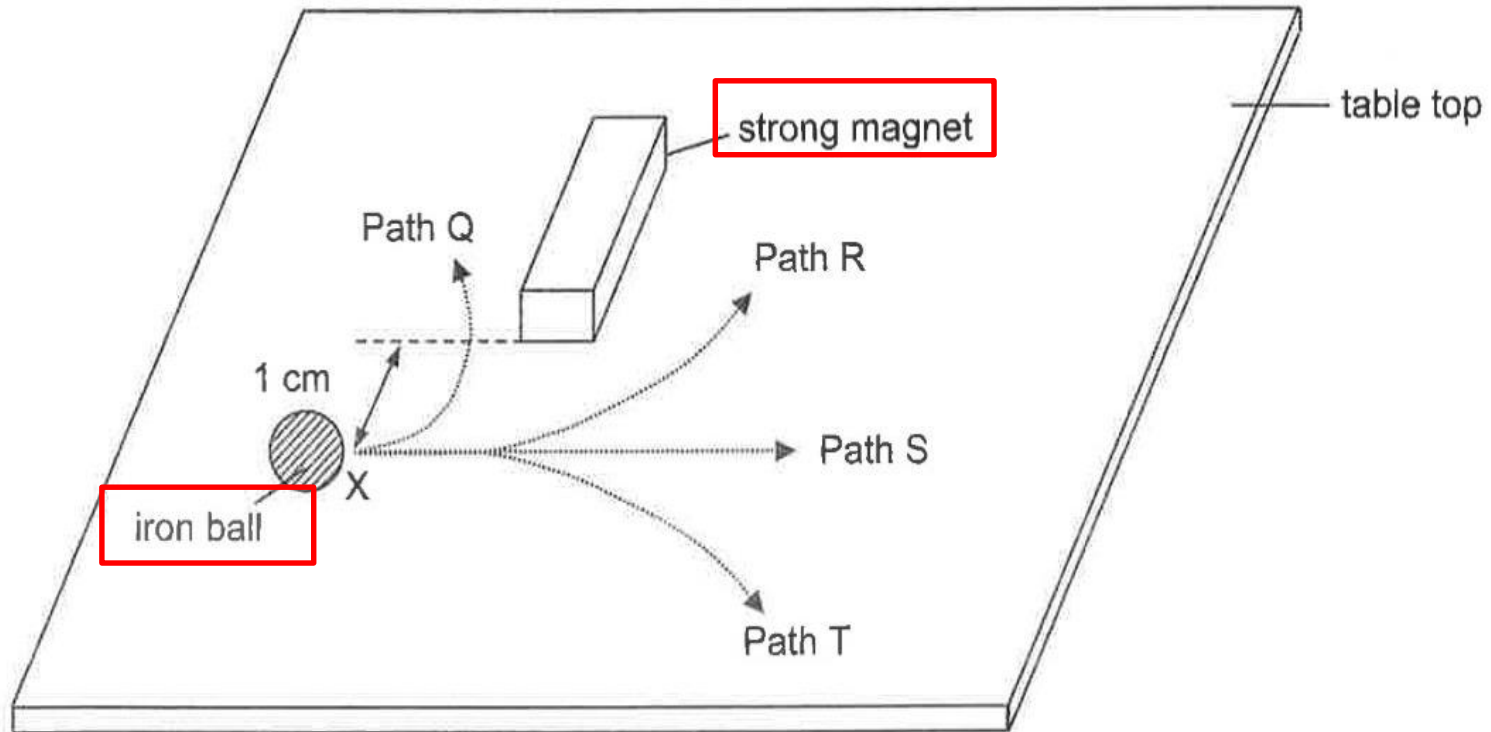
## Lower Block - Example 1:

He next rolled an **iron ball** from X in the same way.



## Lower Block - Example 1:

(b) Which is the most likely path, Q, R, S or T, of the iron ball. Explain your answer.



Context: Rolled an iron ball

Concept: Ball is made of iron → magnetic material →  
get attracted to the magnet

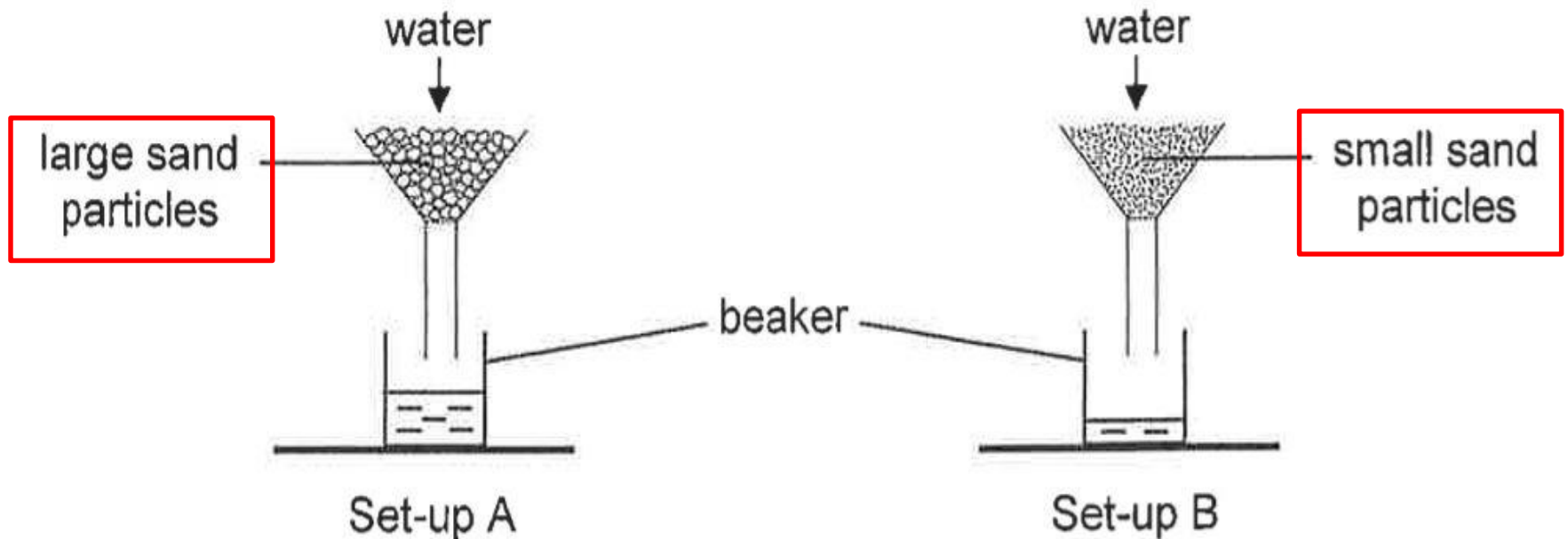
Conclusion: Iron ball moved along path R.

**Suggested Answer:**

**The ball Ravi rolled is an iron ball. Since iron is a magnetic material, the iron ball will get attracted to the magnet. Hence, the iron ball moved along path R.**

## Lower Block - Example 2:


Eddy conducted an experiment to investigate the flow of water through two different types of sand using set-ups A and B. He poured  $100 \text{ cm}^3$  of water into each of the set-ups as shown.



After 5 minutes, he observed that more water was collected in set-up A than in set-up B.

## Lower Block - Example 2:

(a) Give a reason for your answer.



Need to  
compare  
the set-ups.

---

Context:     A = large sand particles  
                 B = small sand particles → smaller gaps between  
                 sand particles

Concept:     A → bigger gaps between sand particles  
                 B → smaller gaps between sand particles  
                 Water = no definite shape can flow through the  
                 gaps more quickly in A

Conclusion: More water was collected in set-up A than in set-up  
                 B.

---

## **Suggested Answer:**

**The gaps between the sand particles in A is bigger than the gaps in B. Water, which does not have a definite shape is able to flow through the gaps more quickly in A. Hence, more water was collected in set-up A than in set-up B.**



## Lower Block - Example 2:

(b) Eddy's friend said that the water was safe for drinking since it was clear. Do you agree with his friend. Give a reason for your answer.

---

Context: The water is clear.

Concept: Bacteria may be trapped between the sand particles → microscopic and cannot be seen with the naked eye.

Conclusion: Do not agree with friend.

### **Suggested Answer:**

**Even though the water is clear, bacterial may be trapped between the sand particles. Bacteria is microscopic and cannot be seen with the naked eye. Therefore, I do not agree with Eddy's friend.**

---

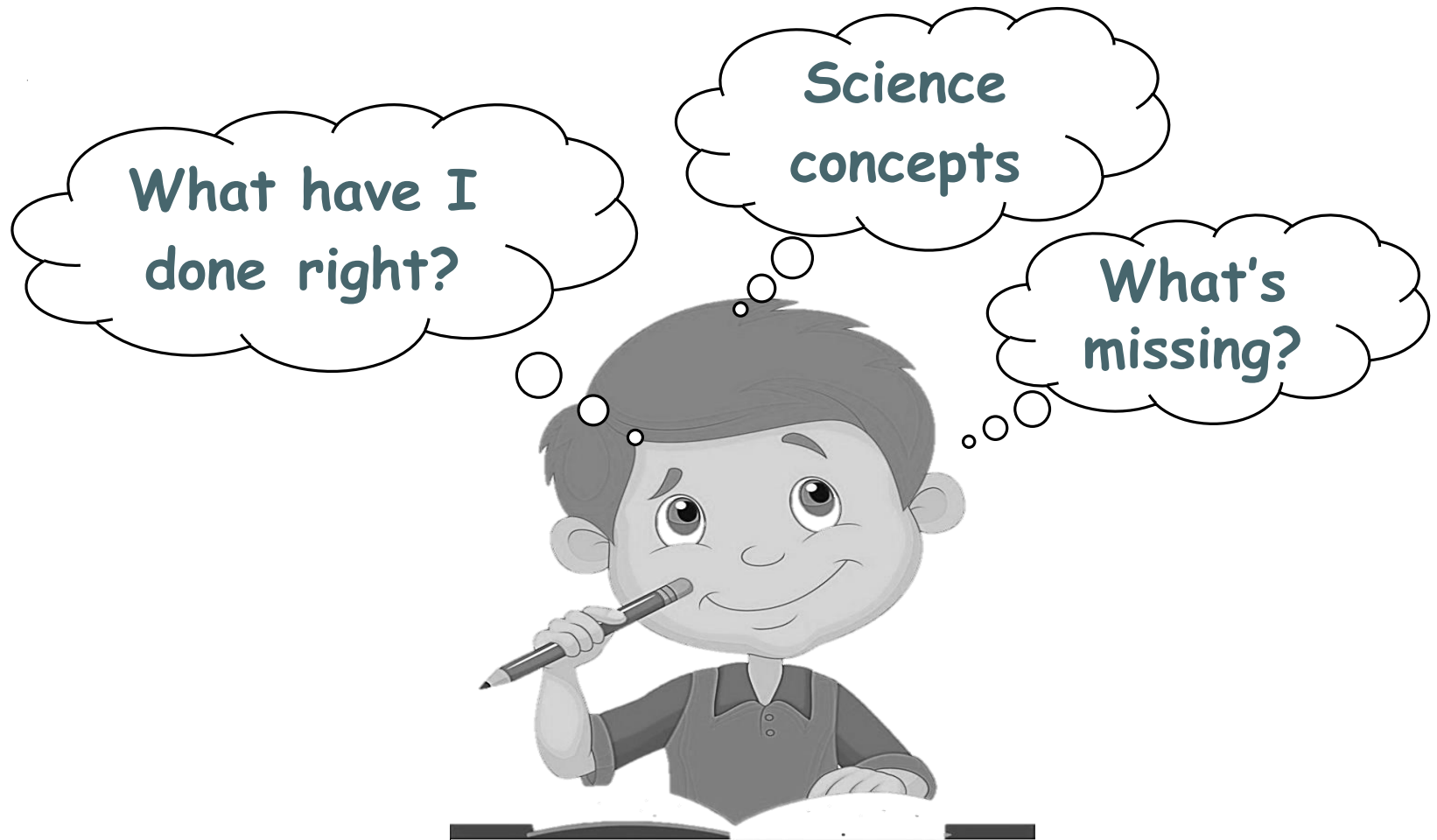
**MENTIMETER TIME!**

---

# ERROR ANALYSIS

A solid orange horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

# Error Analysis Package



# Research Findings

---

- In traditional classroom cultures, error-making is not seen in positive light.
- Pupils' learn better from observing others, imitating one another's experiences compared to direct reinforcement.
- Reduces anxiety in learning – analysing errors in examples or other pupils' work is less critical emotionally than analysing their own solution.
- Shifts focus from passive to active learners, who are more involved in the learning process.
- Pupils benefit from being able to give feedback and start to question their own work as well.

No Science concept shown

No conclusion made

No comparison made

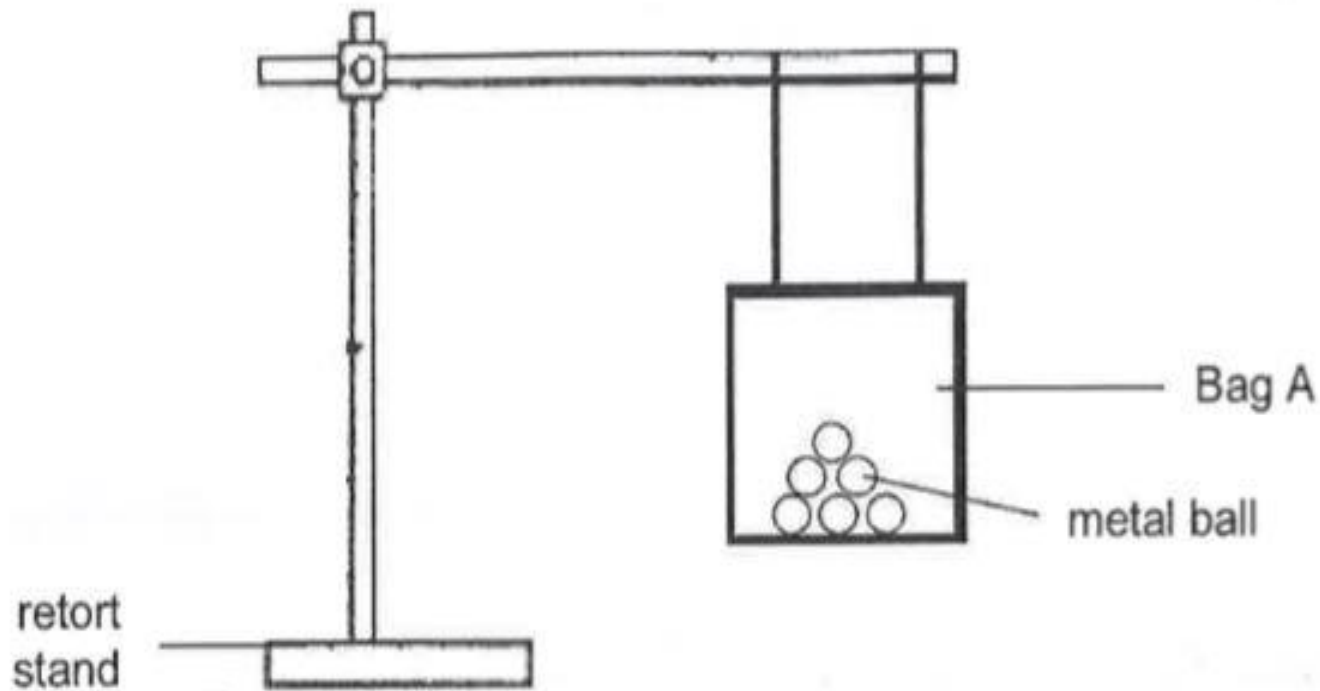
Just stating an observation

General statement given

Not linked to context given

# Question 1

Jaden set up an experiment to find out which bag, A, B or C, is the strongest. He added similar metal balls of the same mass into Bag A till it broke.



# What do you think?

He repeated the experiment using Bag B and Bag C which were made of different materials. He recorded his observation in the table below.

	Number of metal balls added before the bag broke
Bag A	19
Bag B	5 least
Bag C	28 most

Which bag would be the most suitable for Jaden to carry heavy books with? Explain your answer. [1]

Bag C. Bag C carry the most metal ball before  
breaking. Hence it is the most suitable for Jaden  
to carry his heavy books. why? 1/2

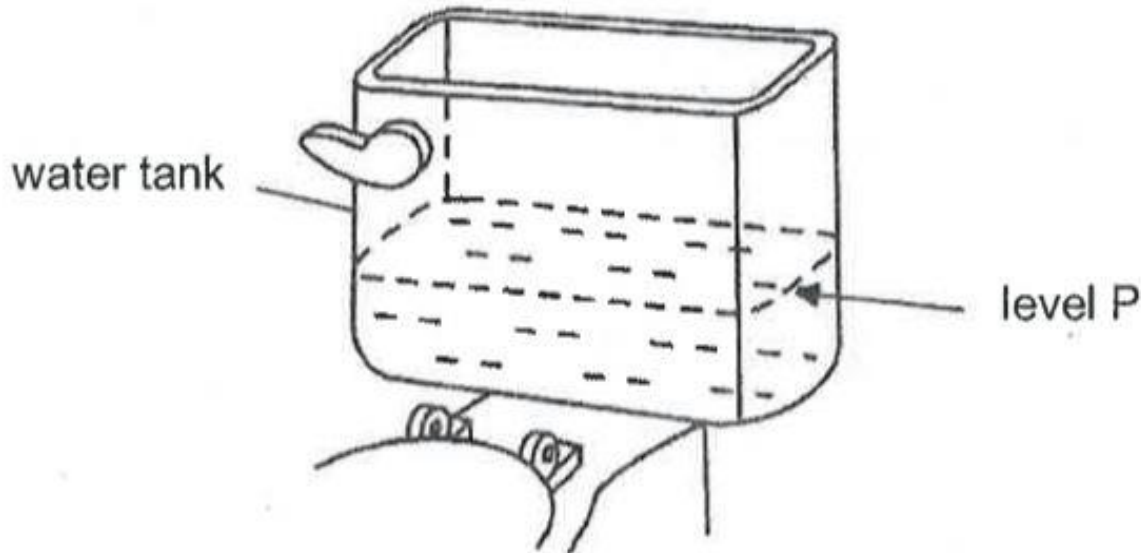
No science concept shown

Bag C. As it can carry the most number of metal balls before breaking, it is the **strongest material** to carry Jaden's books.



# Question 2

The diagram below shows the water tank used in a toilet bowl flushing system.



The tank will be refilled after flushing and will stop filling when the water reaches Level P. Henry wanted to save water by reducing the amount of water used for flushing.

# What do you think?

His mother suggested putting stones into the water tank. Explain how the addition of stones into the water tank would help to reduce the amount of water used for flushing? [1]

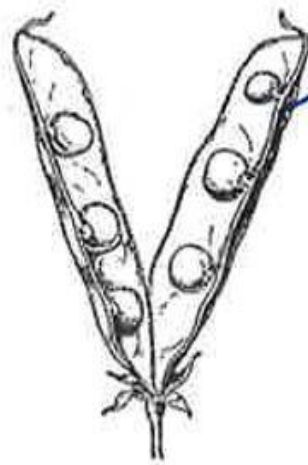
The stones help to increase the ~~water~~ level  
as it is heavy.

Wrong science concept

The stones will **occupy space** in the water tank. **Less water** will be needed to fill up the water tank to level P.

# Question 3

Animal Y can also help to prevent overcrowding of plant M.



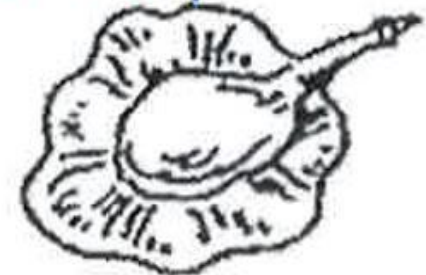
A

pot splits open



B

hooks - like structure by animals



C

wing-like structure

fruits dispersed by animals

# What do you think?

Which one of the fruits, A, B and C, is most likely to be from plant M? Explain your answer. [1]

~~Fruit B~~ Fruit B will be able to hook on to animal Y's hair. <sup>so?</sup>

No comparison in distance shown to prevent overcrowding  
Not linked to context given

Fruit B. It has hook-like structure to cling onto fur of animals. As the animals move about, the fruits are dropped further away from one another thus preventing overcrowding.



Education is not the  
learning of facts,  
but the training  
of the mind  
to think.

Albert Einstein



Spirit Science



Thank you



# Feedback:



<https://go.gov.sg/w1jj8u>