

SBS for Foundation Science

Science is a subject that has a lot of information, and it's important to really understand ideas and explain them well. Let's look at the challenges you might face and how to overcome them.

1. Sticking the Ideas in Your Mind

Strategy:

- **Active Review:** Instead of just reading your notes, try teaching the topic to a friend or family member. Explaining it in your own words helps you remember it better.
- **Create Your Own Questions:** After learning a new topic, write down questions you think might come in the exam. Then, quiz yourself or ask a friend to quiz you.
- **Interactive Tools:** Use fun tools like Blooket, Kahoot, or Quizlet to test your knowledge. These tools make learning fun and help the information stick in your mind.

Example:

- After learning about the water cycle, create/find a quiz on Kahoot on Water Cycle. Playing this quiz with friends will help reinforce the information.

2. Scientific Words, Using the Right Language

Strategy:

- **Word Lists:** Make a list of key science terms for each topic and review them regularly. Practice using these words in sentences to make sure you know how to use them correctly.
- **Flashcards:** Create flashcards with scientific terms on one side and their meanings or examples on the other. Test yourself until you're confident.
- **Daily Practice:** Incorporate these words into your daily conversations or while doing your homework, so they become a natural part of your vocabulary.

Example:

- If you're learning about plants, practice using words like "photosynthesis," "chlorophyll," and "stomata" by writing sentences like, "Photosynthesis occurs in the chloroplasts where chlorophyll captures sunlight."

3. Putting Your Thoughts Together

Strategy:

- **C-E-R Framework:** Use the C-E-R framework (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) to organize your answers. Start by stating your claim (what you think), then provide evidence (facts or observations), and explain your reasoning (why the evidence supports your claim).
- **Practice with Examples:** Look at sample answers provided by your teacher. Identify how they use the C-E-R framework and practice writing your own answers using the same method.
- **Use Bullet Points:** Before writing your full answer, jot down your main ideas in bullet points. This helps you organize your thoughts clearly before you start writing.

Example:

- For a question like, “Why do plants need sunlight?”, you could answer using the C-E-R framework:
 - Claim: Plants need sunlight to survive.
 - Evidence: Sunlight is necessary for photosynthesis.
 - Reasoning: Without sunlight, plants cannot produce food, and they will not grow or survive.

4. Picking the Right Way to Answer

Strategy:

- **Understand the Question Type:** Learn to identify what the question is asking for. If it says “state” or “identify,” give a brief, direct answer. For “explain” or “describe,” provide a more detailed response with examples.
- **Comparison Questions:** When asked to compare, use phrases like “similar to,” “different from,” and provide specific examples that show the differences or similarities.
- **Practice Different Question Types:** Regularly practice answering different types of questions so you can quickly figure out the best way to respond during the exam.

Example:

- **Identify:** If the question is, “Identify the process by which plants make their food,” your answer should be short: “Photosynthesis.”
- **Compare:** If asked to compare mammals and reptiles, you might write, “Mammals give birth to live young, whereas reptiles lay eggs. Mammals also have fur or hair, while reptiles have scales.”

5. Last But Not Least

Strategy:

- **Review Regularly:** Don't wait until the last minute to study. Review your notes regularly and use these strategies to strengthen your understanding over time.
- **Ask for Help:** If you're unsure about a topic, ask your teacher for more examples or explanations. Sometimes, just hearing it another way can make it clearer.
- **Stay Confident:** Believe in your ability to learn and improve. The more you practice these strategies, the better you'll get at answering science questions.

By focusing on these strategies, you'll find that science becomes easier to understand and more fun to learn, especially when it comes to answering those tricky open-ended questions!