



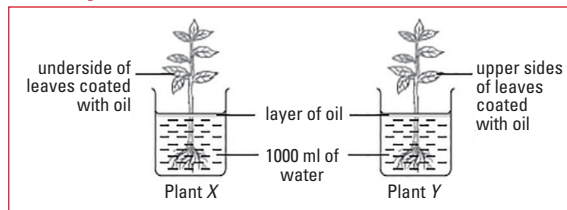
EVALUATING YOUR ANSWERS

in Primary School Science

Are you losing points over incomplete answers?

Learning scientific concepts is not enough to secure a good mark in primary science examinations. It is important that pupils check their answers for the common mistakes such as the ones illustrated in the following two examples.

Example 1



Extracted from *Lower Block Science Top The Class By Topic*

There are more stomata on the underside than on the upper side of the leaves of a plant. Sam coated different sides of the leaves of two identical plants, X and Y, with oil. After six hours, he observed that plant X absorbed less water than plant Y. Explain. [2]

Pupil's answer: Plant X absorbed less water and hence, lost less water than plant Y.

What's wrong: This answer does not relate back to the idea of stomata provided by the question.

Pupil's answer: The smaller the number of stomata, the less water escaped as water vapour.

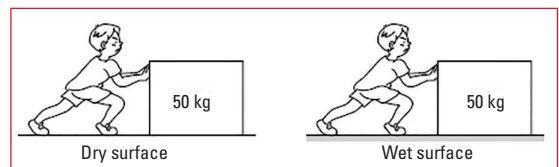
What's wrong: This is a generalised statement that does not use the context given in the question.

Pupil's answer: Plant X had fewer stomata and hence lost less water as water vapour than plant Y.

What's wrong: This is an incorrect phrasing. Since both plants, X and Y, are identical, they have the same number of stomata.

Model answer: There are more stomata available on the undersides of leaves of plant Y for more water to escape as water vapour than the upper sides of leaves of plant X. Therefore, the roots of plant X absorbed less water.

Example 2



Extracted from *Upper Block Science Top The Class By Topic*

Samuel pushed a load across a dry surface. He then pushed the same load across a wet surface. On which surface would Samuel use a smaller force to push the load? Explain. [2]

Pupil's answer: On the wet surface. The water made it easy for the load to slide on the wet surface.

What's wrong: There is a lack of important science key words such as 'friction'. The pupil also missed out on comparing the scenarios on the dry surface and on the wet surface.

Pupil's answer: Samuel would use less force on the wet surface because there was less friction on the wet surface than on the dry surface.

What's wrong: This is an incomplete answer. This pupil left out explaining what reduced the friction on the wet surface.

Model answer: On the wet surface, the water acted as a lubricant reducing the friction between the load and the floor surface. Thus, Samuel exerted a smaller push to overcome a smaller friction on the wet surface than on the dry surface.

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