



IDENTIFYING KEYWORDS to Score in Science

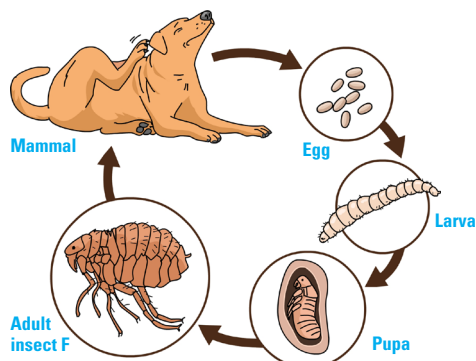
Do you know what types of keywords help you score in Science?

There are many ways to revise to excel in Science tests and examinations. One effective method is to attempt topical formative tests to evaluate one's understanding of each topic. Most importantly, students should be able to identify and include specific keywords for each topical question in their answers in order to score. Here are the various types of keywords:

1. Parts, properties, quantities, process names (nouns)
2. Connecting words (verbs)
3. Rate terms, comparative terms

By consolidating content knowledge through topical tests and learning to incorporate keywords in their responses, students can improve their answering skills before sitting for weighted assessments in school.

Let's take a look at an example below.



The diagram above shows the life cycle of insect F. A biologist placed the same number of eggs of insect F in each of four identical containers at different temperatures. She observed the development of each stage in the life cycle of insect F.

CONTAINER	NUMBER OF DAYS IN THE STAGE OF THE:		
	Egg	Larva	Pupa
P (20°C)	3	8	3
Q (24°C)	3	7	3
R (28°C)	3	6	3
S (32°C)	3	5	3

Q Insect F lives in the fur of mammals. How does the fur of a mammal provide a favourable temperature condition for the young of insect F to grow? [2m]

Pupil's answer:

The fur prevents heat loss so that insect F can survive and grow. ✘

Teacher's comment:

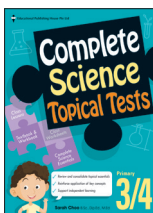
The pupil's answer does not mention the point about the layer of air that traps heat and provides a warm environment for the larva to grow faster (which links to the result in the table).

Model answer:

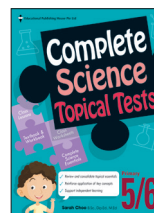
The fur of a mammal traps a layer of air which is a poor conductor of heat. This layer of air gains heat from the skin of the mammal and becomes warmer. Thus, the air provides a higher temperature for the larva of insect F to grow and develop faster so that insect F takes fewer number of days to become an adult.

TYPES OF KEYWORDS	EXAMPLES
Parts, properties, quantities, process names (nouns)	Fur of a mammal, a layer of air, poor conductor of heat, heat, temperature, number of days
Connecting words (verbs)	Traps, gains, becomes, provides, grow and develop, takes
Rate terms, comparative terms	Warmer, higher, faster, fewer

Complete Science Topical Tests is a series of topical formative tests developed by an experienced school teacher, who was also a PSLE marker.



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