Primary 3 Science: NEW SYLLABUS

Effective from 2023, here's how the new Primary 3 Science syllabus differs from the old one.

By EPH Editorial Team

The Primary Science syllabus comprises three components: core ideas, practices, and values, ethics, and attitudes. Five themes — **Diversity**, **Cycles**, **Interactions**, **Systems**, and **Energy** — make up the core ideas that encompass the essential concepts of both life and physical sciences. From 2023, a new P3 Science syllabus will come into effect, bringing with it significant changes to the learning trajectory of pupils across all schools.

Of the various changes, two stand out the most. First, the syllabus will no longer be organised into Lower Block (P3/P4) and Upper Block (P5/P6). From 2023, each level will have its own corresponding syllabus. Second, the core themes and the sequence in which they are taught are now fixed and standardised across all schools. Previously, themes taught in P3/P4 were interchangeable and the sequence was at the discretion of individual schools.

For a useful comparison of content covered in the old and new P3 Science syllabuses, you may refer to the table below.

	Old Lower Block (P3/P4) syllabus (2014)	New P3 syllabus (effective 2023)
Core Themes	• Diversity • Cycles • Interactions • Systems • Energy	• Diversity • Cycles • Interactions
Topics	**Diversity** • Diversity of Living and Non-living Things • Diversity of Materials **Cycles** • Cycles in Plants and Animals (Life Cycles) • Cycles in Matter and Water (Matter)	**Diversity** • Diversity of Living and Non-living Things • Diversity of Materials **Cycles** • Cycles in Plants and Animals (Life Cycles)
Topics	**Interactions** • Interaction of Forces (Magnets) **Systems** • Plant System (Plant Parts and Functions) • Human System (Digestive System) **Energy** • Energy Forms and Uses (Light and Heat)	**Interactions** • Interaction of Forces (Magnets)

To keep pace with the new syllabus, pupils can rely on useful study resources from Educational Publishing House like ***Primary 3 Science Quick and Effective Q&A*** ($8.90). Comprising short-answer questions that tie in closely with the school textbooks and model answers with highlighted keywords to familiarise pupils with important answering techniques, it seeks to help pupils achieve excellence in science. For quick and easy checking of meanings of words throughout their primary science education, pupils may consider ***Primary 3 to 6 Science Thematic Dictionary*** ($13.90). Each thematic chapter consists of science keywords and useful notes to help pupils grasp key concepts. Frequently-tested questions are also included to expose pupils to trending questions set in school tests and examinations, while the enriching content deepens pupils' knowledge and understanding of science and technology and their impact on the society and environment.