Hodder Education

SINGAPORE PARENT GUIDE



Dear Parent,

To help you ensure that your child is fully prepared for the year ahead, we've compiled some tips, articles and information into one handy guide for you to refer to at any time.

We hope you find this useful and it contains everything you need to help you support, encourage and challenge your child.

You'll find a complete list of our supplementary titles here on our website: www.hoddereducation.sg/recommendedforparents

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Should you have any questions or want to talk to someone about purchasing any of the resources found in this guide, you can email us at: singapore.enquiries@hoddereducation.com

We'd love to hear from you.

Best wishes for the year ahead, Hodder Education

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Back to school top tips

by Elizabeth Holtom

Here are some practical tips to help you and your children get ready for that big change from holiday mode to school mode in as stress free a way as possible.

Elizabeth Holtom is an experienced Study Skills teacher and author of Study Skills, Building the study skills needed for 13+ and beyond.

Forward planning

- Here is a golden rule for any task your children may want to put off until the last minute: 'worst first'! Encourage your children to plan ahead so they really can enjoy the fun of the long holiday.
- Have they any holiday work to complete? Make sure this gets done. Avoid a stressful last minute burst of activity. Set up a planner they can then see at a glance how many free days lie ahead of them with relatively small bursts of school work.
- What books are they reading? Make sure they have a selection of books, whether fact or fiction, to enjoy. Keep this vital skill going and encourage discussion round their reading at mealtimes.

The night before

• Make sure you have everything ready for their first morning back: school uniform, school bag, sports equipment, holiday work.

On the day

• Start as you mean to go on with a clear morning routine for your children: get dressed, have breakfast, clean teeth, gather school bags and head out of the house. Great if it were this simple!

Breakfast

• Children's energy stores are very low after a food-free night when their bodies have been busy growing and carrying out repairs. It is vital to give them a nutritious breakfast, so they are ready to give maximum concentration and energy to lessons and running around. A good mix of carbohydrate and protein is best.

Active start

- Exercise increases our heart beat which increases the amount of oxygenated blood going round our body and to our brain.
- This is why it is worth getting off to an active start in the morning. If possible, walk or cycle to school. If you drive to school, why not get there a bit earlier so they have time to play in the playground.

Technology alert

• Do you put your children in front of a game on a tablet or the TV while you get ready to leave the house? It is so easy to do! However, research shows that this can increase stress levels in the brain which will block their ability to pay attention and control impulses. If you can avoid this, then you are helping your children arrive at school ready to learn.

Start Early, Score Well

The key to doing well in the PSLE English Language Comprehension Paper

Read this article about the PSLE English Language Comprehension Paper with your child, and help them prepare with advice from Lee Yoke Ling, author of Class Series: Mastering Comprehension A Practical Guide.

You should start preparing for the PSLE English Language Comprehension paper during the Primary 5 year-end school holidays. Yes, it involves work but, no, it does not have to be a chore. You see mastering comprehension is not just about doing test papers or learning the meaning of words in isolation. It is about seeing how words are used in different contexts. Starting your preparation early gives you time to engage with the language in a fun way.

Explore the Language

Start by simply exposing yourself to the English Language. Read beyond your textbooks and the newspaper. Check out the comics, read interesting novels or even information on the back of cereal boxes. You can even sneak in an English movie, listen to the latest English songs or engage with the language through an on-line game. As you do this, you will gain an understanding of how words are used in the language. You will learn to draw inferences and evaluate situations – key skills required for the PSLE English Language Comprehension Paper.

Who knows, you may even engage in a text similar to that in the exam!

Ask Questions

As you engage with the language, ask questions. What is the song about? Why are the good guys chasing the bad guys in the movie? Where is the story in the novel situated? You can draw mind maps or tables to help you grasp the information. By doing this you will be thinking like the examiner! You will begin to notice the kinds of questions that are likely to appear with a given type of text. You can then answer the guestion yourself. If you are unsure, ask your teachers or check with people who are fluent in the language.

Take the Test

After a few weeks of just engaging with the language, take a test. Use a revision guide like Mastering Comprehension Primary 5 to familiarise yourself with the format of both the visual text and text-based exam paper.

Take note of the instructions given. You could be asked to answer questions or transfer information from the text into a table. You could also be asked to evaluate the feelings of a character in the passage and decide how he will respond.

In each case, read the passage slowly. Grasp the meaning, then look at the questions. Highlight key words in the passage that could help you with the answer.

If after all your initial preparation you get it wrong, learn from it. Starting early gives you time for mistakes. Make a note of the words or phrases which were difficult for you and then try and use them in your conversation.

Do this and by the time you do your PSLE revision with Mastering Comprehension Primary 6, you should have a better grasp of the situation and be able to face the comprehension paper with confidence.



Turn to page 10 to find out more about Class Series: Mastering Comprehension Practical Guides.

How to help your child with Comprehension Cloze

by Ho Lin Lee

Ho Lin Lee is the author of Power Up Grammar and Language Usage for PSLE and Mastering English Grammar & Vocabulary Primary 5-6, books to help students master and reinforce the correct use of Grammar and vocabulary and prepare for the PSLE English Language paper.

> I often hear this cry from parents: 'My child failed in Comprehension Cloze! How can I help her?'

For the uninitiated, Comprehension Cloze in the PSLE comprises a passage of about 200 words, not counting the 15 blanks, each of which students fill in with a word. With each blank allotted one mark, the section constitutes 15 marks out of 95 marks for Paper 2, not an insignificant proportion of the total marks.

The passage may be an informational text or a narrative piece. The first and last sentences are usually without blanks, and there is usually not more than one blank in a sentence, giving students a foothold on the context.

Comprehension Cloze tests the student's comprehension skills. It is not a test of vocabulary. Thus, a student is usually not expected to have an above-average level of vocabulary in order to do well in this section. What it tests is a student's ability to read critically and process information, to understand the interrelationship between ideas and to make inferences.

The following are some strategies that your child can use when tackling Comprehension Cloze:

- **Understand the context.** Read through the whole passage once, quickly, to get an idea of what the passage is about.
- Identify the tense. An informational text is usually in the present tense, a narrative text in the past. Circle or underline a few verbs to give you a general sense of the tense. Sometimes you may be able to identify the word but fail to write it in the proper tense, so it is important to be aware of the time frame.
- **Underline the clues.** At the second reading, when you fill in the blanks, underline contextual clues. Check for cause and effect, time and other contextual links.
 - Look outside the sentence. At times the clues are found in another sentence, before or after the sentence with the blank, so it is important to refer to other parts of the passage to clue you in.

Dolphins don't breathe voluntarily like humans. One side of their brain is always active as they must remember to breathe. Thus, they must consciously swim to the surface to take a _____.

The clue for the blank lies in the preceding sentences. The context points to 'breath' as the word in the blank.

Know the parts of speech. Every sentence has a verb (most, anyway). An adjective can appear after a verb or immediately before a noun. An adverb modifies ('describes') a verb, adjective or adverb. A determiner (e.g. a, an, the, each, one, some) comes before a noun (an apple) or adjective + noun (some red apples). A conjunction joins words, phrases or clauses. A preposition indicates position or the relationship of ideas. Knowing the roles and placement of the various parts of speech can help to accurately identify the missing word.

Reducing plastic waste is not _____ easy goal to achieve. The reason _____ simple. This cheap, versatile and durable _____ is found in almost every household item – from dinner plates and cutlery to cups and drink bottles.

Since the first blank is followed by an adjective + noun, 'easy goal', it is most likely a determiner, and by the vowel sound following it, and the context, the answer is the article 'an'. In the second sentence, a verb is missing. This signals that the blank is a verb, in this case, 'is'. The third blank is preceded by a string of adjectives, 'cheap, versatile and durable'; therefore, a noun must follow. The noun clearly refers to plastic, a kind of material. The word this, however, suggests that the more appropriate answer is 'material'.

Recognise word collocations. A collocation is a combination of two or more words commonly used together. It would not sound 'natural' in other combinations. For example, we say strong coffee, using strong, and not other words such as robust, to indicate concentrated coffee. Here are more examples of word collocations:

heavy traffic • make the bed • save time come prepared • make progress • take risks/advantage

Comprehension Cloze often tests knowledge of word collocations. You generally need few contextual clues to find the answer.

Kate was a cautious girl and did not want to _____ the risk of climbing the dangerous mountain.

A student would easily fill in the blank if he or she recognises that risk collocates with 'take'.

Pay attention to fixed expressions. Examples of fixed expressions include 'as...as', 'whether or not', 'according to', '(comparative) than', 'one of the (superlative)' and 'along with'. Sometimes the answer is just a matter of providing the missing link in the fixed expression.

Duckweed, which is an aquatic plant floating on or just beneath the surface of slow-moving bodies of fresh water, is eaten by ducks and other aquatic birds, along _____ certain fish such as tilapia, but it can also form the diets of certain animals like chickens and cattle.

The above sentence is quite long, but the word along should immediately trigger the two-word phrase 'along with', which means 'in addition to'.

Identify the main clause. Don't be thrown off by sentences which are piled up with details or subordinating clauses. Strike out unnecessary details so that the main idea comes through.

Whether music can help sick or injured animals to recover faster _____ aid children with behavioural issues is being investigated by scientists, many of whom are optimistic of positive results

As the above example shows, after striking out unimportant details, the main message is clearly revealed: 'Whether music can help animals _____ aid children is being investigated.' Two areas where music can help are highlighted, and clearly the conjunction 'or' connects the two.

See the connections. Very often, the blank is inside a sentence with two parts separated by a comma. Look out for the relationships between the two parts: cause and effect, concession, reason, cause, etc. One part is usually subordinate to (less important than) the other, and you might need to fill in with a subordinating conjunction (although, while, since, etc.), or you might have to use a participle (-ed or -ing word) to complete the idea. At times, one part 'adds' to the other, and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, etc.) is needed.

Scientists say the massive underground cave discovered on the moon could make an ideal base for astronauts, _____ these space explorers and their equipment from the extreme heat and cold on the moon's surface.

The first part of the sentence, before the comma, is a main clause with a verb. The second part does not have a verb, and it would be ungrammatical to link the two parts with a 'simple tense' verb or any coordinating conjunction. The second part offers a reason for the first part. The context, sentence structure and the word from all point to the answer 'protecting'

Read, read and read. The only way to do well in any section of the paper is to improve your English generally and to do this, read as much as you can, not just fiction books, but also non-fiction material such as newspaper articles, in order to see how ideas are interrelated, how words are collocated, how one word is better used than another. A good grounding in the language is important, so it is essential to grasp the basics and master the language skills by reading and practising, and exposing yourself to any environment that thrives with words and ideas.

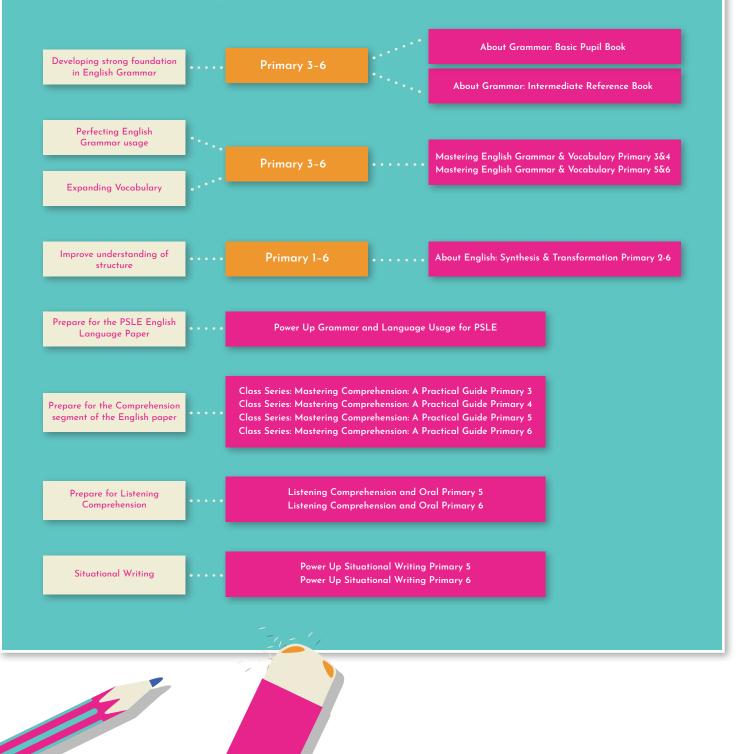
Other than sharing these coping strategies with your child, you can participate actively with their learning. Select suitable newspaper (or magazine) articles and block out words with black ink. Then get your child to 'guess' the blank words. You can give them, say, five words, every day to identify. Not only does this exercise help them to keep up their reading habit, but it also hones their reading skills.

I hope that with these handy tips, you can help your child with Comprehension Cloze and boost her confidence to achieve success in the English paper.

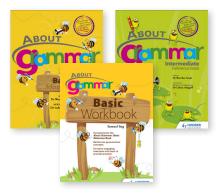
Turn to page 9 to find out more about Mastering English Grammar & Vocabulary and Power Up Grammar and Language Usage for PSLE.

Primary English

Primary - What does your child need?



Primary English



About Grammar

Create an understanding of how language works in a systematic manner and develop pupils' application of this in their writing and speech.

- 9789810626563 About Grammar: Basic Pupil's Book \$8.25
- 9789810629694 About Grammar: Intermediate Pupil's Book \$10.05
- 9789810630645 About Grammar Basic Workbook \$8.15



Mastering English Grammar & Vocabulary

Help primary students master the correct use of grammar and expand their vocabulary bank at home or in the classroom, with comprehensive guides updated and aligned with the current Singapore Ministry of Education English syllabus.

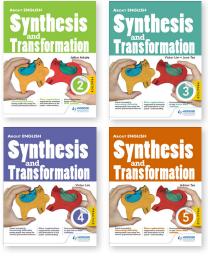
- 9789814767149 Mastering English Grammar & Vocabulary Primary 3/4 • \$10.20
- 9789814767132 Mastering English Grammar & Vocabulary Primary 5/6 • \$10.20



Power Up Grammar and Language Usage for PSLE

Practise and reinforce the skills needed to succeed in the PSLE English Language paper with complete explanations, practice exercises and examination tips, based on the latest Ministry of Education syllabus.

• 9789814767194 • Power Up Grammar & Language Usage For PSLE • \$10.20



About English: Synthesis and Transformation

Provide pupils with a strong foundation in the use of various connectors and key structures, with examples and illustrated explanations to aid understanding.

- 9789810636425 About English Synthesis & Transformation Practice P2 • \$6.50
- 9789814676908 About English Synthesis & Transformation Practice P3 • \$6.55
- 9789814676915 About English Synthesis & Transformation Practice P4 • \$6.55
- 9789814676922 About English Synthesis & Transformation Practice P5 • \$6.55
- 9789814676939 About English Synthesis & Transformation Practice P6 • \$6.55

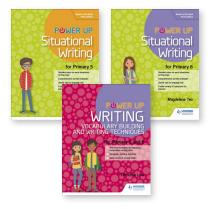
Primary English / Primary Mathematics



Class Series: Mastering Comprehension

Develop the skills and techniques needed for answering the comprehension segment of the English examination paper, in line with the latest Ministry of Education English syllabus.

- 9789814767910 Class Series: Mastering Comprehension Primary 3 \$9.25
- 9789814767927 Class Series: Mastering Comprehension Primary 4 \$9.25
- 9789814767200 Class Series: Mastering Comprehension Primary 5 \$9.25
- 9789814767217 Class Series: Mastering Comprehension Primary 6 \$9.25



Power Up Writing

Develop the situational writing skills needed to succeed with exam-style practice papers, strategies and tips, plus in-depth analysis of the exam format and question types.

- 9789814801140 Power Up Situational Writing Primary 5 \$9.25
- 9789814801157 Power Up Situational Writing Primary 6 \$9.25
- 9789814801119 Power Up Writing: Vocabulary Building and Writing Techniques Primary 5&6 • \$9.25

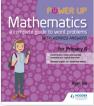


Listening Comprehension and Oral

Practice and perfect the Listening Comprehension and Oral Communication skills needed to succeed in the PSLE English Language paper with practice questions, expert guidance and examination tips, based on the latest Ministry of Education syllabus.

- 9789814801126 Listening Comprehension and Oral Primary 5 \$9.25
- 9789814801133 Listening Comprehension and Oral Primary 6 \$9.25





Power Up Mathematics

Improve confidence when approaching word problems with practice questions for every unit, worked examples and teaching notes and tips, based on the latest Ministry of Education syllabus.

- 9789814801164 Power Up Mathematics: A Complete Guide to Word Problems Primary 5 • \$12.10
- 9789814801171 Power Up Mathematics: A Complete Guide to Word Problems Primary 6 • \$12.10

Top Tips for Revision at Secondary Level

by Steve Stoddard and David Horner

Help your child prepare for their exams with these top tips and suggestions for more effective revision and exam preparation.

- 1 Start revising early. Don't put it off. Revision will seem easier once you've started.
- 2 Get organised. This is an opportunity to put your course notes in order and also to check if there are any gaps in your notes that need to be filled.
- 3 Plan your revision. During the exam period you are likely to have several exams over a 3 to 4 week period and it is essential that you bring your understanding to the highest possible level in your subjects at just the right time. It is not possible to do this at the last minute. Your school may be able to give you a template for you to create your own personalised revision schedule.
- 4 Identify the dates of your examinations as early as possible so that you can prepare your revision plan. You should also include some time that can be used as 'contingency' just in case unforeseen events arise.
- 5 **Create summaries of your notes/textbook.** Perhaps use a single sheet of paper for each topic. You need to decide what form these will take and what works best for you. Some students prefer bulletpointed or numbered lists, whereas others prefer more pictorial summaries such as tree diagrams. You may wish to use colours to make your notes clearer — for example, highlighting headings and subheadings. Some students find it useful to put summaries on their bedroom wall.
- 6 Find yourself somewhere quiet to revise. Not in front of the TV or near other distractions.
- 7 Take short breaks. Not too many, though! Breaks help to keep your mind fresh and it can be counter-productive to revise intensively for hours without stopping. Make a break your reward for focused, 'quality' revision of 30 minutes or an hour.
- 8 **Revise with a friend.** This can be an effective way to test one another's recall of facts. You probably won't want to do all of your revision this way, however.
- Practise plenty of past exam paper or specimen exam paper questions. If past test papers exist for your subjects have a go at some. This will help to build confidence as you approach your exam, as well as identifying any gaps in your knowledge.
- 10 Look after yourself. Eat, drink and rest well so that you can maintain concentration and good health. Try to find time to exercise, too, such as a brisk walk in the fresh air. On the night before your exam, try to get a good night's sleep so that you're ready to work hard. Avoid using electronic devices such as your mobile phone late at night as this can interfere with your natural sleep patterns.

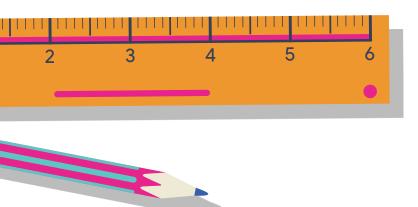
Steve Stoddard and David Horner are well respected authors of many titles from the My Revision Notes series.

Search My Revision Notes in your web browser to see the series.

Secondary English

Identify your child's Secondary English needs and find the right resource to address this.





Secondary English



All About English Lower Secondary Comprehension

Develop the skills and techniques needed to successfully answer comprehension questions, in line with the latest Ministry of Education English syllabus.

9789814767101 • \$13.00



All About English Upper Secondary Comprehension Second Edition

Develop the skills and techniques needed to successfully answer the comprehension questions in the English O-level examination paper, in line with the latest Ministry of Education English syllabus.

9789814767828 • \$13.00



All About English: Understanding Visual Texts Lower Secondary

Understanding Visual Texts for Lower Secondary is an essential guide for students learning to understand a variety of visual text types.

9789814801706 • \$11.50



All About English: Understanding Visual Texts Upper Secondary Second Edition

Read and analyse visual texts using signposts such as Purpose, Audience, Context and Culture (PACC) and explanations of visual text features. (Syllabus 1128)

9789814801195 • \$11.50



All About English: Grammar Editing Lower Secondary Second Edition

Develop the essential skills for success in editing for the GCE O-level examination paper with test papers, practice exercises and indepth explanations of grammar and the error types found in texts.

9789814801201 • \$11.50

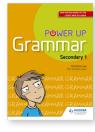


All About English: Grammar Editing Upper Secondary Second Edition

Help students achieve success in editing for the O-level exam paper, with detailed explanations to strengthen their understanding of grammar and the types of errors that may be found in texts.

9789814801218 • \$11.50

Secondary English



Power Up Grammar Secondary One

Advance understanding and command of English grammar and usage with the advice of an experienced author whose grammar titles have been recommended by the Ministry of Education for use in schools.

9789814767248 • \$9.25



Power Up Grammar Secondary Two

Advance understanding and command of English grammar and usage with the advice of an experienced author whose grammar titles have been recommended by the Ministry of Education for use in schools.

9789814767255 • \$9.25



All About English Effective Guide for Lower Secondary

Provide effective guidance to help students master the skills needed for success in lower secondary English, in line with the latest English syllabus and examination format issued by the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

9789814767095 • \$16.75



All About English: Effective Guide for 'O' Level English Fourth Edition

Master the skills needed for success in the 'O' Level examination with effective guidance in line with the latest English syllabus and examination format issued by the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

9789814767811 • \$16.75



Class Series: Grammar in Context Secondary 1 Revised Edition

Guide students effectively on their path to mastering grammar, focusing on the use of specific grammatical items and structures in realistic contexts.

9789814801652 • \$11.50



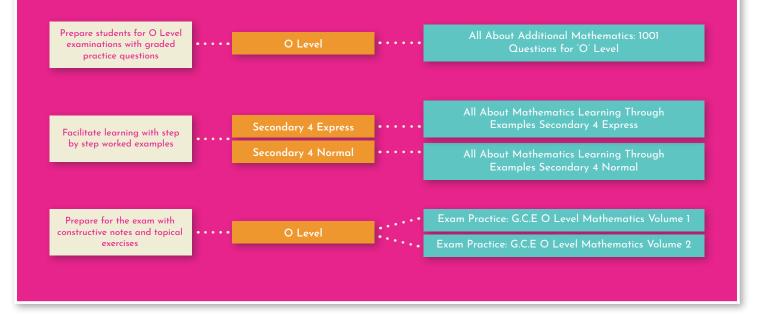
Class Series: Grammar in Context Secondary 2 Revised Edition

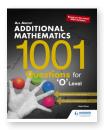
Guide students effectively on their path to mastering grammar, and support a multi-modal approach to teaching grammar with a variety of text types of various contexts.

9789814801713 • \$11.50

Secondary Mathematics

Optimise practice and exam preparation with our supplementary Secondary Mathematics resources. Find the resource to suit your child's needs with our flowchart below.

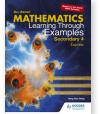




All About Additional Mathematics: 1001 Questions for 'O' Level

Prepare students for tests and their 'O' Level examinations with graded practice questions and full solutions based on the latest GCE 'O' Level Additional Mathematics syllabus.

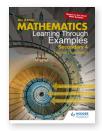
9789810636999 • \$15.80



All About Mathematics Learning Through Examples Secondary 4 Express

Provide Mathematics students at the Secondary 4 Express level with a comprehensive revision tool for school tests and examinations and facilitate learning with step-by-step worked examples to help them achieve success in their examination.

9789814767002 • \$14.85



All About Mathematics Learning Through Examples Secondary 4 Normal

Provide Mathematics students at Secondary 4 Normal Academic level with a comprehensive revision tool for school tests and examinations and facilitate learning with step-by-step worked examples to help them achieve success in their examination.

9789814767088 • \$14.85



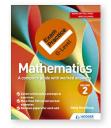
Secondary Mathematics



Exam Practice: G.C.E. O-Level Mathematics Volume 1

Fully prepare for the exam with constructive notes and topical exercises reflecting what examiners are looking for, based on the current Ministry of Education O-Level Mathematics syllabus.

9789814767279 • \$13.00



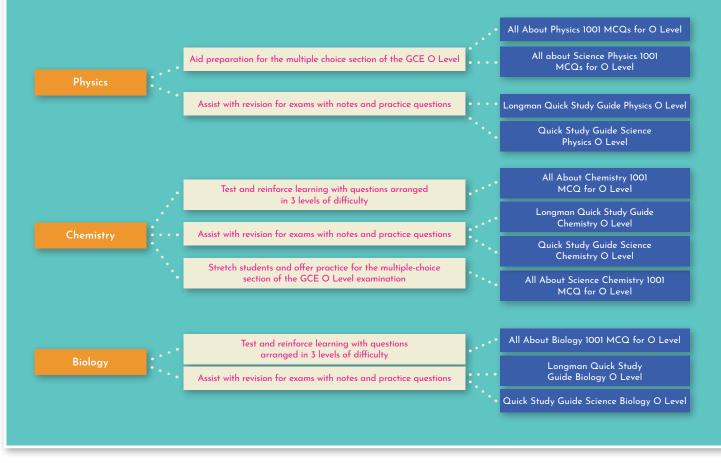
Exam Practice: G.C.E. O-Level Mathematics Volume 2

Fully prepare for the exam by learning how to answer different types of questions with fully-worked answers for each. Based on the current Ministry of Education O-Level Mathematics syllabus.

9789814767286 • \$13.00

Secondary Science

Prepare your child for exams and expand understanding with practice questions, notes and extension activities. Pick the right resource to suit your child's needs with our flowchart below.



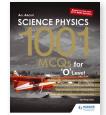
Secondary Science



All About Physics: 1001 Physics MCQs for 'O' Level

Prepare students for the multiplechoice section of their GCE 'O' Level examinations with ample practice questions based on the new syllabus and categorised into three levels of difficulty.

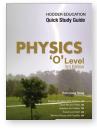
9789810634780 • \$15.40



All About Science Physics: 1001 MCQs & Structured Questions Workout for 'O' Level

Prepare students for the multiplechoice section of their GCE 'O' Level examinations by expanding and testing understanding of concepts with extension questions. Based on the new syllabus and catagorised into three levels of difficulty.

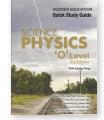
9789810634797 • \$14.50



Longman Quick Study Guide Physics 'O' Level Third Edition

Assist students in their revision for tests and examinations, with notes and questions based on the latest syllabus issued by the Ministry of Education Singapore.

9789814676861 • \$12.65

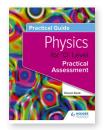


Hodder Education Quick Study Guide Science Physics 'O' Level

Third Edition

Assist students in their revision for tests and examinations, with notes and questions based on the latest syllabus.

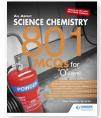
9789814676878 • \$10.50



Physics Practical Guide for 'O' Level

A practical guide based on the latest MOE syllabus, designed to provide structured and scaffolded instructions on how to approach the practical examination as well as to develop the essential skills in answering the guestions effectively.

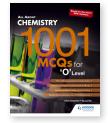
9789814801720 • \$13.00



All About Science Chemistry: 801 MCQs for 'O' Level

Stretch students and offer practice to prepare them for the multiple-choice section of their GCE 'O' Level Science Chemistry examination with questions categorised into three levels of difficulty, and cross-topical extension questions included at the end of each unit to offer further challenge.

9789810636555 • \$13.55



1001 Chemistry MCQs for 'O' Level

Test and reinforce learning with questions categorised into three levels of difficulty, with cross-topical extension questions at the end of each unit to further challenge students, based on the latest syllabus issued by the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

9789810626310 • \$15.40

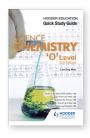


Longman Quick Study Guide Chemistry 'O' Level Third Edition

Assist students in their revision for tests and examinations, with notes and questions based on the latest syllabus issued by the Ministry of Education Singapore.

9789814676847 • \$13.50

Secondary Science

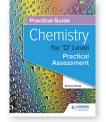


Hodder Education Quick Study Guide Science Chemistry 'O' Level

Third Edition

Assist students in their revision for tests and examinations, with notes and questions based on the latest syllabus issued by the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

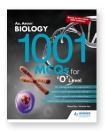
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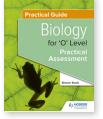
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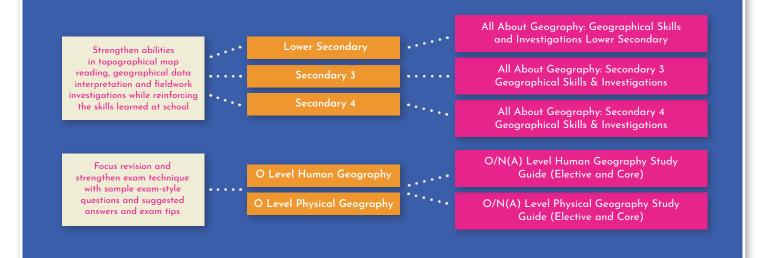
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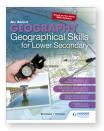
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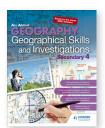




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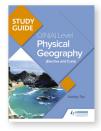


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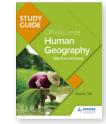
Secondary Geography



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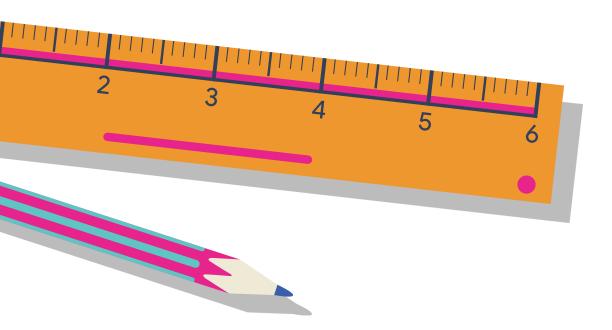
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