The Wonderful World of Science

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 36 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Show your working for Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. The first step in finding out something scientifically is usually to:

(a) ask a friend to decide **(b)** give up
(c) guess the answer **(d)** observe carefully

2. In the scientific method, what comes right before "make a hypothesis"?

(a) ask a question **(b)** ask someone else to decide
(c) guess the answer and stop **(d)** give up

3. Which of these is an OBSERVATION?

(a) the milk may have been left out too long
(b) the seedling may grow towards light
(c) the plant may be getting too little sunlight
(d) the bread has green spots on it

4. Which of these is a HYPOTHESIS (a guess that can be tested)?

(a) the torch does not light **(b)** the plant's leaves are turning yellow
(c) the torch batteries may be dead **(d)** the puddle was gone by evening

5. Which question can be answered by a scientific experiment?

(a) Is cricket more fun than football?
(b) Which song is the best?
(c) Which festival is the nicest?
(d) Does a ball bounce higher on concrete than on grass?

6. In a fair test of whether sunlight helps a plant grow, the ONE thing you should change is:

(a) the weight of the ball **(b)** the amount of water
(c) the amount of sunlight **(d)** the brand of paper towel

7. In three tries, a toy car rolled 10 cm, 21 cm and 32 cm. What is the average distance?

(a) 24 cm **(b)** 21 cm **(c)** 63 cm **(d)** 32 cm

8. Riya planted 22 seeds. 18 sprouted. How many did NOT sprout?

(a) 6 seeds **(b)** 40 seeds **(c)** 18 seeds **(d)** 4 seeds

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. Write the steps of the scientific method in order.

10. Write "observation" or "hypothesis": (a) the seedling bent towards the window (b) the bread may have mould because it was damp

11. Can it be answered by an experiment? Write "yes" or "no": (a) Does a paper plane fly farther with bigger wings? (b) Is cricket more fun than football?

12. In a fair test, what one thing would you change to find out (a) whether salt water freezes slower than plain water (b) whether a heavier ball rolls farther down a ramp?

13. In the scientific method, which step comes (a) after "observe" (b) before "ask a question"?

14. A bean plant grew 5 cm, 4 cm, 2 cm, 3 cm, 8 cm in five days. How much did it grow in all?

15. Ice in a cup in the shade melted in 23 minutes; ice in the sun melted in 19 minutes. How many minutes faster did it melt in the sun?

16. A ball dropped from the same height bounced 50 cm, 34 cm, 27 cm high in three tries. Which was the highest bounce, and by how much was it higher than the lowest?

Section C — Word problems — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Your pen stopped writing. Use the scientific method to find out why.

18. An experiment measured two plants every 5 days.
In the sun: 15 cm, 23 cm, 34 cm
In the shade: 7 cm, 13 cm, 17 cm
(a) How much did each plant grow from the first reading to the last? (b) What can you conclude? (c) What should have been kept the same?

19. A class timed how long a spoon of sugar took to dissolve in hot water in 5 tries: 65 s, 81 s, 71 s, 62 s, 74 s. (a) What was the total time? (b) Which try was slowest? (c) Why do scientists repeat a test?

20. Plan fair tests to find out (a) whether a heavier ball rolls farther down a ramp and (b) whether seeds sprout faster with more water. For each, say what you change, what you keep the same and what you measure.

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) observe carefully**	—
2	**(a) ask a question**	observe → ask a question → make a hypothesis → test it with an experiment → draw a conclusion
3	**(d) the bread has green spots on it**	—
4	**(c) the torch batteries may be dead**	—
5	**(d) Does a ball bounce higher on concrete than on grass?**	—
6	**(c) the amount of sunlight**	—
7	**(b) 21 cm**	(10 + 21 + 32) ÷ 3 = 21
8	**(d) 4 seeds**	22 − 18 = 4
9	**Observe, ask a question, make a hypothesis, test it, analyse the results and draw a conclusion (and test again if needed).**	—
10	**(a) observation (b) hypothesis**	—
11	**(a) yes (b) no**	—
12	**(a) the amount of salt (b) the weight of the ball**	—
13	**(a) ask a question (b) observe**	observe → ask a question → make a hypothesis → test it with an experiment → draw a conclusion
14	**22 cm**	5 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 8
15	**4 minutes**	23 − 19 = 4
16	**50 cm; 23 cm higher**	50 − 27
17	**Observe: the pen does not write. Question: why? Hypothesis: the ink has run out. Test: look at the refill or try a new refill. Conclusion: if the new refill writes, the ink had run out; if not, make a new hypothesis (such as a blocked tip) and test it.**	—
18	**(a) Sun: 19 cm; shade: 10 cm (b) The plant in the sun grew more, so sunlight helps it grow. (c) Same kind of plant, pot, soil and water.**	—
19	**(a) 353 s (b) The try that took 81 s (c) To make sure the result is reliable and not chance.**	65 + 81 + 71 + 62 + 74

Q	Answer	Working
20	**(a) the weight of the ball (b) the amount of water**	—