



Newton Moore Senior High School
Science
Year 8 Science
2016



Course Description

Science Inquiry Skills

Science inquiry involves identifying and posing questions; planning, conducting and reflecting on investigations; processing, analysing and interpreting evidence; and communicating findings. This strand is concerned with evaluating claims, investigating ideas, solving problems, drawing valid conclusions and developing evidence-based arguments and is carried out over the entire year within the Science Understanding sub-strands.

Science as a Human Endeavour

Through science, humans seek to improve their understanding and explanations of the natural world. Science influences society by posing, and responding to, social and ethical questions, and scientific research is itself influenced by the needs and priorities of society. This strand highlights the development of science as a unique way of knowing and doing, and the role of science in contemporary decision making and problem solving. It acknowledges that in making decisions about science practices and applications, ethical and social implications must be taken into account. It is carried out over the entire year within the Science Understanding sub-strands.

Science Understanding

The core content of science includes Earth and Space Sciences, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences and Chemical Sciences.

Earth and space sciences

Students study the rock cycle and different types of rocks; sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks.

Physical sciences

Students begin to classify different forms of energy, and describe the role of energy in causing change in systems, including the role of heat and kinetic energy.

Biological sciences

In Year 8, students are introduced to cells as microscopic structures that explain macroscopic properties of living systems. They link form and function at a cellular level and explore the organization of body systems in terms of flows of matter between interdependent organs.

Chemical sciences

Students explore changes in matter at a particle level, and distinguish between chemical and physical change and between elements, compounds and mixtures.

Assessment Outline

Assessment Task	Outcomes	Date Due	Student score	Max Score	% Weight
SEMESTER 1					
 Science Inquiry					
Task 1 Earth and Space Inquiry	Earth and Space, Science Inquiry Skills	Term 1 Week 4		100	5
 Earth and Space					
Task 2 Earth and Space Test	Earth and Space, Science as a Human Endeavour	Term 1 Week 8		100	20
 Science Inquiry					
Task 3 Chemistry Inquiry	Science Inquiry Skills, Chemical Sciences	Term 2 Week 3		100	5
SEMESTER 2					
 Chemistry					
Task 4 Chemistry Test	Chemical Sciences ,Science Inquiry Skills, Science as a Human Endeavour	Term 2 Week 9		100	20
 Physics					
Task 5 Physics Inquiry	Physical Sciences ,Science Inquiry Skills	Term 3 Week 4		100	5
Task 6 Physics Test	Physical Sciences ,Science Inquiry Skills, Science as a Human Endeavour	Term 3 Week 8		100	15
 Science Inquiry					
Task 7 Student Investigation	Science Inquiry Skills	Term 3 Week 3		100	10
 Biology					
Task 8 Biology Inquiry	Biological Sciences, Science Inquiry Skills	Term 4 Week 3		100	5
Task 9 Biology Test	Biological Sciences, Science Inquiry Skills, Science as a Human Endeavour	Term 4 Week 6		100	10
 Exam					
Task 10 Exam Semester 2	Physical Sciences , Biological Sciences, Science Inquiry Skills, Science as a Human Endeavour	Term 4 Week 6		100	5
Semester 1 % Total Weight 14 weeks					30.0
Semester 2 % Total Weight 26 weeks					70.0
Total Weight					100.0

The above weightings are intended to show the importance of each task. The allocation of a grade at the end of a semester is determined based on grade related descriptors issued by School Curriculum and Standards Authority.