



A division of St. Francis Methodist School

Curriculum Description for Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level

Pre-University (PU) SCIENCE Courses (2007)

The former A level syllabuses are being phased out and being replaced by the new H1 and H2 syllabuses. During this transition, in the Sciences, the PU second year students will continue to sit for the A level exams, while the PU first year students will begin to study the new H1/H2 syllabi.

PU 2 Singapore-Cambridge GCE ADVANCED LEVEL (A level)

For this year (2007), Physics syllabus 9249, Chemistry syllabus 9259, and the Biology syllabus 9286 have replaced the previous 9248, 9258 and 9284 respectively.

This is the first year these papers are being offered, and will be last examined in 2008. They are very similar to the previous syllabuses except in the practical exams.

Scheme of Assessment

	Paper	Type of Paper	Duration	Marks	Weighting
<u>9249</u> <u>PHYSICS</u>	1	Multiple Choice	1 h	30	18.50%
	2	Structured Questions	1 h 45 min	90	27.70%
	3	Longer, Structured Questions	2 h 30 min	110	33.80%
	4	Practical Test #	2 h 30 min	48	20.00%
<u>9259</u> <u>CHEMISTRY</u>	1	Multiple Choice	1 h	40	16.00%
	2	Structured Questions	1 h 30 min	60	24.00%
	3	Free Response Questions	2 h 45 min	100	40.00%
	4	Practical Test #	2 h 30 min	48	20.00%
<u>9286</u> <u>BIOLOGY</u>	1	Multiple Choice	1 h 15 min	40	20.00%
	2	Core Paper *	2 h	100	35.00%
	3	Options Paper *	1 h 30 min	65	25.00%
	4	Practical Test #	2 h 30 min	48	20.00%
		* Short answer questions and free-response questions.			

Paper 4 (48 marks) assesses the science practical skills. It is grouped into four skill areas:

skill A – Planning; skill B – Implementing; skill C – Analysing; skill D – Evaluating.

The practical paper has two sections: Section A: testing skill A, 12 marks, and Section B: testing skills B, C and D, roughly equally weighted to a total of 36 marks. Section B may contain data handling/ interpretation questions that do not require apparatus to test skills C and D.

PU 1 Singapore-Cambridge GCE H1 and H2 syllabuses: The H2 syllabus is a full syllabus comparable in scope to the A-level syllabus. The H1 syllabus covers roughly half the H2 syllabus but to the same depth. It is meant for students who do not intend to pursue the subject further. In principle it is possible for students to take the H1 paper in their first year of study.

The various syllabuses commencing this year are:

	H2 (examined in 2008)	H1 (available in 2007)
PHYSICS	9760	8866
CHEMISTRY	9761	8872
BIOLOGY	9762	8875

Please refer to the SEAB website for more information regarding this course.

<http://www.seab.gov.sg>