

**2021 PSLE FOUNDATION SCIENCE
SUBJECT-BASED STRATEGIES**

Two common mistakes in answering OEQs and how to avoid making them.

Mistake 1:

Merely stating scientific facts and not answering the questions.

Example

Why is Material B the most suitable to make a towel?

“Material B is most suitable as it is not waterproof and is absorbent.”

The answer provided above is merely stating a scientific concept and does not really address why the material makes a good towel.

The student should recraft the answer as follows:

Material B is most suitable as it is not waterproof and is able to absorb water from the skin to dry the person using it easily.

Notice the difference here, as the recrafted answer links the function of the towel to the property of the material.

Mistake 2:

Using Pronouns.

Example

Explain how Organism A and B benefit from having Organism A living on it's back.

“It will benefit from having the organism carrying it around to find food. It will also help to eat up the insects.”

Using “it” here is ambiguous. Does it refer to Organism A or B? This is critical as it changes the meaning of the sentence and the marker will not be able to infer on your behalf.

Instead, write this: “Organism A benefits from having Organism B carry it around to find food. Organism B benefits as the insects on its back are eaten by Organism A.