

2026 PSLE

EXAM REVISION GUIDE

Mathematics • Science • English

FREE

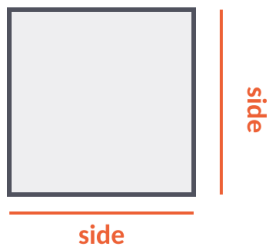
A Revision Guide for PSLE 2026

Key concepts, exam strategies and practice questions for Mathematics, Science and English.

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① MATHEMATICS — THE FORMULA VAULT

Key formulas and facts to revise before the exam.



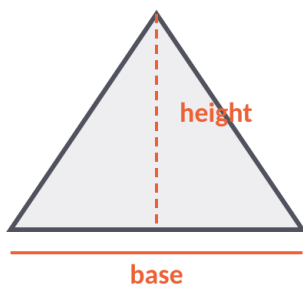
Square

$$\text{Area} = \text{side} \times \text{side}$$



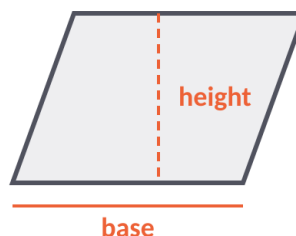
Rectangle

$$\text{Area} = \text{length} \times \text{breadth}$$



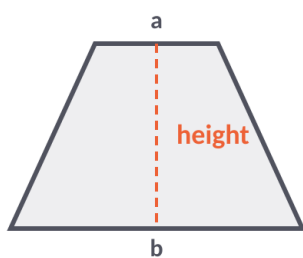
Triangle

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{height}$$



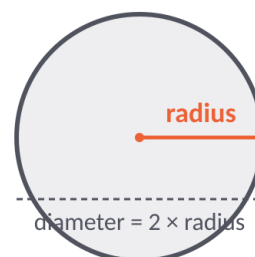
Parallelogram

$$\text{Area} = \text{base} \times \text{height}$$



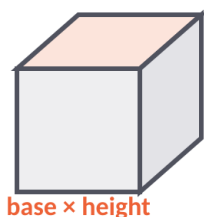
Trapezium

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \times (\text{sum of parallel sides}) \times \text{height}$$



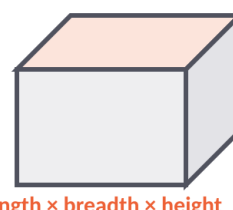
Circle

$$\text{Area} = \pi r^2 \text{ (} r = \text{radius)}; \text{Circumference} = \pi \times \text{diameter}$$



Cube (Volume)

$$\text{Volume} = \text{base} \times \text{height (base = length} \times \text{breadth)}$$



Cuboid (Volume)

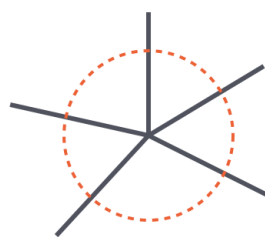
$$\text{Volume} = \text{length} \times \text{breadth} \times \text{height}$$



Add up to 180°

Angles on a Straight Line

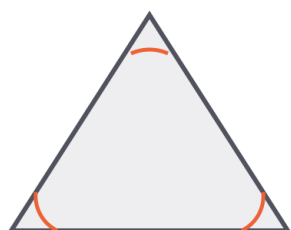
Add up to 180°



Add up to 360°

Angles at a Point

Add up to 360°



Add up to 180°

Angles in a Triangle

Add up to 180°

Topic	Formula / Key Fact
Area of a Square	Area = side $\times$ side
Area of a Rectangle	Area = length $\times$ breadth
Area of a Triangle	Area = $\frac{1}{2} \times$ base $\times$ height
Area of a Parallelogram	Area = base $\times$ height
Area of a Trapezium	Area = $\frac{1}{2} \times$ (sum of parallel sides) $\times$ height
Area of a Circle	Area = πr^2 (r=radius)(use $\pi = 22/7$ or 3.14 as instructed)
Circumference of a Circle	Circumference = $\pi \times$ diameter = $2 \times \pi \times$ radius
Volume of a Cube	Volume = base $\times$ height (base = length $\times$ breadth)
Volume of a Cuboid	Volume = length $\times$ breadth $\times$ height
Perimeter	Perimeter = total distance around a shape (add all sides)
Angles on a straight line	Add up to 180°
Angles at a point	Add up to 360°
Angles in a triangle	Add up to 180°

Topic	Formula / Key Fact
Simplifying Algebraic Expressions	Combine like terms only, e.g. $4x + 5 - 2x + 3 = 2x + 8$
Solving Simple Equations	Do the same operation to both sides, e.g. $3x + 5 = 20 \rightarrow 3x = 15 \rightarrow x = 5$
Average	Average = Total value $\div$ Number of items
Percentage	Percentage = (Part $\div$ Whole) $\times$ 100%

Common Trap ⚠

- Students often mix up base $\times$ height with base $\times$ slant side for triangles and parallelograms — height must always be perpendicular to the base.
- Circle questions: always check whether the given value is the RADIUS or the DIAMETER before substituting into the formula.
- Algebra: only combine 'like terms' (terms with the same letter) — $4x$ and 3 cannot be added together.

① MATHEMATICS — PROBLEM-SOLVING TOOLKIT

Useful Problem-Solving Strategies for PSLE Mathematics. Different problems may require different approaches.

Learn to identify the information given, choose an appropriate strategy and check whether your answer is reasonable.

Heuristic	When & How to Use It
Model / Bar Method 	Draw bars to represent quantities in fraction, ratio and percentage word problems.
Before–After Concept	Used when a quantity changes (e.g. money spent, items transferred). Draw a 'Before' model and an 'After' model, then find what stayed the same (usually the total, or the difference).
Working Backwards	Start from the final answer given in the question and reverse each step, one operation at a time.
Guess & Check (with a table)	For problems with two unknowns — set up a table, guess a value, check if it fits, and adjust systematically.
Listing / Making a Table	Organise possibilities systematically, especially for combination or arrangement questions.
Unitary Method	Find the value of ONE unit first, then scale up — useful for ratio problems.
Forming & Solving Equations	Represent the unknown with a letter, form an equation from the word problem, then solve it.

Exam Strategy 🎯

- Read the question TWICE before picking up the pencil — underline what is given and what is asked.
- For multi-step problems, label each part of the model clearly (e.g. 'A', 'B', '1u') so working can be checked and part-marks awarded.
- Leave 5 minutes at the end of Paper 2 to check your working and re-read word problems for missed conditions (e.g. 'at first', 'in the end').

① MATHEMATICS — TRY IT YOURSELF

Put the formulas and heuristics into practice — including the topics - Circles and Algebra. Work these out on a separate sheet, then check your answers against the Answer Key at the back.

1. A rectangular garden has a length of 12 m and a breadth of 7 m. Find its area and perimeter. [2 marks]

2. The ratio of Ali's money to Ben's money is 3 : 5. If Ali has \$45, how much money does Ben have?

[2 marks]

3. A circular pond has a radius of 7 m. Find its area. (Take $\pi = 22/7$)

[2 marks]

4. Mrs Tan bought 40 apples. She gave $\frac{1}{4}$ of them to her neighbour and sold 60% of the remaining apples. How many apples were left?

[3 marks]

5. Find the area of a triangle with a base of 10 cm and a height of 6 cm.

[1 mark]

6. Simplify $4x + 5 - 2x + 3$. Then find its value when $x = 6$.

[2 marks]

② SCIENCE — THE 5 BIG IDEAS MAP

The Primary Science syllabus can be organised around five broad themes. Use this table to see how topics connect across Primary 3 to 6.

Big Idea	Key Topics Covered
Diversity	Classifying living & non-living things; diversity of materials; diversity of living things (plants & animals)
Cycles	Life cycles of animals & plants; matter — states of matter, water cycle; reproduction in humans, animals & plants
Systems	Plant system (photosynthesis, transport); human digestive, respiratory & circulatory systems; electrical systems (circuits)
Interactions	Forces (magnets, friction, gravity); interactions within the environment (food chains, food webs, adaptations)
Energy	Forms of energy & energy conversion; light (properties, shadows); heat (transfer, expansion)

- Understand concepts instead of memorising isolated facts.
- Practise applying concepts to unfamiliar situations.
- Strengthen scientific inquiry skills.
- Read tables, graphs and experimental setups carefully.
- Explain answers using clear scientific reasoning.

Commonly Confused Pairs

- Mass vs Weight — mass is the amount of matter (kg, does not change); weight is the pull of gravity on mass (N, can change).
- Evaporation vs Boiling — evaporation happens slowly at any temperature, only at the surface; boiling happens quickly throughout the liquid at a fixed temperature.
- Heat vs Temperature — heat is a form of energy that flows; temperature measures how hot or cold something is.
- Herbivore / Carnivore / Omnivore — plant-eaters / meat-eaters / both.

② SCIENCE — DECODING THE COMMAND WORDS

Understanding the command word helps you give an answer that directly addresses the question.

Command Word	What the Examiner Wants
State / Name	Give a short, precise answer — no explanation needed.
Describe	Say what happens, step by step, in your own words.
Explain	Give REASONS — use scientific vocabulary and show cause-and-effect ('...because...').
Compare	Point out both similarities AND differences between two things.
Predict	Use a given pattern or trend to say what will happen next.
Deduce	Use given information/data (not just prior knowledge) to work out an answer.
Aim	To find out how (changed variable) affects (measured variable)
Relationship	Observe and state the relationship between changed and measured variable

Answering Technique

- For 'explain' questions, always link back to the specific scientific concept named in the question stem.
- For experiment-based questions, identify the manipulated variable, responding variable and constant (controlled) variables before answering.
- Use full scientific terms (e.g. 'condensation', not 'the water turns back'), where appropriate. Clear scientific vocabulary helps you communicate your answer precisely.

② SCIENCE — TRY IT YOURSELF

A mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions covering the Big Ideas. Answer in full sentences where required.

1. Which of the following is a non-living thing? (a) Mushroom (b) Coral (c) Rock (d) Grass

[1 mark]

2. State one similarity and one difference between evaporation and boiling.

[2 marks]

3. Name the three states of matter, and give one example of matter changing from one state to another.

[2 marks]

4. In the food chain: Grass → Grasshopper → Frog → Snake, identify the producer and the top predator.

[2 marks]

5. Explain why our shadow is shortest at noon.

[2 marks]

③ ENGLISH — SITUATIONAL WRITING FORMULA

Paper 1 (Writing) carries 50 marks in total: Situational Writing is worth 14 marks and Continuous Writing 36 marks. Situational writing is highly 'scorable' if students follow a clear structure — use the P-A-F-C-T checklist below every time.

Checklist Item	What To Do
Purpose (Why)	Identify why you're writing — to inform, request, invite, apologise, complain, etc.
Audience (Who)	Adjust tone: formal for a principal/stranger, friendly-but-respectful for a friend or relative.
Format	Include salutation, all content points, and an appropriate sign-off (e.g. 'Yours sincerely' for formal letters/emails).
Content Points	Cover EVERY bullet point given in the question. Use the information and task requirements in the question carefully. Where the task requires you to contribute your own relevant ideas, make sure your ideas are clear, appropriate and well developed.
Tone & Register	Stay consistent — do not slip into overly casual language in a formal piece, or vice versa.

Quick Format Reminder

- Email/Letter: Salutation → Opening line stating purpose → Body (all content points, organised logically) → Closing line → Sign-off & Name.
- Always re-read the question TWICE to extract all required content points before writing.

Composition Checklist

- Consider beginning in a way that engages the reader and suits the topic
- Show, don't tell: replace 'I was scared' with physical details ('My hands trembled; my heart pounded.')
- Use dialogue purposefully when it helps to develop character, action or tension.
- Build a clear story arc: situation → complication → climax → resolution → reflection.
- Vary sentence length and use precise nouns/verbs instead of overused words like 'nice', 'good', 'said'.

Synthesis & Transformation — Key Structures

Structure	Example / Notes
although / even though	Shows contrast within one sentence — Although it rained, the match continued.
so ... that	Shows result/consequence — He was so tired that he fell asleep instantly.
too ... to	Shows something is not possible — She was too shy to speak up.
not only ... but also	Adds emphasis to two points — He is not only smart but also hardworking.
as soon as	Shows immediate sequence — As soon as the bell rang, the students rushed out.
despite / in spite of	Followed by a NOUN or gerund (verb+ing), not a full clause.
neither ... nor	Shows that two things are both not true / do not happen— Neither Tom nor Jack was...
Either ... or	Shows a choice between two possibilities—You can either take the bus or..

③ ENGLISH — TRY IT YOURSELF

Part A: Synthesis & Transformation

Rewrite each pair of sentences as ONE sentence, using the word(s) given. Do not change the meaning.

1. Tom is very tired. He cannot continue the race. (too ... to) [1 mark]

2. Sarah studied hard. She passed the exam with flying colours. (so ... that) [1 mark]

3. It rained heavily. The match continued. (although) [1 mark]

4. He is smart. He is also hardworking. (not only ... but also) [1 mark]

Part B: Situational Writing Practice

Your school is organising a Recycling Day. Write an email to your classmates encouraging them to take part. In your email, you should include:

- what the event is about
- when and where it will be held
- ONE additional relevant reason why your classmates should join

Use the P-A-F-C-T checklist from the earlier page to plan your email before you write. Make sure your ideas are relevant to the task and audience.

① Mathematics

1. Area = $12 \times 7 = 84 \text{ m}^2$; Perimeter = $2 \times (12 + 7) = 38 \text{ m}$
2. 3 units = \$45, so 1 unit = \$15. Ben has 5 units = \$75.
3. Area = $\pi \times r \times r = 22/7 \times 7 \times 7 = 154 \text{ m}^2$
4. Gave away $1/4 \times 40 = 10$ apples, remainder = 30. Sold $60\% \times 30 = 18$. Left = $30 - 18 = 12$ apples.
5. Area = $\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 6 = 30 \text{ cm}^2$
6. $4x + 5 - 2x + 3 = 2x + 8$. When $x = 6$: $2(6) + 8 = 20$.

② Science

1. (c) Rock
2. Similarity: both change a liquid into a gas. Difference: evaporation happens slowly, at any temperature, only at the surface of the liquid; boiling happens quickly, at a fixed temperature, throughout the liquid.
3. Solid, liquid and gas — e.g. ice (solid) melting into water (liquid).
4. Producer: Grass. Top predator: Snake.
5. At noon, the sun is directly overhead, so light rays hit objects from almost straight above, producing the shortest shadow.

③ English — Synthesis & Transformation

1. Tom is too tired to continue the race.
2. Sarah studied so hard that she passed the exam with flying colours.
3. Although it rained heavily, the match continued.
4. He is not only smart but also hardworking.

Note for Situational Writing

- There is no single 'correct' answer for Part B — mark your child's email against the Content Points, Format and Tone criteria on the Situational Writing page.

④ EXAM STRATEGY — PSLE ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS (AL)

Each subject score is converted into an Achievement Level (AL). The PSLE Score is the SUM of the ALs for all 4 subjects (lower total = better), ranging from 4 (best) to 32.

Achievement Level	Raw Mark Range (%)
AL 1	90 – 100
AL 2	85 – 89
AL 3	80 – 84
AL 4	75 – 79
AL 5	65 – 74
AL 6	45 – 64
AL 7	20 – 44
AL 8	Below 20

PSLE does not use a pass/fail system. Each subject is awarded an Achievement Level (AL), and the four subject ALs are added to form the PSLE Score.

Final-Week Checklist

- Redo past mistakes — go through corrections from school & assessment books, not just new questions.
- Time yourself on at least one full past-year paper per subject under exam conditions.
- Sleep and nutrition matter — a well-rested brain outperforms one more hour of last-minute cramming.
- Pack exam-day essentials the night before: extra pencils, eraser, ruler, calculator (if allowed), water bottle.

Wishing every student all the best for PSLE 2026!

EduFirst Learning Centre