

THE **ANSWER** SERIES

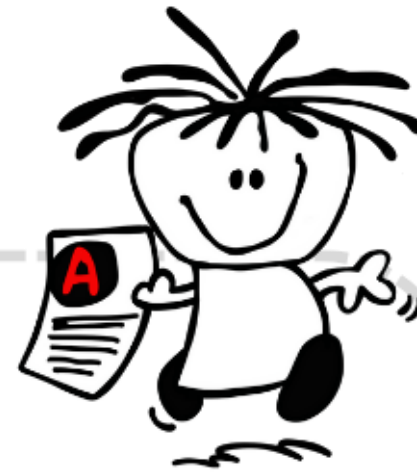
ATP & LESSON PLANNER

CONTENT, TRACKER & RESOURCES

GRADE

8

Natural Sciences



A **one-stop-teaching-tool** created by combining:

- the official DBE ATP
- The **Answer Series** Natural Sciences Class Text & Study Guide
- **TAS** resources
- curated online resources
- shared resources from our **TAS** WhatsApp Teacher Community

2026



Keep track of your curricular progress here ↓

ACADEMIC WEEKS	CAPS TOPIC	CORE CONTENT & PAGE NUMBERS		SUGGESTED EXERCISES	POSSIBLE PRACTICAL TASKS / CONSOLIDATION	DATE CONTENT WAS COMPLETED	
		Based on The Answer Series Gr 8 Natural Sciences 3-in-1 Class Text & Study Guide					
WEEK 1 14 – 16 Jan	Scientific Method 3 school days	Scientific Investigation	p. iii – vii	- Work through the ‘Worked Example of a Scientific Investigation Question’ with learners on p. vi – vii			
		Representing data: Tables and graphs	p. viii – xi	- Use these resources from our webinar to teach scientific investigations (Watch the webinar here)			
WEEK 2 & 3 19 – 30 Jan Lesson plan Lesplan	Photosynthesis and Respiration 10 school days 22% of term test on all topics*  Watch on YouTube	Photosynthesis and Respiration Introduction	p. 2		Watch The Answer Series Videos on this topic on YouTube: English playlist here Afrikaans playlist here Eng & Afr Worksheets here Observe Photosynthesis with this easy activity Do an iodine starch test of ripe vs unripe bananas here (Prac) - Do a virtual test for starch here - Prac investigation: ENG & ENG MEMO AFR & AFR MEMO - Virtual Photosynthesis Practical here Fun way to teach Respiration – Activity Idea - Simulation to compare these processes in plants/animals - Here is a useful printout summary for learners: ENG AFR - Here is a useful revision exercise for learners: ENG AFR - Complete this self-marking quiz		
		Photosynthesis – Living organisms and the sun	p. 3				
		Photosynthesis – The process	p. 4 – 5	p. 53: Q2			
		Storage and use of glucose	p. 5 – 6	p. 54: Q4			
		The site of photosynthesis	p. 6				
		The importance of photosynthesis	p. 6	p. 54: Q5			
		Testing for the presence of starch	p. 7	p. 54: Q3			
		Respiration – Energy from Food	p. 8				
		Respiration – The process	p. 8 – 9				
		The importance of respiration	p. 9	p. 55/56: Q6 – Q8			
		Testing for the presence of carbon dioxide	p. 9	p. 56: Q9			
		Comparison between Photosynthesis and Respiration	p. 10	p. 53: Q1			
WEEK 4 – 8 2 Feb – 6 Mar Lesson plan 1 Lesplan 1 Lesson plan 2 Lesplan 2	Interactions and Interdependence within the Environment 25 school days 56% of term test on all topics*	Introduction to ecology	p. 11		Not all shared resources are TAS creations – some are shared contributions from our Teacher WhatsApp group. 		
		Levels of ecology	p. 12 – 13	p. 58: Q2 & Q3			
		Ecosystem components – Biotic and abiotic	p. 14 – 16	p. 59: Q4; p. 60: Q6			
		Environmental interactions	p. 17	p. 60: Q7 & Q8			
		Feeding relationships – Producers	p. 18				
		Feeding relationships – Consumers	p. 18 – 19				
		Feeding relationships – Decomposers	p. 19 – 20				
		Energy flow: Food chains	p. 21 – 23	p. 61: Q9			
		Energy flow: Energy pyramids	p. 23 – 24				
		Energy flow: Food webs	p. 25 – 26	p. 62/63: Q10 – Q13			
		Balance in the Ecosystem – Natural factors	p. 26 – 27				
		Balance in the Ecosystem – Human factors	p. 27 – 29	p. 63: Q14; p. 66: Q20			
		Adaptations – Structural, functional, behavioural	p. 29 – 32	p. 65: Q18			
		Adaptations – Examples in plants and animals	p. 33 – 36	p. 59: Q5; p. 64: Q15 – Q17; p.66: Q19			
		Conservation of the ecosystem	p. 37 – 38	p. 57: Q1; p. 66: Q21			
WEEK 9 & 10 9 – 20 March Lesson plan Lesplan	Microorganisms 10 school days 22% of term test on all topics*	Types of microorganisms – Introduction	p. 39 – 40		Watch these useful videos for introduction: video 1 and video 2 Video on bacterial communities Video on how to grow bacteria Watch an amoeba eat here Watch protists move about here - Read-up on some interesting things fungi can do: here and here - Watch this interesting video about the zombie fungus <i>cordyceps</i> Download this slide show exercise and try to identify the microbes Interactive size scale here Fun activity to teach learners about germs on p. 46 Watch this useful video on the history of handwashing Watch this useful video on how cholera spreads Investigate the growth of yeast p. 51 – 52 (Prac)		
		Types of microorganisms – Bacteria	p. 41				
		Types of microorganisms – Protists	p. 41				
		Types of microorganisms – Fungi	p. 42				
		Types of microorganisms – Viruses	p. 43				
		Summary of the microorganisms	p. 44	p. 67: Q2			
		Calculating size (not in ATP)	p. 45	p. 68: Q3			
		Harmful microorganisms	p. 46 – 47				
		Diseases caused by microorganisms – TB	p. 47				
		Diseases caused by microorganisms – AIDS	p. 47 – 48	p. 69: Q6			
		Diseases caused by microorganisms – Malaria	p. 48				
		Diseases caused by microorganisms – Waterborne	p. 49	p. 68/69: Q4 & Q5			
		Useful microorganisms	p. 50 – 51				
		Investigate the growth of yeast	p. 51 – 52	p. 67: Q1; p. 70: Q7			
WEEK 11 23 – 27 March	Time for consolidation and revision – TERM 1 REVISION ENG AFR			Formal assessments: TASK 1 – Practical (min 20) TASK 2 – Test (min 30)			



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ACADEMIC WEEKS	CAPS TOPIC	CORE CONTENT & PAGE NUMBERS		SUGGESTED EXERCISES	POSSIBLE PRACTICAL TASKS / CONSOLIDATION	DATE CONTENT WAS COMPLETED	
		Based on The Answer Series Gr 8 Natural Sciences 3-in-1 Class Text & Study Guide					
WEEK 1 8 – 10 April Lesson plan Lesplan	Introduction to Periodic Table of Elements 3 school days	Revise the Periodic Table of Elements: arrangement of elements on the PT; some properties of metals, semi-metals & non-metals	p. 73 – 74	p. 123: Q2 & Q3	- Download and/or study the Periodic Table of elements in various forms AND interactive game here - Periodic Table (high res) download with pictures and/or words here		
WEEK 2 & 3 13 – 24 April Lesson plan Lesplan	Atoms 10 school days 33% of term test on all topics*  Watch on YouTube	The building blocks of matter	p. 72		- Free worksheets with memos on the atomic structure and periodic table here		
		Atoms & Elements	p. 72		Watch The Answer Series Videos on this topic on YouTube: English playlist here Afrikaans playlist here English & Afrikaans Worksheets here		
		Subatomic particles – structure of an atom	p. 75	p. 124: Q4 & 5			
		Subatomic particles – atoms are neutral	p. 76	NOTE Questions are suggested according to when learners will be able to do them.		- Make a model of an atom p. 76 (Activity) - Build an atom interactive activity here - Take an interactive walk through an atom’s structure here	
		Pure substances – molecules	p. 77			- Build a molecule interactive activity here - Simple idea for an activity to build molecules here	
		Pure substances – elements	p. 77 – 78				
		Pure substances – compounds	p. 79 – 80	p. 124: Q6	Make models of molecules p. 80 (Activity)		
		Separating pure substances	p. 81				
		Separating pure substances – electrolysis	p. 82	p. 127: Q11	Investigate decomposition through electrolysis p. 82 (Prac) – worksheets: ENG MEMO		
		Separating pure substances – heat	p. 83	p. 125: Q7	Investigate decomposition through heat p. 83 (Prac)		
		Mixtures of elements & compounds	p. 83 – 84	p. 126: Q8 & 9	Watch this video on mixtures		
		Comparison of elements, compounds and mixtures	p. 84	p. 126: Q10			
		Topic summary	p. 85	p. 123: Q1			
WEEK 4 – 8 28 Apr – 29 May Lesson plan 1 Lesplan 1 Lesson plan 2 Lesplan 2 Lesson plan 3 Lesplan 3 Lesson plan 4 Lesplan 4 Lesson plan 5 Lesplan 5	Particle Model of Matter 23 school days 56% of term test on all topics*	The concept of the particle model of matter	p. 86	p. 128: Q2			
		States of matter – solids, liquids & gases	p. 87 – 88		- Interactive states of matter activities here and here - Watch this useful video about the 3 phases of matter		
		Diffusion as a property of matter	p. 88 – 90	p. 130: Q9	- Investigate diffusion in gases p. 89 (Prac) - Investigate diffusion in liquids p. 90 (Prac)		
		Summary of the properties of the states of matter	p. 91	p. 128: Q3	Recap the nature of matter with this interactive walk-through		
		Change of state	p. 92 – 95	p. 128/129: Q4 – Q8	- Investigate change of state p. 95 (Prac) – worksheets: ENG & MEMO AFR & MEMO - Interactive change of state activity here and here - Watch this useful video on changes of state		
		Mass	p. 96				
		Volume	p. 96 – 97		- Investigate mass, volume & density PART 1 p. 98 (Prac) - Perform a virtual practical using this lab		
		The relationship between mass & volume	p. 98 – 99		- Listen to the mass, volume, density song here		
		Density	p. 99 – 104	p. 130/131: Q10 & Q11	- Investigate mass, volume & density PART 2 p. 103 (Prac) - Perform a virtual practical using this lab		
		Density of the states of matter	p. 104 – 105		Interactive density & states of matter activity here		
		Density of different materials	p. 105 – 106	p. 131/132: Q12 & Q13	- Watch this video on density		
		Floating & sinking	p. 106 – 107	p. 132/133: Q14 – Q17	- Investigate floating & sinking p. 107 (Prac) - Densities of different materials p. 108 (Activity & Prac) - Floating egg density experiment here and here		
		Expansion & contraction of materials	p. 109 – 111	p. 133: Q18; p. 135: Q21	Investigate expansion & contraction p. 111 (Prac)		
		Pressure	p. 112 – 113	p. 135/136: Q22 & Q23	The effects of pressure p. 113 (Activity) Investigate the relationship between gas pressure & temperature here		
		Topic summary	p. 114	p. 127: Q1; p. 134: Q19 & Q20			

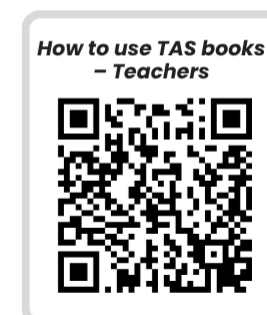
NOTE
Not all shared resources are TAS creations – some are shared contributions from our Teacher WhatsApp group.

WEEK 9 1 – 5 June Lesson plan Lesplan	Chemical Reactions 5 school days 11% of term test on all topics*	Physical changes to matter	p. 115		Play this interactive game to test your understanding of the differences between physical and chemical changes to matter - Investigate a chemical reaction PART 1 p. 120, PART 2 p. 121 (Prac) - Interactive reactants, products and leftover simulation here - Download MANY free worksheets with memos on writing word equations here Watch this video on six chemical reactions that changed history	
		Chemical changes to matter	p. 116	p. 136: Q2		
		Reactants & products	p. 117 – 121	p. 137/138: Q3 – Q7		
		Useful chemical reactions	p. 122	p. 136: Q1; p. 138: Q8		
WEEK 10 – 12 8 – 26 June Lesson plan Lesplan	Time for consolidation and revision – TERM 2 REVISION ENG & MEMO AFR & MEMO				Formal assessments: TASK 3 – Practical (min 20) TASK 4 – Test (min 30)	

*Calculated based on teaching time in weeks divided by total teaching time for all topics, e.g. Chemical reactions = $1/9 \times 100 = 11\%$; Introduction of the Periodic Table of Elements in week 1 forms part of the mark weighting for the topic ATOMS

See a wide variety of chemistry posters (and others) to download [here](#)

IN NEED OF SOME TAS MAGIC?



THE ANSWER SERIES

Gr 8 Natural Sciences (CAPS) 3-in-1



Gr 8 Natuurwetenskappe (KABV) 3-in-1





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		<i>Based on The Answer Series Gr 8 Natural Sciences 3-in-1 Class Text & Study Guide</i>				
WEEK 1 21 – 24 Jul Lesson plan Lesplan	Static Electricity 4 school days 12% of term test on all topics*  Watch on YouTube	Friction and static electricity introduction	p. 140	Afrikaans videos will be released by end of TERM 2.	Watch The Answer Series Videos on this topic on YouTube: English playlist here English & Afrikaans Worksheets here	
		Subatomic particles cause electric charge	p. 140			
		Friction transfers electrons	p. 141 – 142			
		Static electricity	p. 142 – 143		Simulate static discharge here	
		Charged objects influence each other	p. 144 – 145		Interactive simulation on balloons and static electricity here	
		Attraction of a neutral object	p. 145 – 146			
		Summary of static electricity	p. 146			
WEEK 2 – (½) WEEK 4 27 Jul – 12 Aug Lesson plan 1 Lesplan 1 Lesson plan 2 Lesplan 2	Energy Transfer in Electrical Systems 12 school days 29% of term test on all topics*	Circuits and current electricity – a simple circuit	p. 147 – 148	NOTE Questions are suggested according to when learners will be able to do them.	NOTE Not all shared resources are TAS creations – some are shared contributions from our Teacher WhatsApp group.	
		Components of a circuit – cells and batteries	p. 148 – 150			
		Components of a circuit – conducting wires	p. 150			
		Components of a circuit – resistors	p. 150 – 151			
		Components of a circuit – light bulbs	p. 151 – 152			
		Summary of the symbols used in circuit diagrams	p. 152			
		How to draw a circuit diagram – worked example	p. 153			
		Effects of an electric circuit – heating	p. 154 – 157			
		Effects of an electric circuit – magnetic	p. 158 – 161			
		Effects of an electric circuit – chemical	p. 161 – 162			
(½) WEEK 4 – (½) WEEK 6 13 – 28 Aug Lesson plan Lesplan	Series and Parallel Circuits 12 school days 24% of term test on all topics*	Series circuits	p. 164		Construct circuits using this interactive simulation	
		Adding cells in series	p. 164		Investigate cells in series (Prac) p. 165	
		Adding resistors in series	p. 165 – 169		Investigate resistors in series (Prac) p. 168	
		Parallel circuits	p. 169			
		Adding resistors in parallel	p. 170 – 173		Investigate resistors in parallel (Prac) p. 172	
		Compare series and parallel circuits	p. 174			
		Metals in circuits	p. 174 – 175		Investigate how different metals conduct electricity (Prac) p. 175	
		Other output devices	p. 176			
		The history of electricity in South Africa (not in ATP)	p. 177			
WEEK 7 – 9 31 Aug – 18 Sept Lesson plan 1 Lesplan 1 Lesson plan 2 Lesplan 2 Lesson plan 3 Lesplan 3	Visible Light 15 school days 35% of term test on all topics*	Careers in electricity (not in ATP)	p. 178		Interactive game – test learner knowledge on circuit connections here	
		Radiation of light	p. 178 – 179			
		Light travels in straight lines	p. 179 – 180		Activity: construct a pinhole camera (Prac) p. 179	
		Wavelength and frequency	p. 181			
		Spectrum of visible light	p. 181 – 184		Investigate the dispersion of white light with a prism (Prac) p. 183	
		Opaque and transparent substances	p. 184 – 187		Investigate the formation of shadows (Prac) p. 186	
		Absorption of light	p. 187 – 189		Investigate how we see the colours of light with this interactive simulation	
		Reflection of light	p. 189 – 192		Investigate the reflection of light (Prac) p. 191	
		Seeing light	p. 192 – 193		Simulate how the eye sees here	
		Refraction of light	p. 193 – 197		Investigate light refraction using this interactive simulation	
WEEK 10 21 – 23 Sept	Time for consolidation and revision – TERM 3 REVISION ENG & MEMO AFR & MEMO			Formal assessments: TASK 5 – Project (any content from Term 1 to 4 @ min 30 marks) TASK 6 – Test (Term 3 content only @ min 30 marks)		

*Calculated based on teaching time in weeks divided by total teaching time for all topics, e.g. Static electricity = $1/8.5 \times 100 = 12\%$

GR 8

Suggested change to DBE ATP: reduced time to teach each topic to allow enough time for end-of-year examinations. There should be enough time to teach the content either way.

GET CAPS docs

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Resources for GET Cognitive Analysis



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		Based on The Answer Series Gr 8 Natural Sciences 3-in-1 Class Text & Study Guide				
WEEK 1 & 2 6 – 16 Oct Lesson plan Lesplan	The Solar system <i>10 school days</i>  Watch on YouTube	The sun – organising the universe	p. 219 – 220	p. 242: Q2	Watch The Answer Series Videos on this topic on YouTube: English playlist here English & Afrikaans Worksheets here - Interactively explore our solar system and its planets here - ENRICHMENT: Watch how earth is protected from asteroids here - Look at some impact craters on Earth’s surface here ENRICHMENT: explore the conditions of other Earth-like planets here <i>Afrikaans videos will be released by end of TERM 3.</i>	
		Objects around the sun – planets; dwarf planets; moons; asteroids; meteors and meteorites; comets	p. 220 – 227	p. 242/244: Q3 – Q6		
		Earth’s position in the solar system	p. 227	p. 242: Q1; p. 244: Q7		
WEEK 3 19 – 23 Oct	Beyond the solar system <i>5 school days</i>	The Milky Way Galaxy	p. 228 – 229	p. 245: Q2	Take a tour through the Milky Way Galaxy here	
		Our nearest star	p. 230	p. 245: Q3		
		Light years, hours and minutes	p. 231 – 232	p. 246: Q4 – Q6	- Download and play this slideshow to see the universe organised from the biggest to the smallest distance - Watch this video on light years, hours and minutes	
		Beyond the Milky Way Galaxy	p. 233	p. 245: Q1	 NOTE Not all shared resources are TAS creations – some are shared contributions from our Teacher WhatsApp group.	
WEEK 4 26 – 30 Oct	Looking into Space <i>5 school days</i>	Early viewing of space – stars in the night sky	p. 233 – 234			
		Constellations	p. 234 – 237	p. 247/248: Q2 & Q3	- How do we study stars? Watch here - Study more star maps from Iziko Museum here	
		Telescopes – the basics	p. 237 – 238		ENRICHMENT: download awesome posters of the space telescopes here	
		Optical telescopes	p. 238 – 240	p. 249/250: Q4 & Q5	- How Hubble changed astronomy – watch here - How Hubble images are made – watch here - The SALT – watch here	
		Radio telescopes	p. 241	p. 247: Q1; p. 250: Q6	What is the purpose of the SKA? – watch here	
WEEK 5 2 – 6 Nov	Time for consolidation & revision <i>5 school days</i>				Practice Exam: ENG & MEMO AFR & MEMO	
WEEK 6 – 10 9 Nov – 9 Dec	Final Exams	Formal assessments: TASK 7 – Exam (60% Term 3 content and 40% Term 4 content @ min 50 marks)				

NOTE

- The final exam must cover TERM 3 and 4 content.
- The content of TERM 3 must be equivalent to 60% of the paper.
- The content of TERM 4 must be equivalent to 40% of the paper.
- Also, remember to calculate the % weighting for each topic, based on the amount of teaching time to ensure that the content is not over/under assessed.
- The accompanying table shows an **example** for the mark allocation per topic if the exam were out of **90 marks**.

	TOPIC	% of paper	ATP teaching time	Mark allocation $\frac{\text{teaching weeks}}{\text{total weeks}} \times \text{number of marks}$
TERM 3	Static electricity	60% of the paper <i>i.e. 54 marks</i>	1 week	± 6 marks
	Energy Transfer in Electrical Systems		2.5 weeks	± 16 marks
	Serial and Parallel Circuits		2 weeks	± 13 marks
	Visible Light		3 weeks	± 19 marks
	TOTAL:		8.5 weeks	
TERM 4	The Solar System	40% of the paper <i>i.e. 36 marks</i>	2 weeks	± 18 marks
	Beyond the Solar System		1 week	± 9 marks
	Looking into Space		1 week	± 9 marks
	TOTAL:		4 weeks	

$$\frac{1}{8.5} \times 54$$