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## **Extension of Circuit Breaker Period – Updates on Lesson Plans from 5 May to 1 June 2020**

Dear Parents,

In view of the announcement to extend centre closure for all tuition and enrichment centres till 1 June 2020, and the latest announcement by MOE on reduction of topics tested in PSLE 2020, we would like to share with you the adjustments that will be made in response to the abovementioned measures.

### **(A) Online weekly lessons via ZOOM in replacement of in-class sessions**

We will be continuing with our weekly online lessons via ZOOM, which have been going on smoothly so far. A second set of hardcopy lesson materials will be mailed to you to support the online lessons till 1 June. **Please inform us of the FULL mailing address via Whatsapp by 26 April 2020.**

### **(B) Adjustment of lesson curriculum**

As announced by MOE, the following topics will not be tested in the coming PSLE Science 2020:

- (i) Living together
- (ii) Food chains & food webs
- (iii) Adaptations
- (iv) Man's impact on the environment



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In response to the above announcement, we will not be teaching these topics in our weekly lessons, and will embark on PSLE revision instead. Our PSLE revision programme comprises of 2 components:

- Weekly tuition lessons that will focus on general revision of P3 to P6 topics. During these weekly lessons, students will be engaged in a combination of independent work, class discussion, and timed Mock Exams.
- PSLE Science Intensive Revision Workshop that comprises of 10 online sessions via ZOOM, each lasting 3 hours. With the removal of the majority of the P6 topics, more questions and marks in the PSLE Science paper will be allocated to the past year topics. Hence, these 10 sessions will cover every topic from P3 to P5 in detail, and focus on the more challenging application level questions. During the workshop, the participants will be exposed to a wide variety of topic-related open-ended questions and emphasis will be on the understanding of key concepts and application of answering techniques. They will also be exposed to the various formats that questions have been set in PSLE.

Full details of the workshop has been attached here. Please take some time to read through it carefully and discuss with your child if he or she is keen on the workshop.

## **PSLE SCIENCE INTENSIVE REVISION WORKSHOP 2020**

Dear parents,

The registration for the PSLE Science Intensive Revision Workshop is now open. You may register online via our website [www.tinkerlab.com.sg](http://www.tinkerlab.com.sg) starting from **25 April 2020 to 9 May 2020**. Registration is open to existing students at Tinkerlab, as well as the public, and placement is strictly on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Registration is strictly done via online. Reservation cannot be done through SMS, Whatsapp and phone calls. A vacancy will only be reserved for your child upon receiving confirmation through full payment. All payment made will be strictly non-refundable, so please make sure your child is able to attend before registering and making payment.

Kindly note that weekly tuition will be conducted as usual at the usual tuition timings and will not clash or overlap in content with the workshop materials. The revision workshop is **OPTIONAL** and covers past year topics from P3 to P5.

### ***Details of PSLE Science Intensive Revision Workshop***

#### **Dates:**

- Workshop Part 1 on Physical Science: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 May 2020
- Workshop Part 2 on Life Science: 19, 20, 21, 22 May 2020

#### **Sessions available: (\* Min. 5 to start a class)**

- 9am – 12.15pm (Mdm. Tan)
- 10am – 1.15pm (Mr. Allan)
- 1.00pm – 4.15pm (Mdm. Tan)

#### **Fee for 30-hr workshop:**

- \$920 nett (Usual price at \$1050 nett)

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: What will you be covering for this workshop?**

A: We will be doing a thorough revision for ALL the topics from Primary 3 to Primary 5. Primary 6 topics are covered in our weekly tuition class, so it will not be included in the workshop. However, MCQ revision tests for P6 topics are available on our portal.

**Q: How will your workshop be conducted?**

A: The PSLE paper is divided into 2 main parts – Life Science and Physical Science. This is why our workshop is conducted over 2 weeks – one week to revise Life Sciences topics, and one week to revise Physical Sciences topics.

Each day, we will focus on a specific topic or a group of closely related topics. Our workshop will focus on tackling the open-ended questions in the Science Booklet B.

The open-ended questions will be practised in the online class during the course of the 10-day workshop. There will be a wide range of question types and the instructor will highlight key concepts and specific answering techniques through discussion of the questions compiled inside. All questions will be completed in class so that the remaining time after the workshop can be used for the revision of other subjects.

**Q: Can I sign up for only a few days or just one week?**

A: Due to the limited number of classes and our policy of keeping the class size small, we are only able to accept participants who can attend all the 10 days of revision.

However, if the demand for a revision workshop just on Physical Sciences topics is high and instructor is available, we will consider opening up a separate class just for this group of pupils.

**Q: What happens if my child does not attend certain sessions? Will there be a refund or makeup session?**

A: Workshop fees that are paid is strictly non-refundable, as the vacancy has been reserved for your child fully for the 10 days. Please ensure that your child's schedule can fit before signing up. If your child has other workshops on certain days, he or she can attend a makeup session in the other time slots.

### Q: Why is your workshop so expensive?

A: The cost of our workshop seems high due to the high number of hours (30 hours) we spend and we limit the class size so that your child will get optimum attention and opportunity to discuss and ask questions during the workshop. The amount of practice we provide is also immense, for at the end of the workshop, your child would have practised close to 200 exam-type open-ended questions, all with detailed explanations and guidance provided. This is equivalent to having done 20 sets of full practice papers.

There are many other PSLE-related workshops and boot camps, and each differs in terms of:

- *Duration – number of sessions and how long each session lasts (E.g. 2 hours each day for 4 days vs. 8 full hours completed in one day)*
- *Format of workshop – Will written exercises be given and marked for assessment, or is it just a lecture-style workshop where instructor talks and gives examples and notes? Will there be active discussion or passive listening during the workshop?*
- *Qualification and experience of instructors*
- *Quantity and quality of revision materials*
- *Whether training of exam skills is integrated and practised or just verbal sharing of exam skills*

Due to the many differences that all these workshops may have, it is unfair to compare solely based on total costs. All other qualitative factors aside, our workshop rate is the same as our weekly tuition rate of \$30/hr, and a 30-hour workshop is equivalent to 15 more weekly lessons (1.5 term of lessons). The workshop cost in previous years has always been \$1050. We have given a discount of \$130 this year in view of the current situation.

We have made a conscious effort not to overcharge and take the easy way out by competing at lower costs through conducting shorter easier workshops that will require less resources and time commitment on our part, or increasing the class size to increase revenue. We strongly believe that there are no short cuts and quick fixes in learning, and the only way to improve is to practise and practise.

Q: Can I skip this revision workshop and just rely on the revision during weekly tuition classes when school reopens?

A: This workshop is optional, but you **MUST** plan an alternative revision regime for your child if you are not signing him or her up. A structured revision plan is a **MUST** and it should not be just reading notes. This one-month vacation is the only period your child has to indulge in topic by topic revision on what he or she has learnt over the past 3 years. After school reopens and prelim exam results happen to be unfavourable, there will not be enough time for effective remediation.

From our past experiences, pupils who missed the revision workshop tends to fare more poorly in the weekly tuition revision mock exams in term 3, as they are not prepared, and that demoralises them and affects their self-confidence. It also limits the benefits of those mock exams as many end up not revising much during the one-month holiday on their own. Hence, it is of utmost importance that you work closely and effectively with your child during the holiday if he or she prefers to self-study than attend workshops. Attending our workshop is optional, but a thorough revision this holiday is a **MUST**.

Q: Can my child skip attending this revision workshop but purchase the revision booklets for the open-ended questions?

A: Hard copies of our revision booklets will not be available for sale.

Q: Can my child skip attending this revision workshop but do the top school exam papers as practice, and get the instructors to mark and go through separately?

A: During this period, the instructors will be having workshops and classes from 9am to 9pm, we would not be able to provide other customized services. We seek your kind understanding in this matter.