



27 February 2015

The Editor
Forum Page
The Straits Times

Dear Editor

NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS ARE ALIGNED TO THE SCHOOL SYLLABUS

1. We refer to the Straits Times article, “Memorising answers won’t score you the As” (Home, B1, 25 February 2015) which quoted Mr. Sean Chua that last year’s O-Level Chemistry paper had included questions based on the A-Level Chemistry syllabus. We wish to clarify that this is factually incorrect.

2. We would like to clarify that all questions set in the national examinations are aligned to the syllabus that the students are being taught in schools. Students will not be examined beyond what is covered in the O-level syllabus. Mr. Chua’s misconception is likely due to the perception that questions testing the application of concepts in a different context are outside of what are being taught in school. In such application questions, candidates will be provided with sufficient background information. They will not need to have factual knowledge beyond the syllabus to answer these questions. Students are tested on their understanding of concepts and skills they have learnt in the O-level syllabus, and their ability to apply what they have learnt in the context given.

3. We thank you for the opportunity to clarify.

Ms Tan Lay Choo
Chief Executive
Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board

