

Q & A from the Secondary IV Science (ST & AST) Exam Sessions
- May 2022 and April 2023 -

Q. Is there anything specifically that we need to bring into the exam?

- A. Students must bring **HB pencils**. Students may also bring and use a ruler and a calculator. If the calculator has memory capacity, they will need to make sure that it is erased. Bring an extra of anything that you need, for example 2 simple calculators, 2 pencils. Make sure to bring a calculator that you are used to using. Please look at the Student Checklist at learnquebec.ca/examprep for more info.

Q. What about a 2B pencil. Will that be ok?

- A. The guide for the exam specifies an HB pencil, so bring at least 2 HB pencils to be safe. DO NOT take a chance and bring another kind of pencil.

Q. You showed a chart with all of the topics for the year. Where can I find this information?

- A. The chart that shows all of the topics for the school year is found in the Exam [Information Document](#) linked to on the Exam Prep. page. The chart lists the compulsory concepts which may be tested in a particular year.

Please note the **title** carefully when looking at the compulsory concepts charts because the same Information Document contains information about BOTH Science and Technology (ST) and Applied Science and Technology (AST).

The scope of each concept found on the Compulsory Concepts list is better defined in the Progression of Learning, linked to at learnquebec.ca/examprep .

Q. Are there going to be part marks for Parts B and C?

- A. Yes, part marks are possible for those sections. Even if you get part of the question wrong, but you are able to show that you understood part of it, or the concepts behind it, you can get some of the 4 marks for the question. Put something down, something that you may remember. Leave nothing blank!

Q. Will this exam cover everything learned in the year?

- A. Always refer back to the *Progression of Learning* (link in the resources from the Ministère de l'Éducation). The Exam Information Document also lists the Compulsory Concepts on which students may be tested. Rest assured that if a topic does not appear on these lists, whether it's for the ST Exam or the AST Exam, it will not be on the exam.

Q. Can you provide any information regarding the lab exam?

- A. The lab exam is not a uniform exam from the Ministère de l'Éducation so the evaluation may vary depending on the school board.

Q. Are there past exams we can look at for practice?

- A. Authorized past exams can be viewed only at schools/school boards. Please contact your school board for more information.

Q. On the LEARN website, there is a section called ClassMarker (www.learnquebec.ca/classmarker) self tests with login required. How can we get access codes?

- A. If you do not already have LEARN access codes through your school board or you cannot login through a school board portal, please follow the instructions here: <https://www.learnquebec.ca/learn-accounts>

Additional Teacher Tips:

Use the Compulsory Concepts List

Something I find very useful and important are the Compulsory Concepts in the *Progression of Learning*. This is found in the *Parent Guide*, as well as in the video on the LEARN site: <https://www.learnquebec.ca/examprep>.

It is a very comprehensive list of topics of what may be asked of you, or may be tested on the exam. You will notice that the topics are actually broken down into 3 main worlds: **the material world, the technological world, and the earth and space world**. In the presentation you will also find the breakdown of the number of questions on the exam that will focus on each section. When you are reviewing, you can use this list as a checklist. If you feel comfortable with the topic, you can check it off on the list. If there are topics you find a little tougher, you can make a note to spend more time on review of those. The list can be a very useful guide to help you organize your thoughts when you study for this exam.

Distribution of Questions and Related Weighting

In the *Information Document* and in the video, you will find charts of the breakdown of questions in each part of the exams.

It is very important to pay attention to Part A.

Part A, the multiple choice questions section, has 15 questions.

Every question in this exam is worth 4 points each, which means that these 15 multiple-choice questions make up 60% of the exam.

Tips for Multiple-Choice

1. Read carefully

Students must be very careful when doing these questions. Some students may think that it's much easier because you can just pick from the answers, **but** there are wrong answers among them, and each of these questions contains 4 choices all of the time. Take your time and really analyze the questions, reading through every aspect of them, because sometimes a single word can change a question.

For example, if I ask you about permafrost, I could say which of the following statements is **NOT** true about permafrost. That **NOT** word, even though it's bolded and sometimes

highlighted, will be overlooked by students and they only see the term frost. They then pick the statement that is true when in reality, the question is asking for the statement that's false.

2. Eliminate the answers that are impossible first

Another strategy I find very useful is to take a look at the answers and cross out the answers that are not possibly correct. This strategy will help limit your choices, and it makes it easier to pick out your answer.

Tips for Part C

Technical Object Video

The technical object part of the exam essentially shows a technological object that they've broken down into parts. The video will play on a loop for the entire 3 hour duration of the exam. **Watch the video at least twice.** Once you have an understanding of how the machine works, then you can take a look at Part C.

Every part will be labelled so there's no guessing needed about the parts' names.

If there are appropriate keywords that you have learned over the years in science, use them. If you don't remember all of the specific vocabulary, put it in your own words.