

## Science

### **Introduction**

This booklet contains the specimen test for the 2001 School Certificate Science test. A mapping grid is also included, showing how each question in the test relates to the syllabus outcomes and content, and to the performance bands.

The specimen test shows the format of the SC test. It has been printed on A4 paper and side-stapled to make it convenient for use in schools. Actual test papers will be produced as A4 booklets.

The 2001 SC Science specimen test has been produced in accordance with the Board's *Principles for Setting SC Tests in a Standards-Referenced Framework*. Questions are closely related to the outcomes of the course, and the paper as a whole is structured to allow for appropriate differentiation of student performance at all levels on the performance scale.

The test has been designed so that students have a clear understanding of what they are required to do in each question and in working through the paper. Instructions have been standardised, and the demands of the questions have been made explicit. Key words in questions, such as 'discuss', 'analyse', and 'explain', have been used consistently in accordance with the glossary published in the Board's *Assessment Support Document*.

This specimen test is an example of the type of test that could be prepared within the test specifications in the Stages 4-5 Science syllabus. Tests will be based on the syllabus, and will test a representative sample of syllabus outcomes. Therefore, the range and balance of outcomes tested in the SC test in 2001 and subsequent years may differ from those addressed in the specimen test.

The mapping grid is an important feature of the development of the test. It aids in ensuring that the test as a whole samples a range of content and outcomes, and allows all students the opportunity to demonstrate their level of achievement.

There are a number of points to note in considering the SC Science specimen test:

- There is a variety of question types. Some questions have parts while others ask a single question that requires an integrated response. Together, these question types provide candidates with opportunities to demonstrate a range of skills across different levels of the performance scale.
- The number of questions and the marks allocated to each question in Section 2 – Parts B-D may vary from year to year.
- All question parts are out of whole marks. This will assist candidates in determining the relative value of questions and parts, and in allocating their time appropriately.