School Connect Online

SCO INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

CLASS 3 SET C

Solved question paper for schools, teachers, parents, and students

Built from Class 3 Science Olympiad question pathways and aligned with SCO's platform flow for guided preparation, practice, reporting, and concept-based academic growth.

- age-fit science reasoning for Class 3 / primary-level learners globally
- science pathways across Environment, Materials, Energy, Plants, Animals, Space, Forces, Light, Water, and Scientific Thinking
- question blocks, answer key, explanations, and correction-ready layout for website publishing, school review, and student practice

Environment	Energy	Plants	Animals	Materials Science
Space	Forces	Light	Water	Practice

SCO International Science Olympiad

Class 3 | Question Paper Set C | Solved Paper with Answer Key and Explanations

Purpose of this solved paper

- This document is prepared for students, teachers, parents, and schools as a clean, website-ready solved Science Olympiad paper.
- Each question is placed inside a structured block with the passage/story, question, options, correct answer, and explanation.
- The uploaded source paper was reviewed for wording, section-label, answer-key, and scientific-accuracy issues before final formatting.

Olympiad	Class	Set / Year	Total Questions / Time
SCO International Science Olympiad	**Class 3**	**Set C | 2024-25**	35 Questions | 1 Hour

Question Paper with Answer Key and Explanations

All story passages and question contexts are included inside the question blocks

Environmental Science and Responsible Action

Story-based questions on environmental care, conservation, pollution, and responsible action.

Question 1 | Correct Answer: B. To reduce the effects of the storm damage and restore the environment

Passage / Story: After a huge rainstorm, many trees in the park were damaged. The next day, Sara and her friends decided to plant new trees to restore the park.

Question: **Why did Sara and her friends plant new trees?**

A. To make the park look prettier	**B.** To reduce the effects of the storm damage and restore the environment
C. To make a fun activity out of planting	**D.** To make space for a new playground

Explanation: Planting trees helps restore the environment after storm damage. Trees improve air quality, provide shade, reduce soil erosion, and support habitats for living things.

Question 2 | Correct Answer: B. To protect the environment from harmful plastic pollution

Passage / Story: Leo was asked to lead a school project about reducing plastic waste. He suggested using reusable bags and bottles, educating the class about recycling, and cutting down on single-use plastics.

Question: **Why did Leo suggest these actions to reduce plastic waste?**

A. Because he wanted to impress the teacher	**B.** To protect the environment from harmful plastic pollution
C. Because his friends asked him to do it	**D.** To make the project easier for him

Explanation: Plastic waste can pollute land and water and can harm animals. Reusing bags and bottles and recycling responsibly help reduce pollution.

Question 3 | Correct Answer: B. To prevent water shortages and ensure there is enough water for everyone

Passage / Story: During a class debate on saving water, Tim explained that taking shorter showers, fixing leaking taps, and using water-efficient appliances are good ways to conserve water.

Question: **What is the main reason Tim supports water conservation?**

A. He does not like wasting water	**B.** To prevent water shortages and ensure there is enough water for everyone
C. Because water is expensive	**D.** Because his teacher told him to

Explanation: Water conservation protects an important natural resource. Saving water helps reduce wastage and helps keep enough water available for people, plants, animals, and future needs.

Question 4 | Correct Answer: A. It helps avoid misunderstandings and shows respect for others

Passage / Story: A teacher noticed that some students were constantly interrupting others during class discussions. She decided to have a conversation about the importance of listening to others before speaking.

Question: **Why is listening to others before speaking important?**

A. It helps avoid misunderstandings and shows respect for others	**B.** It makes the class discussion longer
C. It gives everyone a chance to speak at the same time	**D.** It helps students finish their work faster

Explanation: Listening carefully helps students understand ideas correctly and respond respectfully. Good communication is important in group learning and science discussions.

Question 5 | Correct Answer: B. To save the bird and reduce harm caused by plastic waste

Passage / Story: Emma saw a bird caught in some plastic waste. She carefully cut the plastic away and released the bird back into the sky.

Question: **Why did Emma help the bird trapped in plastic?**

A. To avoid getting in trouble with her parents	**B.** To save the bird and reduce harm caused by plastic waste
C. Because she was bored	**D.** Because she wanted to take a picture of the bird

Explanation: Plastic waste can trap or injure animals. Emma helped the bird by removing the plastic safely, showing care for wildlife and awareness of pollution.

Question 6 | Correct Answer: A. To prevent the rise in global temperatures and reduce pollution

Passage / Story: During a class project on climate change, Raj found out that burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide, which increases global warming.

Question: **Why is it important to reduce the burning of fossil fuels?**

A. To prevent the rise in global temperatures and reduce pollution	**B.** Because fossil fuels are expensive
C. Because burning them is bad for health	**D.** To stop the production of fossil fuels

Explanation: Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Reducing their use helps lower pollution and slows the rise in global temperatures.

Question 7 | Correct Answer: B. To help the turtle heal from its injury

Passage / Story: Sarah found a turtle in her backyard and noticed that its shell had a crack. She took the turtle to the animal rescue center for treatment.

Question: **Why did Sarah take the turtle to the animal rescue center?**

A. To keep it as a pet	**B.** To help the turtle heal from its injury
C. Because she wanted to show it to her friends	**D.** Because she liked the turtle's color

Explanation: An injured animal needs proper care. A rescue center can treat the turtle and help it recover safely before returning it to a suitable habitat.

Question 8 | Correct Answer: D. All of the above

Passage / Story: A group of students started a campaign to stop littering in their school and park. They put up posters and organized clean-up drives to raise awareness.

Question: **Why is it important to stop littering?**

A. To keep the place neat and tidy	**B.** To protect wildlife and prevent pollution
C. To make the environment healthier	**D.** All of the above

Explanation: Stopping littering keeps places clean, protects animals from harmful waste, reduces pollution, and makes the environment healthier for everyone.

Question 9 | Correct Answer: B. It protects natural resources like soil and water for future generations

Passage / Story: During a field trip to a local farm, the teacher explained how farmers use sustainable farming practices to protect the soil and water.

Question: **Why is sustainable farming important?**

A. It helps increase the amount of food grown quickly	**B.** It protects natural resources like soil and water for future generations
C. It makes farming more expensive	**D.** It is only useful for large farms

Explanation: Sustainable farming helps grow food while protecting soil, water, and living things. It supports long-term food production and environmental health.

Question 10 | Correct Answer: A. To attract bees and butterflies and support local ecosystems

Passage / Story: Lucas and his friends decided to start a garden in their school, where they would plant native plants to help local pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Question: **Why did Lucas and his friends plant native plants?**

A. To attract bees and butterflies and support local ecosystems	**B.** To make the school look more beautiful
C. To create a place to play	**D.** To sell the plants later

Explanation: Native plants are well suited to the local environment and can provide food and shelter for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Core Science Concepts

Conceptual questions covering matter, energy, plants, animals, space, gravity, light, and electricity.

Question 11 | Correct Answer: B. It evaporates into steam

Question: **What happens to water when it is heated continuously?**

A. It cools down	**B.** It evaporates into steam
C. It freezes	**D.** It turns into ice

Explanation: When water is heated, it gains heat energy. With enough heating, liquid water changes into water vapour or steam by evaporation/boiling.

Question 12 | Correct Answer: C. Solar energy

Question: Which of the following is an example of renewable energy?

A. Coal	**B.** Natural gas
C. Solar energy	**D.** Petrol

Explanation: Solar energy comes from the Sun and is naturally renewed. Coal, natural gas, and petrol are fossil fuels that take a very long time to form.

Question 13 | Correct Answer: D. They are in a constant free-fall orbit around Earth

Question: Why do astronauts float in space?

A. They are weightless because there is no gravity	**B.** They have special suits that make them float
C. Space has zero air pressure	**D.** They are in a constant free-fall orbit around Earth

Explanation: Astronauts in an orbiting spacecraft feel weightless because the spacecraft and astronauts are falling around Earth together. Gravity is still present, so option A is not fully correct.

Question 14 | Correct Answer: B. Frogs

Question: Which of the following animals can breathe through their skin?

A. Fish	**B.** Frogs
C. Birds	**D.** Snakes

Explanation: Frogs can exchange gases through their moist skin, especially when in water. They also use lungs when on land.

Question 15 | Correct Answer: B. Light travels faster than sound

Question: Why do we see lightning before hearing thunder?

A. Thunder happens later than lightning	**B.** Light travels faster than sound

C. Sound waves are blocked by the clouds	**D.** Thunder is quieter than lightning

Explanation: Lightning and thunder are produced close together, but light travels much faster than sound. That is why lightning is seen before thunder is heard.

Question 16 | Correct Answer: B. They wilt and turn yellow

Question: What happens to plants if they are kept in the dark for too long?

A. They grow faster	**B.** They wilt and turn yellow
C. They produce more flowers	**D.** They grow sideways

Explanation: Plants need sunlight for photosynthesis. Without enough light, they cannot make food properly, lose green colour, and may wilt or turn yellow.

Question 17 | Correct Answer: B. Lemon juice

Question: Which of these liquids is a good conductor of electricity?

A. Pure water	**B.** Lemon juice
C. Milk	**D.** Oil

Explanation: Lemon juice contains dissolved acids and ions that allow electricity to pass through it. Pure water and oil are poor conductors.

Question 18 | Correct Answer: B. The gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun

Question: What causes tides in the ocean?

A. The rotation of Earth	**B.** The gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun
C. The flow of rivers into the ocean	**D.** Wind pushing the water

Explanation: Tides are mainly caused by the Moon's gravity, with the Sun also contributing. This gravitational pull causes ocean water to rise and fall.

Question 19 | Correct Answer: B. Because of gravity

Question: **Why does a ball thrown upwards fall back to the ground?**

A. Because the air pushes it down	**B.** Because of gravity
C. Because it loses energy	**D.** Because it is heavy

Explanation: Gravity is the force that pulls objects toward Earth. After the upward motion slows, gravity pulls the ball back down.

Question 20 | Correct Answer: C. Carbon dioxide

Question: **Which gas is essential for the process of photosynthesis?**

A. Oxygen	**B.** Nitrogen
C. Carbon dioxide	**D.** Hydrogen

Explanation: Plants use carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight to make food during photosynthesis. Oxygen is released as a by-product.

Applied Science Reasoning

Application questions based on everyday observations, experiments, and scientific explanations.

Question 21 | Correct Answer: B. It was slowing down because of friction

Passage / Story: The Curious Cat and the Fan: One day, a cat was staring at a ceiling fan spinning very fast. The fan was running at high speed, and suddenly the electricity went off. The fan did not stop immediately but slowed down gradually before coming to a complete halt.

Question: **Why did the fan not stop immediately when the electricity went off?**

A. The fan was broken	**B.** It was slowing down because of friction
C. The air around it kept it spinning	**D.** The fan uses its stored energy to run longer

Explanation: When the power stops, the fan still has motion for a short time. Friction from air and moving parts gradually slows it down until it stops.

Question 22 | Correct Answer: B. A mirror makes the image appear left-right reversed, while top and bottom stay the same

Passage / Story: The Magic Mirror: Arjun was standing in front of a mirror and noticed that when he raised his right hand, the reflection seemed to raise the opposite hand.

Question: **Why does the mirror image appear reversed from side to side?**

A. The mirror has a special coating that flips the image	**B.** A mirror makes the image appear left-right reversed, while top and bottom stay the same
C. The light bouncing off the mirror flips the image completely	**D.** It is only an optical illusion

Explanation: A plane mirror reflects front and back directions, so the image appears side-reversed to the viewer. The top and bottom of the image do not get reversed.

Question 23 | Correct Answer: B. Metal conducts heat better than wood

Passage / Story: The Ice Cube Race: Two friends, Sam and Ravi, conducted an experiment. They placed two ice cubes on different surfaces, one on metal and the other on wood. The ice on the metal melted faster.

Question: **Why did the ice cube on the metal surface melt faster?**

A. Metal is colder than wood	**B.** Metal conducts heat better than wood
C. Wood absorbs the water faster	**D.** The air around the metal is warmer

Explanation: Metal is a good conductor of heat. It transfers heat to the ice cube faster than wood does, causing the ice to melt more quickly.

Question 24 | Correct Answer: C. Water pushes upward with a force called buoyancy

Passage / Story: The Mystery of the Floating Boat: Arya placed a wooden toy boat in a tub of water, and it floated. Then she pushed it deeper into the water, but as soon as she let go, the boat came back to the surface.

Question: **Why does the boat float back up?**

A. The boat is lighter than water	**B.** The air inside the boat pushes it up
C. Water pushes upward with a force called buoyancy	**D.** The water molecules hold the boat up

Explanation: Water exerts an upward force called buoyancy. If this upward force is enough, the object floats or rises back to the surface.

Question 25 | Correct Answer: C. The plant did not get enough sunlight for photosynthesis

Passage / Story: The Mystery of the Yellow Leaves: Ananya noticed that some leaves on her favourite plant had turned yellow and looked unhealthy. She watered the plant regularly but forgot to place it near sunlight.

Question: **Why did the leaves turn yellow?**

A. The plant was overwatered	**B.** The plant was under stress from insects
C. The plant did not get enough sunlight for photosynthesis	**D.** The plant grew too fast

Explanation: Plants need sunlight to make food and maintain the green pigment chlorophyll. Without enough sunlight, leaves can turn yellow.

Question 26 | Correct Answer: A. The fan was blowing room-temperature air onto the ice cream

Passage / Story: The Fast-Melting Ice Cream: Riya and her brother were eating ice cream. Riya kept her ice cream in a bowl under the fan, and her brother kept his in the fridge. Riya's ice cream melted quickly while her brother's stayed solid.

Question: **Why did Riya's ice cream melt faster?**

A. The fan was blowing room-temperature air onto the ice cream	**B.** The fridge maintains a low temperature to keep things frozen
C. Ice cream melts faster in bowls than cones	**D.** The air in the room was too humid

Explanation: Riya's ice cream was exposed to warmer room air, and the fan moved air across it. This helped heat reach the ice cream faster, so it melted more quickly. The uploaded answer key marked B, but A best answers the question asked.

Question 27 | Correct Answer: A. The spoon's curved surface can flip the image

Passage / Story: The Shiny Spoon: Rohan saw his reflection in a shiny spoon. When he looked at the inside curved part of the spoon, his face appeared upside down.

Question: **Why did Rohan's face appear upside down in the curved spoon surface?**

A. The spoon's curved surface can flip the image	**B.** Light reflects differently on metal
C. Spoons are made to distort images	**D.** The spoon is smoother than a mirror

Explanation: The inside curved part of a spoon behaves like a concave mirror. Depending on the distance, reflected light rays can make the image appear upside down. The original wording said 'back of the spoon', which has been corrected for scientific accuracy.

Question 28 | Correct Answer: B. The candle used up the available oxygen in the jar

Passage / Story: The Candle in the Jar: Meera lit a candle and covered it with a glass jar. After a few seconds, the candle went out.

Question: **Why did the candle go out?**

A. The jar heated up too much	**B.** The candle used up the available oxygen in the jar
C. The jar blocked the light	**D.** The wax melted too fast

Explanation: A flame needs oxygen to keep burning. When the oxygen inside the closed jar became insufficient, the candle flame went out.

Question 29 | Correct Answer: B. The Sun is lower in the sky, making the shadow longer

Passage / Story: The Speedy Shadow: At sunset, Ria and her father were playing outside. She noticed that her shadow was longer than usual.

Question: **Why is Ria's shadow longer at sunset?**

A. The Sun is directly overhead	**B.** The Sun is lower in the sky, making the shadow longer
C. Shadows are longer in the evening because it is cooler	**D.** Shadows stretch as the day ends

Explanation: At sunset, sunlight reaches objects from a low angle. This low angle produces longer shadows than when the Sun is high in the sky.

Question 30 | Correct Answer: C. Friction between the top and the ground slowed it down

Passage / Story: The Spinning Top: Ravi spun a top, and it kept spinning for a while before falling.

Question: **Why did the top eventually stop spinning?**

A. Gravity pulled it down	**B.** It ran out of energy

C. Friction between the top and the ground slowed it down	**D.** The top became unbalanced

Explanation: Friction between the top and the surface, along with air resistance, gradually reduces the spinning speed until the top stops.

Achievers Section

Higher-order reasoning questions based on states of matter, plants, magnets, floating, and clouds.

Question 31 | Correct Answer: B. Matter can change states and return to its original form

Passage / Story: The Changing Ice Cube: Riya left an ice cube in a bowl on the table. After a few minutes, the ice melted and turned into water. She put the water back into the freezer, and it turned into ice again.

Question: **What does this process show?**

A. Water can only exist as ice or liquid	**B.** Matter can change states and return to its original form
C. Freezing and melting happen only at night	**D.** Ice is heavier than water

Explanation: This shows a reversible change in the state of matter. Ice melts into water, and water freezes back into ice under suitable temperature conditions.

Question 32 | Correct Answer: B. The plant did not get sunlight for photosynthesis

Passage / Story: The Plant Puzzle: A plant was placed in a dark room, and after a week, its leaves turned yellow.

Question: **Why did this happen?**

A. The plant did not get enough water	**B.** The plant did not get sunlight for photosynthesis
C. The soil became too hard	**D.** The plant grew too many leaves

Explanation: Plants need sunlight for photosynthesis. Without enough sunlight, chlorophyll production reduces, and the leaves can become yellow.

Question 33 | Correct Answer: B. Magnets attract materials made of iron

Passage / Story: The Mystery Magnet: A student brought a magnet close to a pile of different objects: a coin, a rubber band, a nail, and a plastic spoon. Only the nail stuck to the magnet.

Question: **Why did the magnet attract the nail but not the other objects?**

A. The nail was shiny	**B.** Magnets attract materials made of iron
C. The nail was lighter than the others	**D.** Magnets repel everything except nails

Explanation: Magnets attract magnetic materials such as iron, nickel, and cobalt. The nail was likely made of iron, while the other objects were not magnetic.

Question 34 | Correct Answer: A. The plastic bottle was less dense than water, but the solid metal can was denser

Passage / Story: The Floating Experiment: Arjun put a plastic bottle and a solid metal can in a bucket of water. The bottle floated, but the solid metal can sank.

Question: **Why did this happen?**

A. The plastic bottle was less dense than water, but the solid metal can was denser	**B.** The bottle is empty, and the can is full
C. Plastic always floats in water, but metal never floats	**D.** Only the shape of objects determines whether they float

Explanation: Floating depends mainly on density and buoyancy. An object that is less dense than water tends to float, while a denser object tends to sink. The option has been refined from the original wording to avoid overgeneralisation.

Question 35 | Correct Answer: C. Sunlight gets scattered by the tiny water droplets and ice particles in the clouds

Passage / Story: The Cloud Riddle: Clouds are made of tiny water droplets or ice particles, but water itself is colourless.

Question: **Why do clouds look white even though water is colourless?**

A. Clouds are made only of ice crystals that reflect sunlight	**B.** Clouds contain dust that makes them white
C. Sunlight gets scattered by the tiny water droplets and ice particles in the clouds	**D.** Clouds reflect the colour of the sky

Explanation: Clouds look white because many tiny water droplets and ice particles scatter sunlight in many directions. This makes the cloud appear white to our eyes.

Complete Answer Key

Corrected answer key for SCO International Science Olympiad Class 3 Set C

Q.No.	Correct Answer	Q.No.	Correct Answer
1	B. To reduce the effects of the storm damage and restore the environment	19	B. Because of gravity
2	B. To protect the environment from harmful plastic pollution	20	C. Carbon dioxide
3	B. To prevent water shortages and ensure there is enough water for everyone	21	B. It was slowing down because of friction
4	A. It helps avoid misunderstandings and shows respect for others	22	B. A mirror makes the image appear left-right reversed, while top and bottom stay the same
5	B. To save the bird and reduce harm caused by plastic waste	23	B. Metal conducts heat better than wood
6	A. To prevent the rise in global temperatures and reduce pollution	24	C. Water pushes upward with a force called buoyancy
7	B. To help the turtle heal from its injury	25	C. The plant did not get enough sunlight for photosynthesis
8	D. All of the above	26	A. The fan was blowing room-temperature air onto the ice cream
9	B. It protects natural resources like soil and water for future generations	27	A. The spoon's curved surface can flip the image
10	A. To attract bees and butterflies and support local ecosystems	28	B. The candle used up the available oxygen in the jar
11	B. It evaporates into steam	29	B. The Sun is lower in the sky, making the shadow longer

Q.No.	Correct Answer	Q.No.	Correct Answer
12	C. Solar energy	30	C. Friction between the top and the ground slowed it down
13	D. They are in a constant free-fall orbit around Earth	31	B. Matter can change states and return to its original form
14	B. Frogs	32	B. The plant did not get sunlight for photosynthesis
15	B. Light travels faster than sound	33	B. Magnets attract materials made of iron
16	B. They wilt and turn yellow	34	A. The plastic bottle was less dense than water, but the solid metal can was denser
17	B. Lemon juice	35	C. Sunlight gets scattered by the tiny water droplets and ice particles in the clouds
18	B. The gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun		

Section-wise Learning Summary

Section	Question Range	Learning Focus	Readiness Indicator
Environmental Science and Responsible Action	1-10	Conservation, pollution reduction, animal care, sustainable farming, pollinators, and respectful discussion.	Can read a situation and choose the action that protects people, animals, and nature.
Core Science Concepts	11-20	State changes, renewable energy, gravity, animals, light/sound speed, photosynthesis, conductivity, tides, and carbon dioxide.	Can explain simple science facts using correct vocabulary.
Applied Science Reasoning	21-30	Friction, mirrors, heat transfer, buoyancy, plant needs, melting, oxygen, shadows, and motion.	Can connect everyday observations with scientific causes.
Achievers Section	31-35	Reversible changes, sunlight and plants, magnets, density/buoyancy, and cloud appearance.	Can solve higher-order questions by applying concepts rather than memorising facts.

Final learning message for students, teachers, and schools

- This paper should be used for concept review, guided explanation, classroom discussion, and independent Olympiad practice.
- Students should read the full passage or story before answering because many items test reasoning from context.
- Teachers can use the correction notes and explanations to strengthen scientific accuracy and reduce memorisation-based learning.

Section	Question Range	Learning Focus	Readiness Indicator

- Schools can publish or distribute this solved paper as a structured practice resource for Science Olympiad preparation.