Time management during the PSLE examinations is important, says Casuarina Primary School's head of mother tongue languages, Mohamad Zareen Mohamed Shariff. He suggests pupils learn to divide the allotted time for planning, learning lessons and checking their work. Time management is crucial, he says, as students need to ensure they have enough time to check for careless mistakes and incomplete answers.

As pupils enter the last stretch of preparation before the written papers, experts suggest they concentrate on learning lessons from mistakes made, among other tips.

**TIP**
If pupils are stuck on a question, it is best to move on and come back to it later. “Sometimes when the MCQ were tough, some pupils spent too much time on those questions and ended up not attempting open-ended questions,” says Zareen. “It is important to spend time re-reading on the mistakes and become familiar with practice papers instead of attempting as many questions as possible,” he adds.

**Allocating Time for Answers**

To allocate time for answers, Zareen says pupils should try to reflect on the strategy used during the preliminary exam. “For example, students should ask themselves if they could have done the question in a shorter time,” he says. “If so, they should try to allocate the remaining time to check or draw a model diagram of answers on the side,” he adds. “Students should agree that a good time management during the PSLE is crucial,” he says, advising that students learn time to check for careless mistakes and incomplete answers.

**KNEAD THE EXAM FORMAT**

The Learning Lab’s science subject head, Mr Jayce Or, suggests that pupils practise answering open-ended questions. “Some years when the MCQ were tough, some pupils spent too much time on those questions and ended up not attempting open-ended questions,” he says, advising that students learn to check for careless mistakes and incomplete answers.

**MINOR ISSUES**

For the Paper 1 component of the mother tongue language exam, in which pupils are expected to write a composition, he suggests dividing the 50 minutes into 10 minutes for planning, 30 minutes for writing and five minutes for checking.

**CONTINUED on C2**