



February 2024

Newsletter

Contents

- 2 Contact SASTA
- 3 From the President
- 4 2024 Professional Learning for Term 1
- 4 2024 Science Active Schools
- 5 SASTA Annual Conference
- 6 Pre-Service Teacher Professional Learning Day
- 7 Science Active School - Coromandel Valley Primary School
- 8 2024 SASTA Awards
- 8 Notice of Annual General Meeting
- 9 Call for SASTA Board Nominations
- 10 Oliphant Science Awards

Upcoming Events

Teachers new to teaching Stage 2 Science

- **Biology, Nutrition & Physics** – Friday 9 February 2024
- **Chemistry** – Friday 16 February 2024
- **Psychology & Scientific Studies** – Friday 23 February 2024

See page 4 for more details.

The SHE Task

Friday 15 March 2024

See page 4 for more details.

Pre-Service Teachers Professional Learning Day

Friday 22 March 2024 | FREE for SASTA Student Members

See page 6 for more details.

SASTA Annual Conference

15-16 April 2024, St Peter's Girls' School

See page 5 for more details.

Oliphant Science Awards

Student registrations close Friday 17 May 2024

Open Day at Science Alive! 2-4 August 2024



@SASTAInc



@sascienceteachers



@SAScience

South Australian Science Teachers Association Inc.

Association member of the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA)

249 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville SA 5031

P 08 8354 0006 | E office@sasta.asn.au | W www.sasta.asn.au

Supporting Teachers of Science | Advancing Science Education

Print Post Publication No. PP 100004158





249 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville SA 5031
ABN: 22 938 317 192
P: 08 8354 0006 F: 08 8354 0008
E: office@sasta.asn.au W: www.sasta.asn.au

SASTA Board

President: Dina Matheson
Treasurer: Peter Turnbull
Brent Banham
Jordan Della Pietra
Liz Gehling
Paul Gavini
Claire Hughes
Jarrod Johnson

SASTA Office

Executive Officer
Kate Dilger
Office Manager
Rebecca Cooke
Marketing & Events Manager
Tegan McClean
Administration & Events Assistant
Isabelle Chalmers

Board Representatives

Membership Services
Liz Gehling

Oliphant Science Awards
Peter Turnbull

ASTA Board representative
Dina Matheson

ASTA delegate
Brent Banham

Educators SA representative
Claire Hughes

National Youth Science Forum representative
Brent Banham

Honorary Life Members

Doug Anders
Tony Diercks
Elma Gurney
Bob Morton AM
Ronne Page
Mike Roach
Lester Russell
Peter Schodde OAM
Jack Smith
Ray Smith
Alby Whitelaw
Dr Jane Wright

Newsletter copy deadlines 2024

(Advertising deadlines one week earlier)

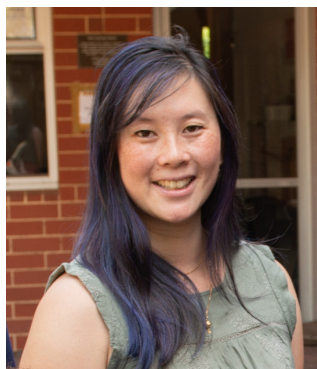
Edition	Deadline
February	29 January
May	19 April
August	12 July
November	18 October

Advertising rates & booking form
available online at www.sasta.asn.au

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of SASTA or the editors. Whilst every effort is made to be factual, no liability is accepted for the accuracy of information presented.

© 2023 SASTA. Reproduction of material contained herein is permitted provided its source is acknowledged. All contributions should be emailed to marketing@sasta.asn.au

From the President



Hey Sci-Fam,
Welcome to 2024!
International Year
of Camelids, and
Year of the Dragon.
Congratulations to
those who've won
new positions; it's
quite an exciting time
for you, but possibly
also nerve-wracking.

As usual, it's that time again where we ask you to renew your memberships. And encourage new members to join. Aside from the professional learning opportunities and resources, SASTA also offers a fantastic network of like-minded educators and professionals. It's hard to walk away from any meeting with these people and not feel reinvigorated and inspired.

The Annual Conference is coming up in the April school holidays, with the theme being 'Our Sense of Place'. I know many of you have great things to share, so please consider registering to present a workshop. Registrations close 18 February.

We'll also be looking to present some SASTA teaching awards, as well as the Helen Castle Memorial Scholarship at this conference. Nominations don't take long to do, and are a great way to acknowledge an amazing teacher you know.

I look forward to catching up with everyone again this year.

Ngaityalya,

Dina Matheson

Have you renewed your membership for 2024?

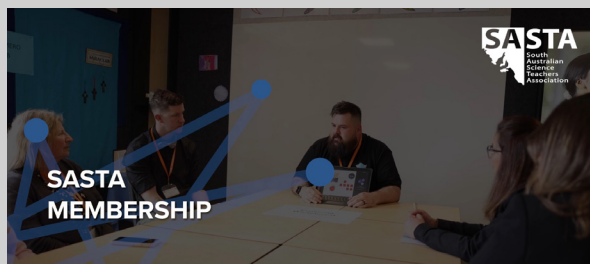
Thank you to those who have recently joined our SASTA community or renewed their membership for 2024.

If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership yet, this can be done on the SASTA website:

www.sasta.asn.au/renew/form

Plan your 2024 with us using our jam packed 2024 Professional Learning calendar! We have planned a range of new member events and excursions, with more to come. Check out the Professional Learning calendar here: https://www.sasta.asn.au/professional_learning.

Have you seen our video? We caught up with some of our members to find out what it means to them to be a SASTA member and what they get out of their membership. We hope this resonates with you. Check it out here: <https://bit.ly/SASTAmembership>



We sincerely appreciate your support of SASTA, your presence in our science community is so important and we look forward to working with you again this year!

Professional Learning for Term 1 2024

Teachers new to teaching Stage 2 Science

Walkers Arms Hotel
9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Some of the key topics covered in these workshops include: an overview of the course, planning and assessment, sample tasks and discussion and moderation.

Participants will be given the opportunity to share and discuss ideas, tasks and other resources for teaching the current course.

Biology

Friday 9 February

Andrew Sayers (Henley High School)

Physics

Friday 9 February

Presented by Michael Smith
(Tatachilla Lutheran College)

Nutrition

Friday 9 February

Presented by Elizabeth Arthur
(Nazareth Catholic College)

Chemistry

Friday 16 February

Presented by Glen Arthur

Psychology

Friday 23 February

Presented by Carolyn Pinchbeck & Ben Whyte
(Xavier College)

Scientific Studies

Friday 23 February

Presented by Helen Godfrey
(Open Access College)

The SHE Task Workshop

Friday 15 March 2024 | 9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh

Presenter: Jason Greenslade, Curriculum
Leader Science, Westminster School

This workshop is aimed at people who want to further their skills in setting, assessment and providing feedback on the SHE task. It also will cover the writing and marking of SHE questions for tests and examinations. There will be time to examine your own student work and participate in some cross-moderation and marking of work/drafts.

Morning: The SHE Task

- Performance Standards
- Introducing + structuring the task
- Providing guidance to students (drafting)
- Marking and moderation

Afternoon: SHE Questions in SATs/Exams

- Types of questions
- Guiding students to answer these questions
- Writing SHE questions – how to effectively use articles + how to structure them

Science Active Schools

Congratulations to our 2024 Science Active Schools!

- Adelaide Botanic High School
- Annesley Junior School
- Australian Science and Mathematics School
- Brighton Secondary School
- Brighton Primary School
- Clarendon Primary School
- Coromandel Valley Primary School
- Glenunga International High School
- Kangaroo Island Community Education
- Pulteney Grammar School
- Stirling East Primary School
- Trinity Gardens School
- Unley High School
- Westminster School
- Woodville High School

Have you thought about nominating your school? Find out more about Science Active Schools here: <https://bit.ly/3SpOtud> and keep an eye on the blog for updates from these schools!



Our sense of Place

SASTA Annual Conference

15 & 16 April 2024

St Peter's Girls' School

Join primary and secondary teachers and other members of the science education community at SASTA's 2024 Annual Conference, 15-16 April at St Peter's Girls' School in Adelaide.

The 2024 SASTA Annual Conference is a celebration of the rich scientific heritage and innovation rooted in South Australia, with a special focus on First Nations science.

This conference aims to delve into the unique connection between people, land, and knowledge, exploring how this profound sense of place has shaped scientific discoveries and innovations.

By understanding and appreciating our sense of place, we can inspire future generations to be stewards of the land and innovators in science.

Teachers embrace innovation as a cornerstone of their professional practice, continually seeking creative and effective ways to engage students in the learning process.

This could be incorporating technology, interactive teaching methods, real-world applications, catering to diverse learning styles or fostering a dynamic classroom environment.

The program is shaping up well with a broad program of seminars, discussions and professional learning workshops, and hands-on activities.

Call for Workshops

The call for workshop presentations has been extended and closes on Sunday 18 February. Have you thought about sharing your experiences? We'd love to have you join our program for 2024.

Submit your workshop presentation here: <https://bit.ly/SASTAConf2024>

The complete program of concurrent sessions will be made available on the conference website once finalised.

So, save the date and come along in April to network with others and see what you can learn in order to teach and inspire your students! Registration will open soon!



Pre-Service Teacher Professional Learning Day

22 March 2024
Education Development Centre

FREE for SASTA Student Members

9.00am	Session 1 - Graduate To Proficient - Collecting Evidence Teaching is a dynamic and challenging profession. Teachers have a professional obligation to develop and maintain professional relationships with a diverse range of learners, communicate with parents, act ethically, promote positive values and maintain and raise professional standards. Moving to (full) registration is a continuum of professional growth for a teacher as they transition from the Graduate level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers to the Proficient career stage. During this session you will learn about the process to transition to (full) registration, gathering evidence and the role of the evaluator.	Adrian Dilger, Early Career and Teacher Certification Advisor, Catholic Education South Australia
10.00am	Session 2 - Concept Mapping to Enhance Student Learning and Teacher Planning This hands-on experience is designed for educators seeking to enhance pedagogical strategies and improve student literacy and conceptual development of subject content. Concept mapping isn't just about diagrams; it's a transformative tool that fosters deeper understanding, stimulates critical thinking, and enhances literacy. In this workshop, explore how to harness this powerful technique in your lesson planning and learn to create vibrant, interconnected idea landscapes that resonate with students of all literacy levels.	Paul Gavini, Modbury High School
11.00am	Morning Tea	
11.30am	Session 3 - Surfacing Prior Knowledge to Differentiate How do you know what your students already know? Where do you start? The first step is to surface prior knowledge. We will look at and unpack several tools and hands on activities that you can use in your science classroom at the start of a topic. Not only are the tools and activities an opportunity to surface prior knowledge but also an opportunity to engage your student's interest in a topic, get to know your students to build relationships, highlight misconceptions and of course learn some cool science.	Jason Greenslade, Science Curriculum Leader, Westminster School
12.30pm	Session 4 - Task Design and the Achievement Standards The Australian Curriculum clearly sets out what we want students to know by the end of the year - but what sorts of assessments best allow students to provide the evidence of them? This session will take you through how to take the achievement standard and AC and use it practically to design quality differentiated assessments - we will cover a range including reports, tests and assignments of varying year levels (7-10). We will discuss what student evidence might look like and then apply rubrics to marking of student work.	Jason Greenslade, Science Curriculum Leader, Westminster School
1.30pm	Lunch	
2.15pm	Session 5 - Engaging Lessons with Limited Resources Limited resources? No time? Still want amazingly effective lessons? This workshop will showcase a range of tools for hooking learners in, delivering content, making links to prior learning, and checking for understanding. But there's a twist - we only have 5 minutes to plan the lesson from a random mystery box of resources. The only limit is your imagination!	Lara Lang, Director, Professional Learning, Australian Science and Mathematics School

Science Active School Spotlight - Coromandel Valley Primary School

Coromandel Valley Primary School became a Science Active School in 2023 for their commitment and dedication to Science Education, and their involvement with and support of SASTA.

As a Science Active School, Coromandel Valley Primary School have contributed to SASTA through:

- Currently hold a SASTA Corporate membership
- Participating in the Oliphant Science Awards
- A member of staff volunteering as a judge for the Oliphant Science Awards
- SASTA committee participation in the Oliphant Science Awards and Member Services Reference Group
- Staff member attendance at the SASTA annual conference.
- Had a submission printed in the SASTA Journal, blog and newsletter
- Presented at a SASTA conference

Science teacher, Sarah Todd shares some of the science programs that are happening in their school.

Currently we are running a Youth Environmental Leadership Program where students are partnered with Green Adelaide, to help bring the bandicoots back to Frank Smith Park. We were on a BTN episode sharing our project and also celebrated a win in the Oliphant Science Awards new Citizen Science category for it.

Check out the winning project and BTN episode here: <https://bit.ly/482zs8B>



We installed a native bee and butterfly garden late in 2022 and had Gondwana Landscaping and Consultancy to help prepare for this.

We actively participate in the Birds in Schools program and participated in 2023's Aussie Bird Count.



We are also involved with CSIRO's STEM Professionals in Schools program. Dr Declan Page, our STEM Professional visits us fortnightly to engage in scientific material that is connected to the students curriculum.



Do you think your school has what it takes to be a Science Active School? Apply here: <https://bit.ly/3SpOtud>

2024 SASTA Awards

There are many great teachers out there that often fly under the radar and **SASTA would like to acknowledge, and celebrate their outstanding achievements and contributions to the science community.**

This is your opportunity to nominate a colleague who has inspired you or is a role model in the community or share your own accomplishments!

It is free to nominate and there are a number of Awards available for SASTA members:

SASTA Medal

The SASTA Medal is the highest honour awarded by SASTA to one of its members in recognition of their significant long term commitment to the association and their contribution to science education.

Credit Union SA / SASTA Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching of Science Awards

The Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching of Science Awards recognise teachers' contributions to the education of students in science.

Helen Castle Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is in memory of Helen Castle, a dedicated and enthusiastic science teacher who tragically died during the Eyre Peninsula bush fires in 2005. The scholarship is designed to assist country science teachers attend the SASTA Annual Conference and gain professional development to assist themselves and other country teachers to maintain a high standard of science teaching in country areas. Two (2) scholarships of \$500 plus a complimentary conference registration are awarded to enable country based science teachers to attend the SASTA Annual Conference.

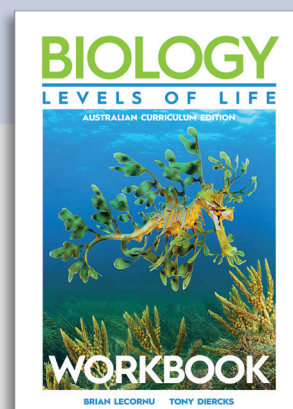
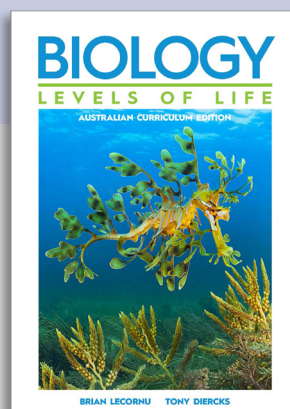
Nominations close Monday 11 March at 4.00pm. Online nomination forms and full award criteria can be found at www.sasta.asn.au/about_us/awards

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of members of the South Australian Science Teachers Association Incorporated will be held on Tuesday 16 April at 10.10am for the purpose of transacting the items of business listed below.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
 - (a) Acceptance
 - (b) Business Arising
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Board Members
6. General Business
 - (a) Membership Fees
 - (b) Appointment of Auditor
7. Any Other Business



Biology: Levels of Life - Teaching Notes (\$120.00)

Teachers will find the Teaching Notes invaluable in ensuring that all Science Understandings are covered for each of the four topics. There are teaching tips throughout as well as additional information. Answers to questions in the Workbook will assist teachers in explaining concepts to students.

Call for SASTA Board nominations 2024

South Australian Science Teachers Association
ABN 22 938 317 192

Closing date: 5.00 pm 18 March 2024

Call for nominations

All members of SASTA are hereby notified of a call for nominations for seven (7) positions on the Board.

Composition of the Board and terms of office

The board consists of up to nine (9) elected members who shall hold office for a term of three (3) years. Continuous elected membership shall not exceed nine (9) years.

Responsibilities of Board Members

The Board governs SASTA and has overall responsibility for determining the strategic plan and priorities, monitoring implementation and developing a resource base to support the organisation's activities. It is also responsible for the financial viability of SASTA and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements applicable to an association. All Board members are required to act in what the Board considers are the best interests of the organisation, being the interests of the membership as a whole.

Nominees should be aware that there are at least six Board meetings each year for the purposes of corporate governance of the organisation. There is an emphasis on policy and, specifically, corporate governance. The Board is not involved in the day to day running of the association's business.

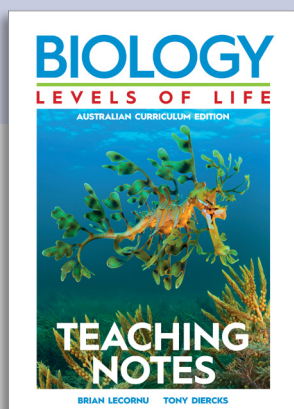
Position description and nomination form

A Board Member position description and nomination form is available on the SASTA website in the 'Members Area'.

NOTE: Personal Members are entitled to vote and hold office in the Association. Each Corporate Member shall be entitled to one vote by a nominated delegate acceptable to the Board in elections of the Association but no such delegate shall be entitled to hold office through Corporate Membership nor may Corporate Members nominate others for office.

Further information

Members interested in nominating for the Board are welcome to contact Kate Dilger, Executive Officer, on 8354 0006 or email kate@sasta.asn.au if they require further information.



BIOLOGY: LEVELS OF LIFE

Brian LeCornu and Tony Diercks

Biology: Levels of Life - Australian Curriculum Edition Textbook (\$64.95)

This textbook provides detailed coverage of all the content (Science Understanding) of the SACE Stage 2 Biology subject. The new content is relevant, up-to-date and addresses Science as a Human Endeavour, with many examples throughout. The textbook is divided into four topics, with each topic presented in chapters designed to make the material easy to follow, with study questions at the end of each chapter. **A complimentary 15 month subscription to the e-book is available with every hard copy purchased.**

Biology: Levels of Life - Australian Curriculum Edition Workbook (\$24.40)

Written specifically to complement the textbook, this workbook covers all Science Understandings of the Biology subject outline. It can be used in conjunction with the textbook or on its own as an aid for understanding and revision. By completing answers to the workbook questions, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of biological principles and concepts.

\$15.00

The Biology:
Levels of Life
Textbook is now
available as an
e-book!



For full details visit the SASTA website.

2024

SASTA

OLIPHANT

SCIENCE AWARDS

STUDENT REGISTRATIONS
CLOSE FRIDAY 17 MAYSA'S LARGEST
SCIENCE
COMPETITION

It's time once again for School Coordinators to register for the 2024 competition:

www.oliphantscienceawards.com.au

We're looking forward to continuing our partnership with Science Alive! for our Open Day event in 2024. Models & Inventions entries and winning entries from all other categories will be on display from Friday 2 August - Sunday 4 August 2024 at the Adelaide Showgrounds.

As always, the website and booklet have everything you need to know about this year's competition, including registration fees, deadlines, rules, forms, and titles (where relevant). **We've added checklists for each category this year to help students prepare all required information for their entry!** These can be found in the Information Booklet or can be downloaded from the website.

Key dates

- **Friday 17 May:** Student registrations close
- **Friday 17 May:** Judges registrations close
- **Monday 10 June - Friday 28 June:** Citizen Science, Multimedia, Science Writing and Scientific Inquiry entries and Reports for Programming, Apps and Robotics MUST be submitted online
- **Monday 22 July - Friday 26 July:** Crystal Investigation and Models & Inventions reports / risk assessments MUST be submitted online. Supporting documents for Games may also be submitted
- **Saturday 27 July:** Programming, Apps & Robotics Judging Day (strictly by appointment)
- **Tuesday 30 July:** Crystal Investigation, Games, Models & Inventions, Photography & Poster entries to be delivered.

- **Friday 2 - Sunday 4 August:** Open Day at Science Alive!

New & Country School Incentives**2024 New Schools Incentive**

Schools who have not participated in the past five years needing assistance for participation in the Oliphant Science Awards are eligible to apply for support. Recipients of the New School Incentive will have the opportunity to enter the Oliphant Science Awards with the provision of up to \$200.00 allocated towards entry project registration fees.

Closing Date: Sunday 24 March

2024 Country Schools Bursary

Country and regional schools needing assistance for participation in the Oliphant Science Awards are eligible to apply for the Country Schools Bursary. Country Schools can apply for a bursary of up to \$500 per school to support the cost of:

- Student registration fees
- Courier/Transport costs for the delivery and pick up of projects
- Project materials

Closing Date: Sunday 24 March

2024 Regional Student Travel Fund

To assist the participation of country and regional students in the 2024 OSA Open Days and Presentation Ceremony, OSA Coordinators can apply for funding of up to \$300 through the Regional Student Travel Fund.

Closing Date: Friday 7 June

STAGE 2 STUDENT WORKBOOKS

SACE Stage 2 3rd Edition Workbooks

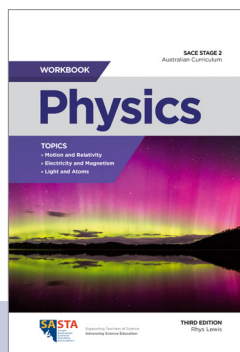
\$64.00 each

The Third Edition of the SASTA Stage 2 Biology, Chemistry and Physics Workbooks maintain the same concise, accessible, and engaging writing style that readers have loved in previous versions. There is a clear emphasis on developing the reader's ability to apply their knowledge both familiar and new contexts rather than simply recalling it.

These workbooks showcase a range of strengths, including their capacity to foster critical thinking, problem-solving skills, a wealth of factual knowledge, and their visually captivating artwork that masterfully simplifies complex subjects.

The Third Edition Workbooks feature an array of new Chapter Questions and Review Tests, offering comprehensive assessments of student learning across Science Understanding, Science Inquiry Skills, and Science as a Human Endeavour. Each workbook has been thoughtfully updated to incorporate recent real-world examples throughout every chapter, helping students forge connections between science and its real-life applications in our society and the world around them.

We are confident that the text's clarity and the effectiveness of its assessment tasks will empower students to construct the mental frameworks necessary for a deep understanding of biology, chemistry, and physics.

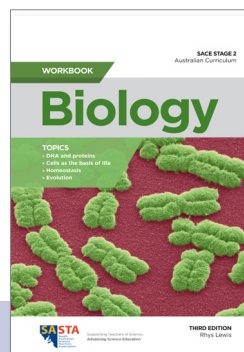


Physics

3rd ed., 2022, 560 pp.

ISBN 978-0-9808605-5-9

Available now

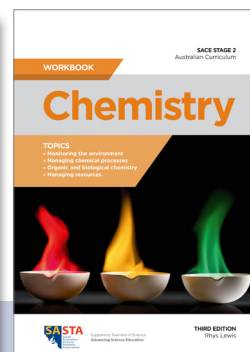


Biology

3rd ed., 2022, 532 pp.

ISBN 978-0-6455814-0-9

Available now



Chemistry

3rd ed., 2022, 424 pp.

ISBN 978-0-6455814-1-6

Available now

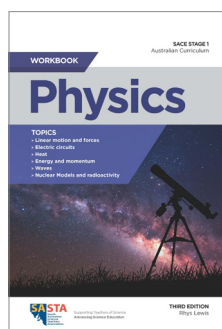
STAGE 1 STUDENT WORKBOOKS

SACE Stage 1 Revised 3rd Edition

\$59.00 each

The Third Edition of the popular SASTA Stage 1 Workbooks set students on the path to success in their study of science through their clear and engaging narrative, innovative use of art and photos, and superior contextual questions that enhance teaching and learning.

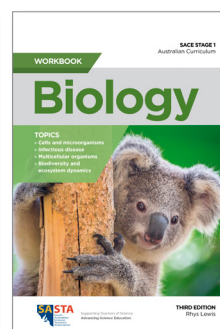
- concise, accessible, and engaging with a clear emphasis on developing the reader's ability to apply their knowledge in new and familiar contexts rather than simply recalling it.
- develops critical thinking, problem-solving skills, comprehensive factual knowledge.
- new Chapter Questions incorporating Science Understanding, Science Inquiry Skills and Science as a Human Endeavour (SHE).
- new Review Tests.
- comprehensive set of solutions to all Chapter Questions and Review Tests.
- hundreds of new illustrations that engage students while simplifying complex concepts.



Physics

3rd ed., 2023, 536 pp.

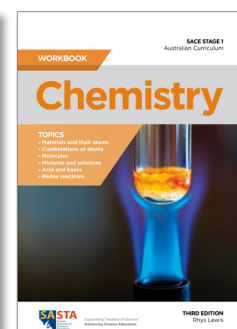
ISBN 978-0-9756845-9-7



Biology

3rd ed., 2023, 436 pp.

ISBN 978-0-6452365-8-3



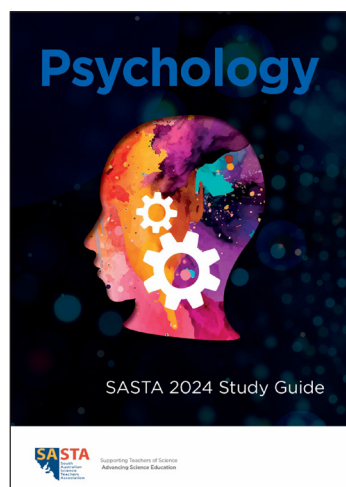
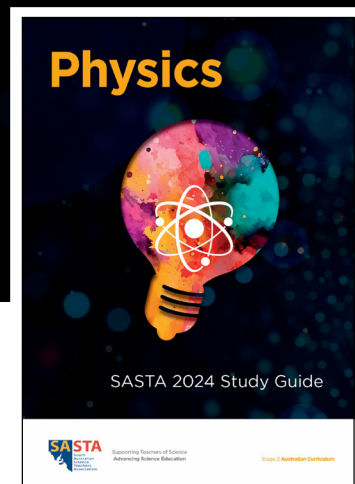
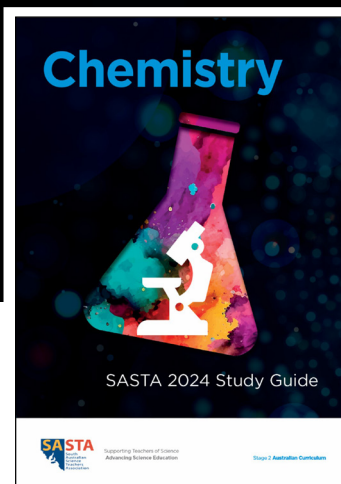
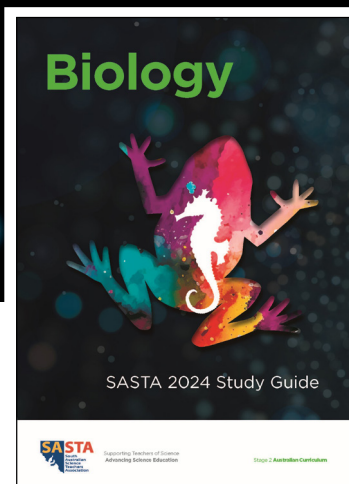
Chemistry

3rd ed., 2023, 412 pp.

ISBN 978-0-6452365-7-6

Available Now

SASTA 2024 Study Guides



SASTA Study Guides are the perfect companion for students gearing up for their Stage 2 SACE exams. These guides provide a comprehensive range of questions, accompanied by worked solutions covering all topics in the Subject Outline. To keep things fresh and relevant, we update our guides each year with solutions from the previous year's exams and introduce brand new questions to further enhance exam readiness.

\$33 each

plus delivery or orders can be collected from the SASTA office

Available May 2024

Available to pre-order at www.sasta.asn.au