

Senior Sciences

Curriculum glossary — as at 14 July 2010

The following terms (key words and phrases) are sourced from the current suite of senior sciences syllabuses. Most words come from the standards matrixes. The descriptions help teachers understand the intent of the terms as they are used in these syllabuses. The descriptions complement the existing syllabus glossaries.

Term	Description
Accurate	Precise, to the point; consistent with a standard
Appropriate	Fitting, suitable to the context
Challenging	Demanding and thought-provoking; usually involving less familiar or unfamiliar elements, high levels of synthesis and greater abstraction
Clarify	Make clear; explain
Clearly	Plainly and openly, without ambiguity
Coherent	Rational with parts that are harmonious, well structured and that make sense
Complex	Relationships or interactions that have a number of elements, components or steps
Critical	Rationally appraising for logical consistency and merit
Directed	Following the instructions of the facilitator
Discriminating	Perceptive and judicious; making judgments about quality
Effective	Meeting the assigned purpose
Efficient	Proficient and useful
Exploration	Examination and investigation
Familiar	Materials (including texts) or circumstances that have been the focus of learning experiences
Formulation	Devising something, often the construction of an idea or concept; to communicate something carefully using specific words
Given	Known or provided
Guided	Work produced primarily in response to the facilitator's direction; under supervision
Informed	Having relevant knowledge; being conversant with the topic
Innovative	Novel, but not necessarily unique; often involving effective alternatives, modifications or changes to given information or routine tasks
Isolated	One-off or unconnected
Partial	Attempted, with evidence provided, but incomplete
Plausible	Credible and possible
Range	The breadth of coverage, applicable to the context under study (also see <i>Variety</i>)

Reasoned	Logical and sound; presented with justification
Recognition	Identifying that an item, characteristic or quality exists
Refinement	Fine-tuning and modification; improvement and enhancement
Reflection	Consideration and evaluation
Related	Associated with or linked to
Relevant	Applicable and pertinent; has a direct bearing on
Reliable	Constant and dependable or consistent and repeatable
Researchable	Able to be explored or analysed
Routine	Often encountered, previously experienced
Rudimentary	Simple or basic
Simple	Easy to understand and deal with; may concern a single or a basic aspect, few steps, obvious data / outcomes, limited or no relationships
Superficial	Apparent and sometimes trivial
Supported	To give something greater credibility by being consistent with it or providing further evidence
Systematic	Methodical, organised and logical
Valid	Applicable, legitimate and defensible, able to be supported
Variety	A number of different modes or sources; a range