



A Level Environmental Science



AQA Specification code: 7447

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Is this course right for me?

Studying A level Environmental Science is ideal for those who have a keen interest in sustainability and the impacts of humans on our environment. The aim of this course is to give students a holistic view of how a wide range of systems and processes are interconnected and how human society relies upon natural systems for resources and life support systems. Environmental Science covers a range of topics that are relevant and important to our day to day lives and also investigates ideas that are very current in the media. The course covers topics such as the development of life on Earth, wildlife conservation, biodiversity, climate change, the future of energy resources, pollution, agriculture and sustainability. There is also a field and practical work element to the course for students to gain hands on experience of research methods.

A level Environmental Science is a great accompaniment to A-levels in Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths.

Year 12 AS Environmental Science

The living Environment

Investigating how the conditions of planet Earth allowed early life to develop and survive.

Wildlife conservation including the importance of biodiversity, habitat management and captive breeding and release programmes.

The Physical Environment

The impact of human activities on physical processes in the atmosphere (climate change), hydrosphere (exploitation of water) and the lithosphere (geological resources)

Research Methods

Completing required practical's and fieldwork is a requirement of the course.

Year 13 A Level Environmental Science

Energy resources

Analysis of the importance of energy resources in both past and future developments in society and evaluating the impact of future energy supply problems.

Pollution

The properties of pollutants, how environmental features affect the severity of pollution and the strategies to control pollutants.

Biological Resources

Challenges posed by the need to provide food and forest resources for a growing human population without damaging the plant's life support system.

Sustainability

The role of dynamic equilibria in natural and human systems and how this understanding may be used to develop a sustainable human society. The effect of changing availability of energy resources and the development of new technologies to deal with the economic factors and environmental concerns regarding energy.

Research Methods

Completing required practical's and fieldwork is a requirement of the course.

Course Assessment

| AS Environmental Science (Year 1) | A Level Environmental Science (Year 2) |
|---|--|
| <p>Paper 1 The living environment The physical environment Research methods</p> <p>Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the interconnections between topics.</p> | <p>Paper 1 The physical environment Energy resources Pollution Sustainability Research methods</p> <p>Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the interconnections between topics.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Written exam</p> <p>3 hours 120 marks 100% of AS</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Written exam</p> <p>3 hours 120 marks 50% of A Level</p> |
| Exam comprises of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. | Exam comprises of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. |
| | <p>Paper 2 The living environment Biological resources Sustainability Research methods</p> <p>Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the interconnections between topics.</p> |
| | <p style="text-align: center;">Written exam</p> <p>3 hours 120 marks 50% of A Level</p> |
| | Exam comprises of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. |

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of grades of 65 in Double Award Science and a 5 in Higher Maths

