



A Level Environmental Science

Key contact: Mr J Shellard (Staff in charge of Environmental Science)
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

Environmental Science is a holistic subject with many interconnected systems and processes. A change to one process can affect many other processes over different spatial and temporal scales. Consideration of environmental issues and the conclusions reached should be based on reliable evidence-based information and quantitative data. Students must develop an understanding of how human society relies upon natural systems for resources and life support systems. An understanding of these systems should be used to propose changes in society that would produce sustainable lifestyles.

Who will this course appeal to:

This course will appeal to students who:

- are interested in the environment and sustainability issues
- prefer to learn about applications of science
- students who are interested in our transition away from a fossil fuel based economy to a circular economy
- wish to pursue a higher education course or career in an environmental discipline.

Complementary subjects:

Environmental Science would be an excellent complementary course to study alongside several A Level courses, such as:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Geography
- Sociology
- Mathematics
- Politics

What will you study?

Year 1

Each Module is split into smaller topics that focus on a theme. These are:

- The physical environment
- Energy resources
- Pollution
- Research methods

Year 2:

- The living environment
- Biological Resources
- Sustainability
- Research method

Assessment

- Assessment is by two written papers.
- Each paper is 3 hours in length.
- Each paper is 120 marks
- Each paper is weighted equally (50% each of overall grade)

Possible career path?

The field of Environmental Science is growing at a faster rate than ever due to issues such as climate change and pollution. Individuals who pursue an Environmental Science A Level will potentially be looking to continue their education at university in a related field.

Examples of career opportunities are:

- Environmental Chemist
- Environmental Engineer
- Microbiologist
- Ecologist
- Conservationist
- Marine Biologist
- Geologist
- Environmental Lawyer
- Water Quality Scientist

Entry requirements

Ideally five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics and ideally Science.