

Full time, 22/23

A Level Environmental Science

Level 3 | GCE AS Level in Environmental Science

Course information (PDF generated at 29/06/2022 02:29:43 am)
www.sgscol.ac.uk/study/alevels/a-level-environmental-science

Summary

The AQA Environmental Science A Level is a course that will suit those who enjoy a multi-disciplinary approach to learning (thinking across all fields!) and who have a keen interest in sustainability and managing the impact that humans have on the planet. Key topics include the bio-physical environment, energy resources, pollution, circular economy and sustainability, all in the context of real-life case studies. Embedded in the course are opportunities to develop scientific skills in research, methodologies and sampling techniques. It is a good choice to take alongside Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Law or Geography and can lead to more specialised areas of study or employment.

Apply online



How will I know how I am doing?

The course is a 2 year linear A Level and there is no AS level. At the end of the course you will sit 2 written exam papers, both 3 hours long and worth 50% of the A Level (120 marks each). Practical skills and field work (2-4 days minimum in the field) make up a significant proportion of the course, but are assessed via the written exams and there is no formally assessed coursework.

What do I need to join?

5 GCSE's grade 4-9 including a 5 in Maths and Science.

How will I learn?

Topics studied

The living environment:

- Conditions for life on Earth
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Life processes in the biosphere and conservation planning

The physical environment:

- The atmosphere
- The hydrosphere
- Mineral resources
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Soils

Sustainability:

- Dynamic equilibria
- Energy
- Material cycles
- The Circular Economy

Energy resources:

- Evaluation of new extraction/harnessing technologies relating to:
 - fossil fuels
 - nuclear power – fission and fusion
 - renewable energy technologies
 - new energy storage systems
 - new energy conservation technologies
 - vehicle design for use and end of life
 - building design

Pollution:

- The properties of pollutants
- How environmental features affect pollution events
- Strategies to control pollutants based on their properties and features of the environment

Biological resources:

- Agriculture
- Aquatic food production systems
- Forest resources

What can I do next?

Further University study and/or employment/apprenticeships in many fields including energy, town planning, civil engineering, sustainable architecture, ecology, water supply and treatment, waste management, local or central government (eg councils, DEFRA, Environment Agency, Natural England), charities, education, conservation, research, environmental law, corporate social responsibility, forestry...