

Environmental Science

National 5

Entry Requirements

N5
Geography,
or a Science

Pupils who have achieved a N4 pass in these subjects will also be considered for this course

Progress through Environmental Science

Higher
Environmental
Science

Pupils who study this course can also undertake further study, employment and/or training at college/university or pursue careers in a related field

Course Content

The purpose of the N5 Environmental Science course is to develop learners' interest and enthusiasm for the subject by tackling issues such as global climate change, pollution, use of land and water resources and changes in wildlife habitats. It involves using investigative and experimental skills to develop an understanding of scientific principles, economic influences and political action. Environmental Science takes a problem solving approach to attempt to develop solutions that prevent or reverse environmental deterioration and aim for sustainable practices.

The course is made up of three units:

Unit 1: Living Environment

The topics you will study in earth's resources are:

- Investigating ecosystems and biodiversity
- Interdependence and adaptation
- Human influences on biodiversity
- Impact of natural hazards on biodiversity

Unit 2: Earth's Resources

The topics you will study in earth's resources are:

- Overview of Earth's systems and their interactions
- Geosphere
- Hydrosphere
- Biosphere
- Atmosphere

Unit 3: Sustainability

The topics you will study in earth's resources are:

- Food Security
- Water Resources
- Energy Supplies
- Waste management
- Transport

Skills Developed

A variety of active learning and teaching strategies will be involved to develop a variety of skills such as paired work, group work, researching and presenting information, interpretation and analysis of various sources of information and self and peer evaluation of work produced.

Assessment

Exam Paper

80% of overall grade

Added Value Assignment

20% of overall grade

In this unit pupils choose an environmental issue and write up a research project based on fieldwork or an experiment. The project will be marked by the SQA.

Related Careers

Environmental Science is useful in a wide range of careers including civil engineering, marketing and design, tourism, surveying, planning and architecture, teaching, conservation, transport, the civil service, agriculture, geophysics and many other career paths.

Michael Jordan, Prince William, David Attenborough, Amy MacDonald and Chris Tarrant all studied subjects related to Environmental Science

