

A level Environmental Science

Why study Environmental Science?

This is a brand new A level offer to Holyrood students. Environmental Science is about the conditions for life on earth, the sustainability of energy resources and agriculture, strategies to control pollutants, and biogeochemical cycles. You will explore the key challenges facing our planet—how the planet supports us, how we threaten these support systems and how humans are developing strategies for a more sustainable lifestyle. A levels it matches well to: A Level Geography, A Level Chemistry, and A Level Biology.

What do I study and how will I be assessed?

There are two written exams, each three hours in duration. Around 15% of all exam questions are based on practical skills and 10% of exam questions have a mathematical component. You will complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork.

Paper 1 – 3 hours (50% of qualification) Areas of study: The physical environment, Energy resources, Pollution, Research methods.

A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Paper 2 – 3 hours (50% of qualification) Areas of study: The living environment, Biological resources Sustainability, Research methods.

A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the inter-connections between topics.

This is a great accompaniment to A-levels in geography, biology, physics and maths and develops key skills including communication, teamwork and critical thinking.

What our students go on to study?

Degree opportunities are environmental science, ecology, microbiology, law, geography, and conservation to name a few.

Students could find themselves in a range of careers, the green sector globally is in the top 5 for job growth. Career pathways it could led on to are environmental planning/research, environmental law, microbiology, ecology, horticulture, pollution control, conservation, water management. It is one of the fastest growing areas of employment.

Apprenticeships, for example at Hinkley Point or The Environment Agency.

Examining board

AQA