

Environmental Science is offered at Higher, jointly between Biology and Geography. It is an interdisciplinary course weaving together bioscience, geoscience and environmental physics.

| Environmental Science Higher | |
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| Requirements | Minimum of a C in both Biology and Geography. |
| Course Content | <p>The course emphasises field work and experiential learning opportunities, with a strong skills-based approach to learning. There are three main areas of study:</p> <p>Living environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigating ecosystems and biodiversity • interdependence • human influences on biodiversity <p>Earth's resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the geosphere • the hydrosphere • the biosphere • the atmosphere <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • global challenges • food • water • energy • waste management • anthropogenic climate change |
| Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question paper 1 (20 marks) 45 minutes <p>This paper comprises a case study of an application of environmental science, with short, structured-response questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question paper 2 (100 marks) 2 hours 30 minutes <p>Section 1 in paper 2 contains structured-response questions totalling 80 marks and Section 2 has a total of 20 marks available to candidates.</p> <p>It consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one pair of structured extended-response questions, with candidates required to select and answer one of the options - one pair of unstructured extended-response questions, with candidates required to select and answer one of the options |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment (20 marks) 8 hours |
| Progression / Next Steps | <p>Environmental scientists are involved in tackling issues such as global climate change, pollution, use of land and water resources and changes in wildlife habitats. It involves an understanding of scientific principles, economic influences and political action.</p> |