

A-Level Environmental Science

Board and Specification: AQA A Level Environmental Science (7447)
Head of Department: **Mr S. Howie** (s.howie@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in each of the three sciences if studying Triple Science
- Grade 5-5 in Combined Science where Triple Science is not taken
- Grade 5 or above in English Literature and/or English Language
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 4 will be considered for all entry if supported by a character reference

What skills are required of students?

Ability to follow instructions to complete practical work, carry out research and study independently, ability to use ICT to present your work, and communication skills to allow you to work industrial settings.

Course details

We have entered the age of the Anthropocene, where Humans are making an impact on planet Earth. Environmental Science helps us understand how the many interconnected systems on planet Earth function and how we are changing and affecting them. To understand, explain and reverse negative human impacts we must:

- study the Earth to see understand its complexities
- understand how we rely on our planet and the living World for our survival
- understand that human actions are reducing the ability of the Earth to support us and the other species we share the planet with
- develop sustainable lifestyles

With the challenging future the world faces, never has education been more important to inform a new generation of environmentalists and conservationists.

Our course at CWLC&SF provides a thorough examination of Environmental Science and comprehensive preparation to complete the AQA A Level specification (7447).

We aim to:

- provide clear explanations of key concepts and scientific processes and insights into environmental events and cycles
- describe environmental resources and services, our reliance, exploitation, and impact on these, and discusses how the environment is affected by human activities
- explain and assesses the strategies that individuals, business, industry, governments, and other organisations can implement to manage, minimise, and reverse the impact of human actions
- support students in their study of Environmental Science, enhancing their understanding and skills to succeed in their A level examinations

Required field work and investigations

- As part of AQA's A-level in Environmental Studies, we have inspiring practical fieldwork opportunities. These require a variety of habitats and locations not available in inner Worcester. To complete this we draw on the expertise of the Field Studies Council and their specialist rural location of Preston Montford in Shropshire. On the 4-day residential course, we conduct several practical case studies investigating woodland and water habitats, examining habitats, wildlife, pollution and water quality. We will also be visiting an Ice age landscape, unique in the UK.

Modules titles and codes:

AQA A Level Environmental Science (7447)

1. The living environment
2. The physical environment
3. Energy resources
4. Pollution
5. Biological resources
6. Sustainability
7. Research methods

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

- Following instructions to carry out practical work and then writing up that work including presenting the results clearly, processing the results by drawing graphs and carrying out calculations, drawing conclusions from the results and analysing and evaluating the results.
- Support will be given with more than one teacher available to explain these new concepts in a different way that may aid understanding. Small groups should allow staff to give regular individual help during lessons.
- At the end of each subject content section, there are details of opportunities for students to develop scientific skills within the context of that topic. These include:
 - skills related to the methodologies and sampling techniques that students must gain through first-hand experience
 - skills related to research methods that can be gained through class-based and/or practical activities.

What other A/AS-levels does your subject connect well with?

Biology, Geography, Chemistry, Psychology, Physics, Mathematics, Sociology.

What types of University course will be helped by this A-level?

You could go on to work in many fields, including forensic science, geoscience, life sciences, marine biology, environmental science, meteorology, midwifery, nursing, physiotherapy, teaching.