

A Level Environmental Science

Environmental Science has never been more relevant. Every day there are articles in the press and media about environmental issues such as food production, global warming, and sustainability.

This course will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of our planet. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, we will consider the interactions between the living environment, the physical environment and human activity. We will explore many environmental issues such as melting ice sheets, coral reef decline, wildlife trade and conservation, and how to use new technologies to manage these problems.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed via two 3 hour written papers, each worth 50% of the A Level, comprised of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

What other courses should I take?

This course works well alongside biology, chemistry, geography and geology.

What can I do after the course?

Environmental sciences students often go on to university and study ecology, environmental science, geography, geology, horticulture, marine biology, microbiology, natural sciences, oceanography, zoology.

This can then lead to jobs in fields such as agriculture, animal management, engineering, environmental law, environmental planning, forestry, fishery management, pollution control, sustainable architecture, water management, wildlife conservation.

Middlesbrough College is ideally located to allow us to visit a variety of environments and habitats.

You will complete at least two full days of fieldwork in addition to some laboratory-based activities.

If you have a keen interest in environmental issues, then this is the course for you!



The below information gives you a flavour of what you will study in A Level Environmental Science



The Living Environment

Initially looking at the conditions for life on Earth, we will go on to explore the importance of the conservation of biodiversity and how to manage it, how different species are adapted to their environments and population control.

The Physical Environment

This topic will look at how human activities are inter-connected with the Earth's physical processes. We will study humans' relationships with the atmosphere, the hydrosphere and the lithosphere.

Energy Resources

This topic analyses the importance of energy resources in both past and future developments in society. You will develop your understanding of how improvements in technology can provide increasing amounts of energy from sustainable sources.

Pollution

In 'Pollution', we will consider the interaction of material properties, energy

forms and environmental change. We will then apply this knowledge to suggest solutions to minimise current and future pollution problems.

Biological resources

Students will develop an understanding of the challenge posed by the need to provide food and resources for a growing human population without damaging the planet's life support systems. We will look at agriculture, aquatic food production and forest resources.

Sustainability

This topic will look at the interconnected nature of environmental problems and solutions to these problems. You will consider sustainability on a local, national and global scale.

Research methods

Research methods include details of the methods used to investigate a wide range of environmental issues. Students will undertake fieldwork and laboratory-based studies, including appropriate risk management, in various environmental contexts.

