National 3 Environmental Science (Course Code: C726 73)

SCQF Level 3 (18 Credit Points)

Why study Environmental Science?

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.

This course provides a broad and up to date selection of ideas relevant to the central position of environmental science in society. You will investigate key areas of the living environment such as biodiversity and interdependence.

The skills that you learn while studying Environmental Science, such as investigating, critical thinking, project management and survey techniques, are valuable in a wide variety of industry sectors including renewable energy, forestry and environmental conservation and agriculture.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

Animals, Land and Environment

Engineering

Information, Culture and Heritage

Science and Maths

Teaching and Classroom Support

What do I need to get in?

The school or college would decide on entry requirements. You would normally have achieved:

- **National 2 Science in the Environment**

What will I study?

You will learn about how we use the Earth's resources, and how we can protect and sustain the living environment. You will look at the impact that environmental science makes on all our lives, on the environment, and on society. This will help you to develop skills in investigating, fieldwork, making decisions and solving problems.

The course has **three** compulsory units.

Environmental Science: Earth's Resources (6 SCQF credit points)

In this unit you will:

- investigate the Earth's resources, including ethical and topical issues
- investigate the key areas of renewable energy sources including benefits and potential problems; formation, characteristics and uses of minerals
- study the formation, characteristics and uses of common rocks and soils
- explore useful substances which can be extracted from natural resources.

Environmental Science: Sustainability (6 SCQF credit points)

In this unit you will:

- investigate sustainability, including ethical and topical issues
- investigate the key areas of processes which may contribute to climate change
- explore the possible impact of atmospheric change on the survival of living things
- study the causes and possible consequences of an environmental issue, and ways to manage the impact.

Note: The above units may be taken with a Scottish Context option, which contributes towards the Scottish Studies Award.

Environmental Science: Living Environment (6 SCQF credit points)

In this unit you will:

- investigate the living environment, including ethical and topical issues
- learn how to sample and identify living things, from different habitats, to compare their diversity
- find out about the factors influencing the distribution of living things, the process of photosynthesis and why plants are vital to sustaining life on Earth
- investigate the use of different types of chemicals in agriculture, and the impact of chemicals, and their alternatives, on the world's food production.

How will I be assessed?

Your work will be assessed by your teacher or tutor on an ongoing basis throughout the course. Items of work might include:

- practical work - practical experiments
- written work - research assignments and reports
- projects
- class-based exams.

You must pass all three units to get the qualification.

Study Materials

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- **National 4 Environmental Science**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Science and Mathematics
- Teaching and Classroom Support