

Higher Environmental Science (Course Code: C826 76)

SCQF Level 6 (24 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](#)

[Information, Culture and Heritage](#)

[Science and Maths](#)

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college but you would normally be expected to have:

- National 5 Biology
- National 5 Environmental Science
- National 5 Geography

What will I study?

The course consists of **three** areas of study.

Living environment

Topics include: Investigating ecosystems and biodiversity; interdependence; human influences on biodiversity.

Earth's resources

Topics include: The geosphere; the hydrosphere; the biosphere; the atmosphere.

Sustainability

Topics include: Global challenges; food; water; energy; waste management; anthropogenic climate change.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment has **three** components **totalling 140 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 20 marks
- Component 2: question paper – worth 100 marks (consisting of 2 sections; section 1 worth 80 marks, and section 2 worth 20 marks)
- Component 3: assignment – worth 20 marks.

For the assignment component, you will research and report on a topic which should involve experimental work/field investigations. Your research should include data/information gathered from the internet, books, journals or maps.

Both the question papers and the assignment are set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across course assessment.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Environmental Science Higher](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper 1 Environmental Science Higher](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper 2 Environmental Science Higher](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Environmental Science](#)

What can I go on to next?

Further study, training or employment in:

- Animals, Land and Environment
- Environmental Services
- Offshore and Energy
- Science and Mathematics
- Town and Regional Planning