

Environmental Science

Points of change and areas of stability across National 5 and new CfE Higher

The new National Courses at National 5 combine popular and relevant topics of study from Standard Grade and Intermediate 1 and 2 Courses. The new National Courses at Higher combine popular and relevant topics of study from Higher Managing Environmental Resources, Biology, Geology and Geography. They also introduce revised content and revised methods of assessment, increasing personalisation and choice for learners.

Environmental Science Courses are explored through the following areas of study:

- ◆ Living Environment
- ◆ Earth's Resources
- ◆ Sustainability

Through these areas of study, learners will develop specific skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The development of subject-specific and generic skills is central to all Courses. Learners will develop these skills and techniques in context and they should be made aware of the skills they are developing and of their transferability. It is this aspect of skills development that will help learners progress to further study or the world of work.

Course/level	National 5 (SCQF 5)	Higher (SCQF 6)
Areas/Topics of study	<p>At National 5, the Course is designed to allow some flexibility in the study of the key areas thus providing some personalisation and choice for learners.</p> <p>National 5 Environmental Science is a new Course. Some of the Course content will be familiar to centres currently delivering Intermediate 2 Managing Environmental Resources, Biology, Geology and Geography Courses as well as Standard Grade Credit Biology and Geography Courses. However, the content has been reviewed and updated.</p> <p>The key areas for this Course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ investigating ecosystems and biodiversity ◆ interdependence ◆ human influences on biodiversity ◆ an overview of Earth systems and their interactions ◆ the geosphere ◆ the hydrosphere ◆ the biosphere 	<p>At Higher, the Course is designed to allow some flexibility in the study of the key areas thus providing some personalisation and choice for learners.</p> <p>Higher Environmental Science is a new Course. Some of the Course content will be familiar to centres currently delivering Higher Managing Environmental Resources, Biology, Geology and Geography. However, the content has been reviewed and updated.</p> <p>The key areas for this Course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ investigating ecosystems and biodiversity ◆ interdependence ◆ human influences on biodiversity ◆ the geosphere ◆ the hydrosphere ◆ the biosphere ◆ the atmosphere ◆ food

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the atmosphere ◆ an introduction to sustainability ◆ food ◆ water ◆ energy ◆ waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ water ◆ energy ◆ waste management
<p>Added Value/Course assessment</p>	<p>To achieve the National 5 Course, learners must pass all of the required Units and the Course assessment.</p> <p>The Course assessment will consist of two Components: an assignment and a question paper. Both will be externally assessed.</p> <p>Each Component will assess both skills and knowledge and understanding. The question paper will have a greater emphasis on knowledge and understanding while the assignment will have a greater emphasis on skills.</p> <p>Coursework: assignment The assignment will allow learners to apply a range of skills as they research a topic or issue, including: knowledge and understanding, research, interpreting evidence, organising and presenting findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Learners will have a high degree of choice in the topic or issue chosen for study. ◆ SQA will provide advice and guidance on the degree of support that can be provided for learners and the conditions under which the assignment will be undertaken. <p>Question paper The question paper will sample the skills, knowledge and understanding from the Course. It will draw on styles of questions used in Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 and Revised Higher question papers.</p>	<p>To achieve the Higher Course, learners must pass all of the required Units and the Course assessment.</p> <p>The Course assessment will consist of two Components: an assignment and a question paper. Both will be externally assessed.</p> <p>Each Component will assess both skills and knowledge and understanding. The question paper will have a greater emphasis on knowledge and understanding while the assignment will have a greater emphasis on skills.</p> <p>Coursework: assignment The assignment will allow learners to apply a range of skills as they research a topic or issue, including: knowledge and understanding, research, interpreting evidence, organising and presenting findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Learners will have a high degree of choice in the topic or issue chosen for study. ◆ SQA will provide advice and guidance on the degree of support that can be provided for learners and the conditions under which the assignment will be undertaken. <p>Question paper The question paper will sample the skills, knowledge and understanding from the Course. It will draw on styles of questions used in Higher Managing Environmental Resources, Biology, Geology and Geography.</p>

<p>Further Information</p>	<p>The details above for National 5 should be read in conjunction with the relevant:</p> <p>Mandatory documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course Specification ◆ Unit Specifications ◆ Course Assessment Specification <p>Advice and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course and Unit Support Notes <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unit Assessment Support materials: judging evidence table ◆ Coursework Component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — general assessment information on the Coursework: general marking principles — the Coursework assessment task: general marking principles, detailed marking instructions ◆ question paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — specimen question paper; general marking principles, detailed marking instructions 	<p>The details above for Higher should be read in conjunction with the relevant:</p> <p>Mandatory documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course Specification ◆ Unit Specifications ◆ Course Assessment Specification <p>Advice and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course and Unit Support Notes <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unit Assessment Support materials: judging evidence table ◆ Coursework Component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — general assessment information on the Coursework: general marking principles — the Coursework assessment task: general marking principles, detailed marking instructions ◆ question paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — specimen question paper; general marking principles; detailed marking instructions
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