Summary specification: AQA Environmental Science (7447)

This qualification is linear - all exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

Subject content

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

Working scientifically: opportunities for skills development and independent thinking
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.

- skills related to the methodologies and sampling techniques that students must gain through first-hand experience including compulsory fieldwork in a variety of habitats
- skills related to research methods that can be gained through class-based and/or practical activities.

PAPER 1 50% 3 hours	**PAPER 2 50% 3 hours**
● The physical environment ● Energy resources ● Pollution ● Research methods*	● The living environment ● Biological resources ● Sustainability ● Research methods*
Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the interconnections between topics. A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	
An understanding and appreciation of experimental design, statistical and mathematical analysis underlies all the content. Students evaluate published research in order to query validity and draw evidence based conclusions	

Perspectives

- An interdisciplinary 'pure science' science
- A science with a hint of ethics (like it matters)
- The only subject that REALLY matters, using information from the 'support' subjects: biology, chemistry, physics, geology, maths, economics etc

Questions from teaching colleagues and open evenings that make the ES team want to scream!!

• **Is it a 'real' science. Is it a soft science?** – look at the spec; arguably more emphasis on an understanding of experimental methodology and evidence based analysis than any other at A level.
Nothing soft – but emphasis on application rather than recall *will* benefit bright students already in a thinking skills mindset with decent maths skills. It's rumoured we have a few of those.

• **It's new isn't it?** Not if Ms H has an O level in it in 1983 and been teaching it since 1991!

• **Do universities accept it as an A level? Will it complement other A level subjects? Yes , yes**. Some synergies are obvious eg. Biology, Geography and Env Sci. However, Env Sci can enhance and add context to any combination including the social sciences. Sustainable land management and livelihoods depend on societal and political structure. You don't need to be aiming for a degree in ecology, geology or environmental chemistry to enjoy ES.

• **"But my daughter/son wants to read medicine or go to Oxbridge…"?** accepted and specifically listed as a second or third science in every prospectus EAH has so far looked at.

• **Can you do it at university?** A vast array of environmental degrees out there – unsurprising given the state of our planet

Course textbook to purchase

Environmental Science A level AQA endorsed: 2 Paperback – 1 Mar. 2018

Author: Richard Genn

Publisher : Insight & Perspective; 2nd New edition (1 Mar. 2018)
Language : English
Paperback : 432 pages
ISBN-10 : 1912190079
ISBN-13 : 978-1912190072