

Environmental Science A Level - preparation

Preparation work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

Pre-reading and research will help you to become more familiar with the topics you are going to study on your A Level Environmental Science course. If you complete the tasks below, they will also help you to become more confident when you start your course. Remember it is also a good idea to recap and consolidate your GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics knowledge, so don't throw those revision guides away just yet!

Specification :

A good place to start to look at the A level specification and familiarise yourself with what you will be studying on the course:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/environmental-science-7447>

Task 1:

Produce a 1 side (A4) summary for each of the following topics that you will be studying as part of your course:

1. Conservation

- choose an endangered species and research why it is under threat and what people are doing to conserve this species **or**
- Choose an endangered habitat and research the species that live here and the importance of conserving this habitat

<https://www.conservation.org>

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/species>

2. Create a bullet point timeline to show key events and agreements that have led to our current understanding of climate change

<https://climate.nasa.gov>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained>

Task 2:

Research the environmental science behind a news story that has recently caught your interest e.g. Why are insect numbers declining? Why are microplastics so harmful? Why is 2023 on course to be the hottest year of all time? How can releasing grazing animals into the arctic reduce the effects of climate change? How can the UK continue to produce electricity without using coal?

Also an A4 summary at most is fine.

Task 3:

Source one of the books below on the next page or listen to one of the podcasts. Write a summary of the key environmental science facts and main points you have learnt.

Also an A4 summary at most is fine.

Books to Read - only suggestions - follow your own env interests:

- **Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm** by Isabella Tree
- **There Is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years** by Mike Berners-Lee
- **No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference** by Greta Thunberg
- **Clearing the Air** by Tim Smedley
- **Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature** by Janine M. Benyus
- **Volt Rush: The Winners and Losers in the Race to Go Green** by Henry Sanderson
- **Regenesiis: Feeding the World Without Devouring the Planet** by George Monbiot

Podcasts - suggestions:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p07f44ck>

<https://gimletmedia.com/shows/the-habitat>

<https://www.bbcearth.com/podcast>

<https://player.fm/featured/environment>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/downloads>

GENERAL STUFF WE RECOMMEND

Websites for Further Research and Reading:

One of the great things about Environmental Science is that it is always in the news. You must keep up to date with news stories that relate to key topics you will be studying:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment

<https://nerc.ukri.org/planetearth>

Programmes to Watch:

Currently on BBC iPlayer

- **Wild Isles**
- **The Green Planet**
- **Planet earth 2**
- **The Blue Planet 1 and 2**
- **Countryfile and Springwatch**

Or if you have Netflix there are a number of nature and ecology documentaries and films to watch.

- <https://www.netflix.com/gb/browse/genre/48768>

Progression Opportunities

Why choose Environmental Science A Level:

<https://environmentalprofessionalsnetwork.com/why-study-environmental-science-tips-on-environmental-studies>

Explore the range of careers you can access by studying environmental science

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/environmental-science>

We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.