

## Qualifications and Skills Needed

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To study A level Environmental Studies, you need to have a grade C or above in GCSE Dual Science, Maths and English. A wide range of skills is required including the interpretation of scientific information along with the communication of ideas. Mathematical ability is needed in order to analyse data. These skills will be further developed during the course, but GCSE level will be the starting point.

## Subject Combinations

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Environmental Studies draws on areas of study from Biology, Geography, Physics, Chemistry and Geology, and would be well supported by any of these. For those wishing to pursue a scientific career, it should be combined with at least one other science. For those wishing to study just one science subject, Environmental Studies is ideal as it is so broad. For specific career choices please see our careers advisers.



## Why Study Environmental Studies ?

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The course provides an opportunity for scientific study both in the classroom and by taking part in fieldwork. Covering a range of issues of environmental importance and the scientific principles that underpin them. The emphasis of the specification is on a scientific approach to the study of the environment, to provide the knowledge and understanding to enable you to make an informed judgement on matters of actual or potential environmental conflict.

## A World of Opportunities

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Your interest in the environment and ethical issues could take you along a number of career paths. For example, ecology and wildlife conservation, geography, geology or climatology. Maybe you'd like to work for a charity, teach, enter politics, or use your A Level in Environmental Studies as the stepping stone for higher education or a degree in environmental science.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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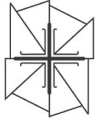
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Environmental Studies

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COLLEGE



# Environmental Studies



*“This beautiful and endangered planet  
is the only one we have”*

Gerald Durrell

# Environmental Studies A Level

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Is the science of the environment

## Board: AQA

### AS Level

The AS level course will be studied in the first year, with exams in June. It is a qualification in its own right and some students may wish to study the subject just to AS level either in their first or second year at college.

### A2 Level

The A2 level course builds on the AS, and is studied by students who have already passed AS level. Exams are in January and June of the second year. AS and A2 each contribute 50% to the full A level.



# Be Part of the Solution

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**As the saying goes, “if you aren’t part of the solution, you’re part of the problem”. But by taking the Environmental Studies course you’ll definitely have an in-depth scientific understanding of the fragile world we live in.**

This highly popular course involves the scientific study of how the environment support us, how we threaten these support systems, and strategies for a more sustainable lifestyle. The subject draws on many study areas including geology, geography, economics, politics and sociology.

## Help the Planet... and Yourself

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Environmental Studies doesn’t just help you understand ways in which we can save the Earth...it also helps you develop valuable skills that will help in any walk of life. Like how to collect, analyse and evaluate information in order to arrive at the big picture.

## Your Key Learning Topics

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The first year (AS) of Environmental Studies covers two main study topics: the Living Environment and The Physical Environment. The ‘living’ topic includes wildlife conservation, the conditions for life on Earth, and a study of land resources. Then the ‘physical’ topic introduces you to the three systems of our planet: the atmosphere, water resources (the ‘hydrosphere’) and the thin crust of the

Earth’s surface (the ‘lithosphere’) where we humans and other land-based animals and plants live.

In the second year you’ll delve into environmental issues in more depth. The first part of the year is spent studying topics like energy resources and environmental pollution. The second part of the year looks at issues like the impact of mankind, food productions systems and the important issue of sustainability.

You will also go on a four day residential field course to North Wales.

## On Your Marks

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Each year you’ll have two written papers to complete. The first year papers are questions on The Living Environment (1 hour, 40% of your AS marks) and The Physical Environment (90 minutes, 60% of your marks). The second year papers cover Energy Resources (90 minutes, 50% of your A2) and Biological Resources (2 hours, 50% of your marks). All the papers have a mix of short-answer questions and an essay or longer-answer questions.

## What Skills will I Learn?

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Environmental Studies helps develop a number of personal skills:

- How to gather and evaluate information
- Working with fellow students on projects
- Clear communication of ideas
- How to define key issues and identify possible solutions
- Management of numerical data