

KS5 Curriculum Overview: A-Level Environmental Science



The AQA A Level Environmental Science course addresses the growing environmental challenges we face and aims to develop sustainable solutions. It enhances awareness of current environmental issues through real-life case studies and experiments, applying biological, chemical, and physical principles to solve problems.

This linear qualification requires students to complete all exams and non-exam assessments at the end of the two-year course. There are two external exams, each lasting 3 hours and worth 120 marks, each constituting 50% of the A Level. These exams include multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. The non-exam assessment involves students demonstrating practical skills in fieldwork and laboratory-based skills.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 12	Curriculum: The living environment The physical environment Research methods	Curriculum: The living environment The physical environment Research methods	Curriculum: Energy Resources Sustainability Research methods
	Formal Assessment*: The Living Environment mid-unit review The Physical environment mid-unit review Weekly homework set including past paper question practice. Assessed practical activities	Formal Assessment*: The Living Environment End of unit test The Physical environment end of unit test Weekly homework set including past paper question practice. Assessed practical activities: First Mock Exam after Christmas Holidays	Formal Assessment*: Energy Resources end of unit test Sustainability mid-unit review Weekly homework set including past paper question practice. Assessed practical activities: End of Y12 Mock Exams
Year 13	Curriculum: Pollution Biological resources Research methods	Curriculum: Biological resources Sustainability Research methods	Curriculum: Sustainability Research methods
	Formal Assessment*: Pollution end of topic test Biological Resources mid-unit review Weekly homework set including past paper question practice. Assessed practical activities.	Formal Assessment*: Biological Resources end of unit test Sustainability mid-unit review Weekly homework set including past paper question practice. Assessed practical activities.	Formal Assessment*: Sustainability end of unit test Weekly homework set including past paper question practice. Assessed practical activities. Year 13 exam and exam prep

At CamSF, assessment happens at many levels and is perhaps most important when teachers assess what students have learned and remembered within the classroom. Timely feedback is so important in enabling progress and knowledge retention.