



A Level Environmental Science

Summer bridging work

We are really looking forward to you joining us for Environmental Science this year. Environmental Science is an exciting and rapidly evolving field. In preparation for your new course, we would like you to spend 2-3 hrs working on the below task over the summer. We will collect this in in your first Environmental Science lesson to identify your strengths.

Task

Choose **one** of essay titles below; to get you started we have included a relevant video/podcast, you may also want to complete additional research. Once you have completed your research write a 2-3 page essay on your topic. You need to think about how your essay is structured to make a clear concise argument. This should take you about 2-3hours and we will collect it in when you join us in September.

Use the following scaffold to help you plan:

Paragraph 1

Introduction

What is the topic you are researching?

Why is this important?

What are the major issues (summary only)

How are they being addressed (summary only)

What are your conclusions?

Following paragraphs (4 or 5 paragraphs)

In each paragraph choose a specific aspect of your topic and address the following point with regards to that topic.

What is it?

Why does it matter?

What is happening? (What are the trends?)

How do we know? (How are scientists measuring what is happening?)

What will the effect of this be?

What is being done to mitigate it?

Final paragraph

Summary and conclusions

Summarise what you think the main issues are

Evaluate the trends (is the situation going to get better/worse (why?))

What does the future hold?

What are the main conclusions?

Essay titles and videos/podcasts

Essay title: Can we stop climate change?

To get you started: [Climate Change - The Facts - BBC iPlayer](#)

Essay title: How did life start on Earth?

To get you started: [In Our Time - The Origins of Life - BBC Sounds](#)

Essay title: Can we reduce the amount of waste that we produce?

To get you started: [BBC Sounds - The Compass - Available Episodes](#) (3 episodes)

Essay title: **Why is biodiversity important and can we protect it?**

To get you started: [BBC iPlayer - Our Changing Planet - Series 1: Episode 2](#)

General reading

Environmental science is rapidly evolving field and is often in the news, therefore scanning broadsheet newspapers, news websites and science magazines for relevant articles and reading these is a very good way of getting a good feel for the field.

The following websites are particularly good:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/sustainability/>

[Climate | Latest News & Updates | BBC News](#)

[Environment | The Guardian](#)

Areas to particularly focus on are:

- Conservation
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Sustainability
- Renewable energy
- Agriculture

There are many other areas that are also interesting and help to give a wider perspective.