

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Environmental Studies

Key Features



KEY FEATURES

The Environmental Studies specification enables students to gain a deep and well-informed insight into the environment, and the scientific processes that control and affect it. The central theme is the development of an understanding of how different events and cycles within the environment interrelate, how they influence subsequent environmental events, human impacts on these events and cycles, and the strategies that can be used to minimise the problems caused.

This is a complete revision of the AQA GCE Environmental Science specification. While most of the environmental issues in the current specification have been retained, some have been added to reflect changes in the subject and the emphasis of study has changed.

The emphasis for study is the development and assessment of strategies to solve problems caused by human activities. This requires a scientific assessment of the ways in which human activities cause environmental problems and an understanding of the underlying science that explains how natural processes work but may be altered by human action.

Scientific methodology should be emphasised throughout the course in considering how data are collected, how it can be analysed and how the validity of conclusions may be evaluated.

Wherever appropriate, teachers are given the freedom to choose case studies that are most appropriate to illustrate key principles. It should therefore be possible to cover global issues with local examples.