



Environment in the National Curriculum, GCSE and A level examination specifications (in 2016)

Geography National Curriculum

Environment mentions

- Teaching should equip students with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments.
- ... their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments.
- Students will continue to enrich their ... environmental understanding.
- Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems.

GCSE subject content

- **Global ecosystems and biodiversity** – An overview of the distribution and characteristics of large scale natural global ecosystems. For two selected ecosystems, draw out the interdependence of climate, soil, water, plants, animals and humans; the processes and interactions that operate within them at different scales; and issues related to biodiversity and to their sustainable use and management.
- **Resources and their management** – An overview of how humans use, modify and change ecosystems and environments in order to obtain food, energy and water resources. Detailed study of one of either food, energy or water, recognising the changing characteristics and distribution of demand and supply, past and present impacts of human intervention, and issues related to their sustainable use and management at a variety of scales.

GCE A level subject content

AS and A level specifications must enable students to:

- recognise and be able to analyse the complexity of people-environment interactions at all geographical scales, and appreciate how these underpin understanding of some of the key issues facing the world today
- improve their understanding of the ways in which values, attitudes and circumstances have an impact on the relationships between people, place and environment, and develop the knowledge and ability to engage, as citizens, with the questions and issues arising.