



Sturminster Newton High School Sixth Form

Environmental Science

Independent study Guide

Board: AQA

Type: GCE A Level

School: Sturminster Newton High School

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Using your study time

In addition to the work you complete in class, to be successful, you need to complete the following during your study periods and at home:

Homework: You will be set specific tasks for homework each week (up to two pieces per week) which will have set deadlines. Attempt them as early as you can so that you have time to seek out help/support when needed

Respond to homework/assessment feedback: RAG rate the relevant PLCs & then use this to work out which areas of the topic you need to focus on.

Textbook summary: Use any questions you come across in the textbook to consolidate and test your knowledge. Complete and mark.

Key words/terms: Develop systems for memorising key terms and examples, and then practise as much as you can (good application for flash cards)

Exam Style Questions: Attempt as many exam style questions as you can, mark them, reflect, and attempt them again a few days later.

Organisation and Motivation

Staying motivated and being organised are essential for you to be successful. The earlier you embed good habits the better, but it would be wrong to say its simple. Both take time and effort, but help you to maintain good progress on the course.

Plan each day: At the start of each day decide what you are going to do an each of your study session to ensure you can get to work right away

Plan each week: Similar, look at the week ahead, and schedule what you need to do each day

Plan each term: Look ahead each half term and spend time planning out what you need to know for the next big deadline/assessment, and what steps will you take to get there.

Information and resources

[Core Textbook](#), [Specification](#), [Example notes](#) (older spec, but still useful)

Notes and folders

You will be required to keep your notes in a folder (A4, Lever arch etc.) and write your notes on lined, A4 paper. This allows you to add worksheets, PLC's, revision tasks, exam questions and topic tests, into each topic area (dividers are therefore a sensible way to help this).

Each lesson your notes should have the following as a minimum requirement:

- Date, Title of work, Lesson notes, Lesson activities, Self study/homework

Additional Reading:

Take advantage of all the resources available to you to widen your exposure

News and journals – Reading articles and research on the topics your studying will help expand your knowledge and science vocabulary

Youtube – There are significant amounts of resources both targeted at A Level studies/concepts, as well as more general science/discussion

Talks – A wide range of topics and ideas covered on sites like [TED](#) (short 10-15 minute talks on big ideas), and [ignite](#) (5 minute talks with 20 slides, you have to dig a bit further, but some [great talks](#) to be found).

Courses – Online courses from sites like [future learn](#), [coursera](#), [edex](#),

Social Feeds – Fill your social feeds with environmental science through the people and organisations you follow. Be critical of what you watch but spark some questions you need to research. Watch a few of the right videos on TikTok and they'll start appearing on your feed, get involved in the discussion on Twitter, or add environmental scientists on Instagram

Tiktok – [examples](#) – [of](#) – [videos](#) – [that](#) – [will](#) – [start](#) – [filling](#) – [your](#) – [feed](#)

Instagram – [20 environmental Instagram accounts to follow](#)

Twitter – [25 climate and environment experts to follow](#)

Enrichment and opportunities:

Make a note of any opportunities to visit environmental science departments in universities across the country. Many will run residentials, in person open days, or online sessions. It's a great way to expand your knowledge and open new opportunities.

Example of potentially funded residentials – [University of Southampton](#)