

Group 3/4 Environmental Systems and Societies SL

AIMS

1. acquire the knowledge and understandings of environmental systems at a variety of scales
2. apply the knowledge, methodologies and skills to analyse environmental systems and issues at a variety of scales
3. appreciate the dynamic interconnectedness between environmental systems and societies
4. value the combination of personal, local and global perspectives in making informed decisions and taking responsible actions on environmental issues
5. be critically aware that resources are finite, and that these could be inequitably distributed and exploited, and that management of these inequities is the key to sustainability
6. develop awareness of the diversity of environmental value systems
7. develop critical awareness that environmental problems are caused and solved by decisions made by individuals and societies that are based on different areas of knowledge
8. engage with the controversies that surround a variety of environmental issues
9. create innovative solutions to environmental issues by engaging actively in local and global contexts.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant:
 - facts and concepts
 - methodologies and techniques
 - values and attitudes.
2. Apply this knowledge and understanding in the analysis of:
 - explanations, concepts and theories
 - data and models
 - case studies in unfamiliar contexts
 - arguments and value systems.
3. Evaluate, justify and synthesize, as appropriate:
 - explanations, theories and models
 - arguments and proposed solutions
 - methods of fieldwork and investigation
 - cultural viewpoints and value systems.
4. Engage with investigations of environmental and societal issues at the local and global level through:
 - evaluating the political, economic and social contexts of issues
 - selecting and applying the appropriate research and practical skills necessary to carry out investigations
 - suggesting collaborative and innovative solutions that demonstrate awareness and respect for the cultural differences and value systems of others.

LIST OF TOPICS

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| 1. Foundations of environmental systems and societies. | 5. Soil systems and terrestrial food production systems and societies |
| 2. Ecosystems and ecology | 6. Atmospheric systems and societies |
| 3. Biodiversity and conservation | 7. Climate change and energy production |
| 4. Water and aquatic food production systems and societies | 8. Human systems and resource use |

| Assessment component | Weighting (%) | Duration (hours) |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| Paper 1 (case study) | 25 | 1 |
| Paper 2 (short answers and structured essays) | 50 | 2 |
| Internal assessment (individual investigation) | 25 | 10 |