

# NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Environmental Science National 5

ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE

SCIENCES

NATIONAL

5

3  
UNITS

LIVING ENVIRONMENT  
SUSTAINABILITY  
EARTH'S RESOURCES

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER

## What skills will my child develop?

- knowledge and understanding of environmental science
- understanding environmental science's role in scientific issues and in society
- the ability to apply environmental science knowledge to new situations
- practical fieldwork skills
- scientific awareness of environmental issues and the validity of source material
- using scientific technology, equipment and materials safely
- the ability to research and communicate findings
- scientific literacy and scientific analytical skills
- scientific inquiry and investigative skills to test hypotheses and to illustrate effects
- creative thinking, analysing and problem-solving
- selecting information from a range of sources
- presenting and processing information appropriately in a variety of forms (using calculations and units where appropriate)



## WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- A blend of classroom approaches including hands-on practical and experiential learning; experiments; one-to-one, whole-class, group and peer learning and discussion; field work; visits
- Collaborative learning: working in pairs or small groups; working with partners in Science and Social Studies as this course has a strong interdisciplinary nature; employers; businesses; STEMNET
- Space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose their Assignment topic in discussion with the teachers/lecturer
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills: information-handling; processing data; measuring; communicating; analysing and evaluating; using technology; discussing.

## ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be presented in a variety of ways such as experiment reports, presentations, questioning, data loggers, graphs and tables, notes, podcasts. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- The Course Assessment consists of a Question Paper (exam) and an Assignment which requires learners to investigate a topical issue and write it up. Both are marked by the SQA and are graded A to D.

National 5 progresses onto Higher Environmental Science

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Environmental Science National 5: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47429.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47429.html)

Education Scotland: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)



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