

Frequently asked questions *June 2015 version*

What are the names of the qualifications?

Level 3 Diploma in Environmental Science Level 3
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Environmental Science Level 3

What are they equivalent to?

The Diploma requires 360 guided learning hours of teaching (equivalent to one GCE A level) while the Extended Diploma requires 720 guided learning hours (equivalent to two GCE A level).

Have these qualifications been accredited yet?

Yes, these qualifications are accredited for use in England and Wales for first teaching in September 2015.

Level 3 Diploma in Environmental Science	QAN 601/4550/X
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Environmental Science	QAN 601/4551/1

Have the DfE in England recognised these qualifications towards the 2017 performance tables?

Yes, these qualifications are recognised under the applied general category in science and mathematics.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/409740/Applied_General_2017_list_.pdf

How are the qualifications graded?

Qualifications are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

What is the purpose of the qualifications?

The main purpose of the qualification is to provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles to support progress to higher education or employment in areas related to environmental science. The qualification requires learners to apply biological, chemical and physical principles to environmental issues and to provide solutions to environmental problems.

What are the units that make up the qualifications?

Unit no.	Unit title	Mandatory/ optional	Assessment (external/ internal)	GLH	Qualification		
1.	Managing energy for a sustainable future	mandatory	internal	90	Extended Diploma	Diploma	
2.	The living environment and conservation	mandatory	externally set activity	90			
3.	Monitoring our physical environment	mandatory	internal	90			
4.	Scientific principles and the environment	mandatory	external (examination)	90			
5.	Dealing with pollution	mandatory	externally set activity	100		Extended Diploma	
6.	Climate change	optional	internal	100			
7.	Transport systems and the environment	optional	internal	100			
8.	Managing agriculture for a sustainable future	mandatory	internal	100			
9.	Environmental impact analysis	mandatory	externally set activity	60			

Units 1-4 make up the Diploma qualification.

Units 1-8 make up the Extended Diploma qualification.

Are there any examinations?

Unit 4, which is common to both the Diploma and Extended Diploma, is assessed through a 2 hour written examination. A pre-release article is available to candidates prior to the examination. This article helps set the examination in an Environmental context. In other externally assessed units, the assessment takes the form of activities set and marked WJEC.

Are there specimen exam papers for unit 4?

Yes, there is the specimen exam available on the open website, http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/environmental-science-level-3/level-3-%20diploma-in-%20environmental-science-sam%20s-first-teaching-from-2015.pdf?language_id=1 There is also a second specimen examination in the resource folder on the secure website at 'pdf resources downloads/ Level 3 Environmental Science'.

How is unit 2 assessed?

This is assessed through a task based activity set and marked by WJEC. This activity is changed each year. The activity will be made available on the secure website each September.

Where can we find model assessments for unit 1 and 3?

These are also available on the secure website under pdf resources / controlled assessment materials / Level 3 Environmental Science. Please make sure that you do not use materials marked 'draft'. They are available for centres to review from June 2015.

Can we modify the internal assessments?

These documents can be modified by the centre. However it is important that the centre reads the section ' Accepted changes to this model assignment'. Centres are strongly advised to check any changes they make to an assessment with the Subject Officer

What resources are available?

A range of support materials is available. Resource material is available on the secure website at 'pdf resources downloads/ Level 3 Environmental Science' and also on the open website, <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/qualification-resources.html?subject=environmentalScience&level=level3>

Material will be updated on a regular basis, with significant material added in June 2015.

Does learner work need to be word-processed?

Unless otherwise specified in an assessment task, no. Some tasks required the use of EXCEL to produce graphs. Please ensure that learners do not have internet access unless they are allowed by the task controls.

Do we need advanced instruments such as an HPLC?

No, these aren't needed. Data can be given to learners and background information on how the data was obtained. They do not need to carry out analysis using HPLC.

In unit 9, can students work in teams?

Learners have to produce an individual report. Some pooling of data is allowed but learners must have work that can be identified as theirs.

For the Diploma qualification, can we teach Units 1 and 3 in year 1 and Units 2 and 4 in year 2?

Yes, the Units can be taught in any order. However, unit 4 is synoptic and therefore would be better taught in year 2.

Will there be support for marking of internally assessed units?

We are planning a series of CPD events for 2015-2016 in order to support internal assessment.

When do learners find out their overall grade for the qualification?

Learners will find out their overall grade on summer results day after cash-in.

Are there other WJEC level 3 applied general Science specifications that could compliment the level 3 Environmental Science?

Yes, we are developing a level 3 medical science qualification that could be taken alongside the environmental science qualifications. this will be available for first teaching from September 2016.

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