

IB Environmental Systems and Societies

STANDARD LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

The IB Environmental Systems and Societies course aims to:

- Promote understanding of environmental processes at a variety of scales, from local to global
- Provide a body of knowledge, methodologies and skills that can be used in the analysis of Environmental issues at local and global levels
- Promote critical awareness of a diversity of cultural perspectives
- Recognise the extent to which technology plays a role in both causing and solving environmental problems
- Appreciate the value of local, as well as international, collaboration in resolving environmental problems
- Appreciate that environmental issues may be controversial, and may provoke a variety of responses

What does it involve?

Students will study the ecosystem, human population, resource use, conservation and biodiversity, population management, global warming and environmental value systems.

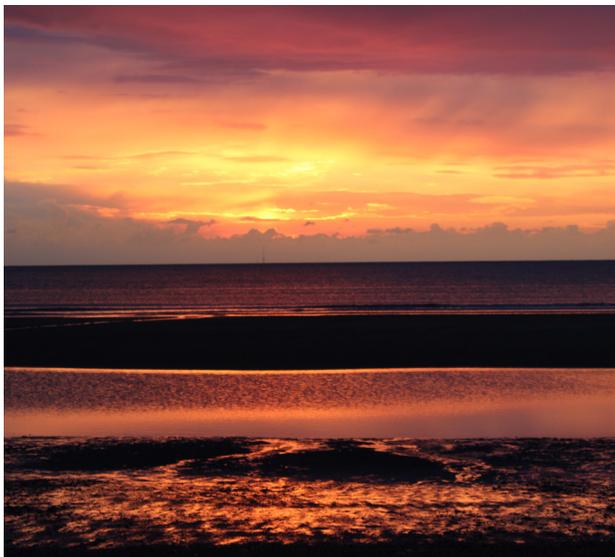
How is it assessed?

Students are assessed both externally and internally:

External assessment consists of two written papers and provides opportunities for students to demonstrate an understanding through the application, use, synthesis, analysis and evaluation of environmental issues, information, concepts, methods, techniques and explanations.

Internal assessment accounts for 20% of the final assessment and is comprised of a series of practical and fieldwork activities.

This assessment component enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge, and to pursue their personal interests, without the time limitations and other constraints that are associated with written examinations.



Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students will be able to study this course successfully with no specific previous knowledge of science or geography.

However, as the course aims to foster an international perspective, awareness of local and global environmental concerns and an understanding of the scientific methods, a course that shares these aims would be good preparation.

Why is it a useful qualification?

The prime intent of this course is to provide students with a coherent perspective of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies; one that enables them to adopt an informed personal response to the wide range of pressing environmental issues that they will inevitably come to face.

Students' attention can be constantly drawn to their own relationship with their environment and the significance of choices and decisions that they make in their own lives.

It is intended that students develop a sound understanding of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies, rather than a purely journalistic appreciation of environmental issues.