

HOW TO PASS:

National Environmental Science





UNITS AND TOPICS

Unit 1: Living Environments

(Mrs McDougall Welch)

- ▶ *Investigating ecosystems and biodiversity*
- ▶ *Interdependence*
- ▶ *Human influences on biodiversity*

Unit 2: Earth's Resources

(Ms McDonald)

- ▶ *Overview of Earth's systems*
- ▶ *Geosphere*
- ▶ *Hydrosphere*
- ▶ *Biosphere*
- ▶ *Atmosphere*

Unit 3: Sustainability

(Ms McDonald)

- ▶ *Introduction to Sustainability*
- ▶ *Food*
- ▶ *Water*
- ▶ *Energy*
- ▶ *Waste management*

Key: Completed topic

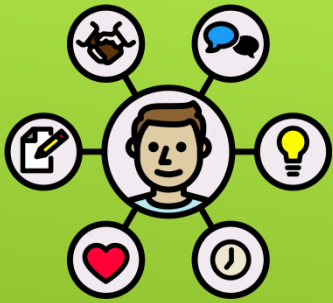
Working on topic

Not yet covered



ASSESSMENTS

Month	Ms McDonald's Content	Mrs McDougall Welch's Content
October	Unit 2 assessment - Geosphere	
November		Unit 1 assessment - Interdependence
December		
January	Prelim – date TBC	
February	Unit 3 assessment – all topics	
March		
April	Exam leave – dates TBC	
May	SQA Exam – Tuesday 31 st May – 9.00-11.30am 100 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes	



SKILLS

- ▶ Organisation – pupils have 2 different jotters so keeping notes well structured is key!
- ▶ Time management - 1.5 minutes per 1 mark.
- ▶ Numeracy – mean, ratio, percentage increase/decrease, calculations involving number substitution in formulae.
- ▶ Analysing information from a variety of sources - including OS maps, sketch maps, photographic evidence, tabular data, and/or short passages of text.
- ▶ Fieldwork and lab work – using a variety of apparatus.
- ▶ Data gathering and processing.

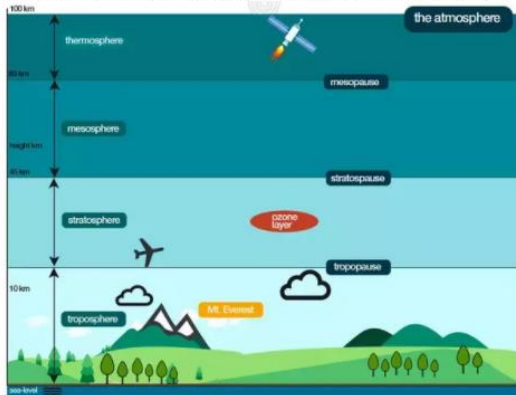


IN ENV. SCIENCE

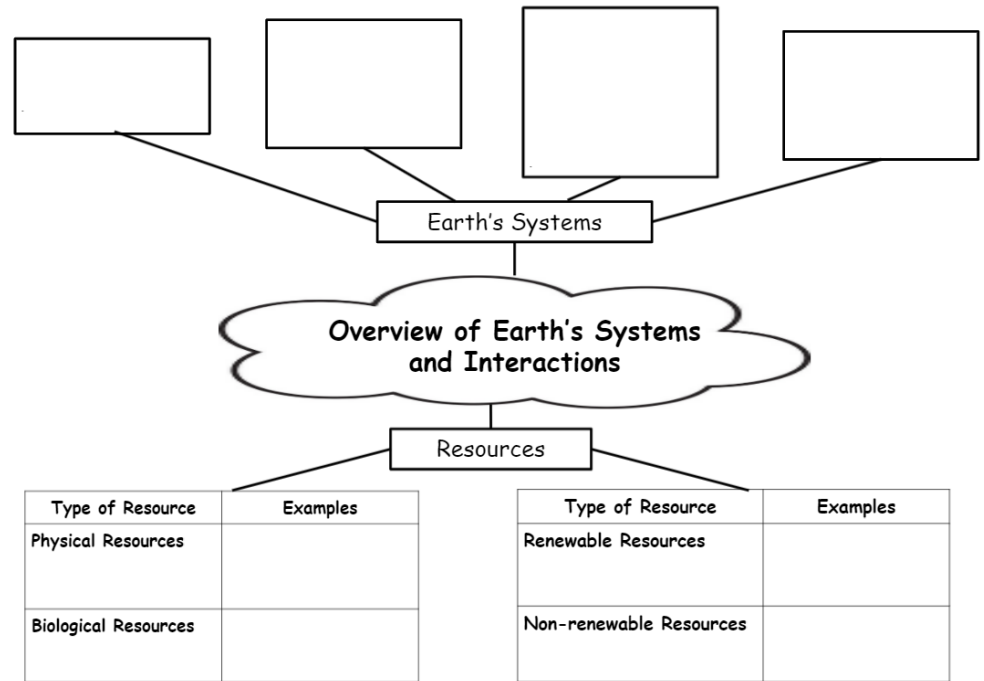
- **Structured and regular revision**, using revision techniques that work.

National 5 Environmental Science Earth's Resources Summary Notes
Overview of Earth's Systems and their Interactions

- 1 There are 4 main systems on Earth: geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere.
- 2 The **geosphere** is the solid Earth that includes the continental and oceanic crusts as well as the various layers of Earth's interior.
- 3 The **hydrosphere** contains all the water found on our planet. This includes water in seas, oceans, lakes and rivers. It also includes water trapped in the soil and under the ground as well as water vapour and frozen water.
- 4 The **atmosphere** is the blanket of air that surrounds the Earth. It consists of four unique layers: the troposphere, the stratosphere, the mesosphere, and the thermosphere. It is composed mostly of nitrogen (78%) and oxygen (21%), carbon dioxide (0.04%) as well as trace quantities of argon, neon, methane, krypton and hydrogen.



- 5 The **biosphere** is the "life zone" of the Earth, and includes all living organisms (including humans), and all organic matter that has not yet decomposed.
- 6 Resources on the Earth can be classified as physical, biological, renewable and non-renewable.
- 7 A **physical** resource is a resource such as building stone, road stone, limestone, granite, coal, oil, natural gas, copper, iron etc that does not come directly from living things.



Summary notes, and mind maps have been created for each topic to aid revision.



IN ENV. SCIENCE

- ▶ **Structured and regular revision**, using revision techniques that work.
- ▶ Understanding the questions and knowing how to **structure the answers**.
- ▶ Completing **questions under strict timed conditions** so pupils are more prepared for the exam experience.
- ▶ Creating a **bank of model answers** to exam style questions.
- ▶ **Complete all homework** and ensure that it is handed in on time.
- ▶ **Read and act upon feedback** given by staff on pieces of work.
- ▶ **Attending study support sessions**, which run on Tuesdays after school.

HOW YOU CAN



- ▶ Encourage your child come along to study support sessions (Tuesdays after school).
- ▶ Encourage your child to seek advice and support from a member of staff if they are unsure about anything we cover in class.
- ▶ Check homework is done and handed in on time – **Google Classroom.**
- ▶ Ensure your child's resources are well organised at home.
- ▶ Access the SQA website and make use of past papers and marking instructions for exam style question practice.
- ▶ Encourage a structured approach to revision without distractions.

Questions

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Answers

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