Environment and Nature

LEVEL PRE	**0** **TCE CREDIT POINTS**
COURSE CODE	PRE015415
COURSE SPAN	2015 — 2018
READING AND WRITING STANDARD	NO
MATHEMATICS STANDARD	NO
COMPUTERS AND INTERNET STANDARD	NO

This course was delivered in 2018. Use A-Z Courses to find the current version (if available).

Environment and Nature is one of a suite of courses designed to provide basic skills to learners with high needs, many of whom have a learning difficulty or disability

Some learners may need the full suite of courses for study in both Years 11 and 12, some may need it for only part of their course load, and other learners may need only some courses in Year 11 before moving to other programs for Year 12. Environment and Nature is designed to provide learners with very basic knowledge of nature and the environment. Students will learn the basics of sustainability, and about some issues relating to the care of native and domestic animals.

Course Description

Environment and Nature provides basic information, knowledge and skills required to prepare learners for an understanding of the natural world, plants, animals and resources.

It provides learners with opportunities to develop their awareness, understanding and involvement in resource management. Learners will identify and value the way plant use can sustain the environment, and produce crops, and they will care for animals.

Rationale

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Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, learners will:

1. identify some ways in which people can use common resources more efficiently
2. have basic skills in growing and caring for selected plants, and be able to say why plants are important in the environment
3. have basic skills in the care of some common animals, be able to identify agencies which rescue/care for animals, and be able to describe some animal farming practices
4. be able to identify and describe some relationships between organisms in selected ecosystems
5. be able to identify and describe some conservation programs and the importance of sound management of natural environments.

Pathways

This course provides a very basic introduction to environmental and animal studies.

It can serve as a preparation course to vocational education and training (VET) qualifications in animal care, agriculture and horticulture.

Resource Requirements

All learners have a right to an education that meets their needs through full participation and engagement with learning. Teachers need to enhance the quality of all students' learning through responsive and planned learning programs that optimise achievement using inclusive practices.

Learners should have access to appropriate resources such as professional support staff; or adult assistance, and equipment such as assistive technology or modified facilities, as required. The *Disability Standards for Education*, 2005 outline the obligations that educational providers must meet in supporting the needs of students with disability through reasonable adjustments.

Adjustments include a range of supports and accommodations including but not limited to: supportive learning environments, tailored delivery models, visual and organisational supports, multimodal learning and assessment opportunities, varying levels of prompting and adult assistance. In the instance of online, distance or flexible delivery, adjustments may be made to the courses by teachers to suit the individual student's learning environment. This may involve adaptation of the course to reflect the resources readily available to the learner within their home or community.

Course Size And Complexity

This course has a complexity level preliminary to Level 1.

This course has a size value of 15.

Relationship Of Qualifications to TASC Certificates

Tasmanian Certificate of Education: The qualifications available have a level of complexity preliminary to that of Level 1. Achievement of the qualifications does not, therefore, contribute credit points towards meeting the participation and achievement standard of the Tasmanian Certificate of Education qualification.

Qualifications Certificate: The qualifications available can be listed on the Qualifications Certificate issued by TASC.

Course Content

There are four (4) Units in this course. Learners will complete **all** four Units. Each Unit will be given approximately equal delivery time. The order in which Units and their topics (noted as dot points below) are delivered is not mandated. In some cases Units/topics might be delivered concurrently (e.g. safety and use of personal protective equipment (Unit 1) might be learnt within the context of safe use of chemicals and equipment (Unit 2) and/or safety when working with animals (Unit 3)). Similarly topics in Unit 4 may be explored within the context of studies undertaken in Units 2 and 3.

UNIT 1: Sustainability and resource management

- natural and constructed resources
- renewable and non-renewable resources
- resource use
- recycling
- causes and effects of pollution
- safety and use of personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, shoes, overalls).

UNIT 2: Plant care

- plant use
- plants and the environment
- growing and propagating plants
- garden maintenance
- safe use of chemicals and equipment.

UNIT 3: Animal care

- native animals
- domestic animals
- animal rescue and sanctuary
- laws about animal care
- looking after animals and related agencies (e.g. animal hospitals, veterinary clinics)
- farming and animals related to production
- safety when working with animals.

UNIT 4: Ecosystems: relationships between plants and animal

- ecosystems as communities of living things including: producers, consumers and decomposers simple food chains in at least two different environments/ecosystems
- simple food chains in at least two different environments/ecosystems
- throughout their lives some plants and animals rely on another living thing to survive; examine some simple examples of symbiosis
- relationships between plants and animals in at least two different environments/ecosystems (e.g. river/creek, floodplain, coastal, farm, alpine, backyard)
- case studies of ecosystem management actioned by groups/organisations to conserve and/or improve an ecosystem habitat
- the importance of careful management of natural environments.

NOTATION ON EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Some of the criteria standard elements (see below) use the terms 'identify' or 'describe'.

In the context of this preliminary level course, 'identification' might be done via methods such as:

- correctly selecting from a given list

- correctly selecting from a set of images
- correctly naming from memory or after consulting a source such as the internet.

'Selecting' might be done by methods such as: pointing; nodding; circling with a pen; or matching (e.g. picture with corresponding name card).

In the context of this preliminary level course, 'describing' might be done via methods such as:

- an oral description
- a written description (e.g. a word list of characteristics)
- a series of actions
- a series of images with simple written notations.

Assessment

Criterion-based assessment is a form of outcomes assessment that identifies the extent of learner achievement at an appropriate end-point of study. Although assessment – as part of the learning program – is continuous, much of it is formative, and is done to help learners identify what they need to do to attain the maximum benefit from their study of the course. Therefore, assessment for summative reporting to TASC will focus on what both teacher and learner understand to reflect end-point achievement.

The standard of achievement each learner attains on each criterion is recorded as a rating of 'C' (satisfactory standard) according to the outcomes specified in the standards section of the course document.

A 't' notation must be used where a learner demonstrates any achievement against a criterion less than the standard specified for the 'C' rating. The 't' notation is not described in course standards.

A 'z' notation is to be used where a learner provides no evidence of achievement at all.

Internal assessment of all criteria will be made by the provider. Assessment processes must gather evidence that clearly shows the match between individual learner performance, the standards of the course and the learner's award. Providers will report the learner's rating for each criterion to TASC.

Quality Assurance Process

The following process will be facilitated by TASC to ensure there is:

- a match between the standards of achievement specified in the course and the skills and knowledge demonstrated by learners
- community confidence in the integrity and meaning of the qualification.

Process – Each provider is responsible for ensuring the integrity and validity of their assessment results against the requirements of the course, including standards, and for maintaining records and documentation that will demonstrate the integrity, accuracy and validity of the award decisions they make each year.

Where TASC identifies sufficient potential for concern about the integrity or validity of a provider's award decisions it will undertake an investigation. After such an investigation is completed, TASC may take action under Section 33 of the *Office of Tasmanian Assessment Standards and Qualifications Act 2003* as it considers appropriate, including but not limited to:

- giving the school/college a direction in relation to the provision or assessment of the course (section 33 (2))
- refusing to accept results for this course from the provider (section 33 (4)).

Criteria

The assessment for Environment and Nature (PRE015415) will be based on whether the learner can:

1. use common resources efficiently
2. grow and care for selected plant species*
3. apply basic knowledge and understanding of animal care
4. describe features of selected ecosystems, their conservation and management

Standards

Criterion 1: use common resources efficiently

The learner will:

Rating C
identify some energy saving practices (e.g. turning off lights when leaving the room, interpreting the energy ratings on electrical appliances)
contribute to recycling (e.g. use recycle bins)
identify some basic causes and effects of pollution (e.g. chemicals in the water supply, smoke in the atmosphere).

Criterion 2: grow and care for selected plant species*

The learner will:

Rating C
name/recognise some common and/or local plants
identify some purposes of plants in the environment (e.g. for food, for fibre, as ornamentals)
grow selected plants (e.g. vegetables, flowering plants)
apply basic skills in garden maintenance (e.g. weeding, clipping)
identify some harmful commonly used chemicals (e.g. pesticides)
use basic gardening equipment safely (e.g. hoes, clippers, fork).

* The provider will select the most suitable plant species based on issues such as local soils, weather and seasonal availability.

Criterion 3: apply basic knowledge and understanding of animal care

The learner will:

Rating C
identify some native and domestic animals
undertake some basic animal care (e.g. grooming, feeding, caging of domestic pet)
identify agencies that rescue animals
identify agencies that care for abandoned or injured animals
describe some farming practices involving animals.

Criterion 4: describe features of selected ecosystems, their conservation and management

The learner will:

Rating C
describe aspects of some symbiotic relationships between selected plants and animals
describe simple food chains in selected ecosystems
identify the aims and methods of selected conservation programs (e.g. Landcare Australia)
describe the significance of sound management of natural environments.

Qualifications Available

Environment and Nature (PRE015415) (with the award of):

SATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENT (SA)

PRELIMINARY ACHIEVEMENT (PA)

Award Requirements

The minimum requirements for an award in Environment and Nature are as follows:

SATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENT (SA)
4 'C' ratings

PRELIMINARY ACHIEVEMENT (PA)
2 'C' ratings

Course Evaluation

The Department of Education's Curriculum Services will develop and regularly revise the curriculum. This evaluation will be informed by the experience of the course's implementation, delivery and assessment.

In addition, stakeholders may request Curriculum Services to review a particular aspect of an accredited course.

Requests for amendments to an accredited course will be forwarded by Curriculum Services to the Office of TASC for formal consideration.

Such requests for amendment will be considered in terms of the likely improvements to the outcomes for learners, possible consequences for delivery and assessment of the course, and alignment with Australian Curriculum materials.

A course is formally analysed prior to the expiry of its accreditation as part of the process to develop specifications to guide the development of any replacement course.

Expectations Defined By National Standards

There are no statements of national standards relevant to this course.

Accreditation

The accreditation period for this course is from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018.

Version History

Version 1 – Accredited on 2 April 2014 for use in 2015 to 2018. This course replaces Environment and Nature (PRE012410) that expired on 31 December 2014.

Version 1.a – Minor amendments to course content and Criterion 4 standards. 20 December 2017.