**A Level Environmental Science summer research task**

Before your A Level Environmental Science course begins in September, you have been set a research project to carry out over the summer period. Environmental Science is an incredibly topical subject at the moment and your ability to be able to understand and digest current issues in the news will really make you stand out in class. More importantly, it will build that strong enthusiasm needed going forward. Hot topics in the news at the moment include climate change, river pollution, forest fires, diminishing resources and food security.

The Environmental Science A Level does require students to be able to interpret information and write extended essays. Below are a set of important questions that relate to the current environmental issues of our times. Choose **one** to base your research project around. These are written in an essay style format however your research could go beyond these and maybe even link some topics together.

* You must have a structure to your essay, with an introduction and a conclusion.
* Your arguments must be balanced
* You must include some data to back up your evidence.
* You must reference it correctly. Use the Harvard referencing system (there are various websites that will help you do this)

Topics to choose from:

1. Evaluate the current causes of **climate change** and why some communities across the world are more vulnerable to the impacts than others.
2. ‘Population rise and the need for a more sustainable future will increase the pressure on deep sea **mining** and mining in diverse areas like Alaska’ How far do you agree with this statement?
3. To what extent will future **river pollution** have detrimental impacts on the water quality health across the globe?
4. **Forest fires** are increasing in both frequency and spatially across the globe. Evaluate the causes of this and whether they are likely to slow down in the future.
5. The natural weather phenomenon ‘**El Nino**’ in the South Pacific has thought to have already begun. Outline what El Nino is and evaluate the global impacts it has on weather patterns.