



Qualifications and  
Curriculum Authority



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
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# GCSE subject criteria for leisure and tourism

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## Introduction

1. GCSE subject criteria set out the knowledge, understanding, skills and assessment objectives common to all GCSE specifications in leisure and tourism. They provide the framework within which an awarding body creates the detail of the specification.
2. Specifications must also meet the regulators' general requirements, including the common and GCSE criteria as defined in *The statutory regulation of external qualifications* (QCA/04/1293).
3. Subject criteria are intended to:
  - help ensure consistent and comparable standards in the same subject across the awarding bodies
  - ensure that the rigour of GCSE is maintained
  - ensure that specifications build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established by the national curricula for England, Northern Ireland and Wales, and facilitate progression to higher level general or vocational qualifications in leisure and tourism or related sectors of employment
  - help higher education institutions, employers and other stakeholders such as learners and parents/guardians know what has been studied and assessed.
4. Any GCSE specification that contains significant elements of leisure and tourism must be consistent with the relevant parts of these subject criteria.

## Aims and learning outcomes

5. GCSE specifications in leisure and tourism should encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and gain an insight into related sectors such as business, retail and distribution, and hospitality and catering. They should prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.
6. GCSE specifications in leisure and tourism must enable learners to:
  - actively engage in the study of leisure and tourism to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
  - understand the nature of the leisure and tourism industry

- develop an understanding of the contribution that leisure and tourism makes to society and the economy
- develop an awareness that health and safety issues are integral to leisure and tourism
- develop an awareness and understanding of sustainable development and environmental issues
- appreciate diversity and recognise similarities and differences of attitudes and cultures in society.

## **Subject content**

7. The content of GCSE specifications in leisure and tourism must reflect the learning outcomes.
8. GCSE specifications must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following.

### **The nature of the leisure and tourism industry**

- Different types of leisure and tourism organisations
- The importance of sustainability, both in the UK and international leisure and tourism
- The reasons why people use leisure and tourism facilities
- How leisure and tourism organisations operate as businesses
- The rapid pace of change in the UK leisure and tourism industry
- The use of up-to-date business systems
- How promotion and sales operate in leisure and tourism contexts
- Employment opportunities in the leisure and tourism industry
- The importance of recognising similarities and differences of attitudes and cultures
- Health and safety issues.

**Leisure and tourism destinations:**

- Where people go in their leisure time and why they select their chosen destination(s)
  - How people travel and why they select their chosen method
  - The impact of tourism on communities and environments, including eco-tourism
  - Visitor attractions and activities, both in the UK and internationally.
9. GCSE specifications in leisure and tourism must require learners to plan and carry out tasks in which they:
- analyse issues and problems
  - identify, gather and record relevant information and evidence
  - analyse and evaluate evidence
  - make reasoned judgements and present conclusions.

**Assessment objectives**

10. All specifications must require candidates to demonstrate their ability to:

<b>Assessment objectives</b>		<b>% weighting</b>
AO1	Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of a range of contexts	25–35
AO2	Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts and in planning and carrying out investigations and tasks	40–50
AO3	Analyse and evaluate information, sources, and evidence, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions	20–30

## Scheme of assessment

11. GCSE specifications in leisure and tourism must allocate a weighting of 40% to external assessment and a weighting of 60% to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
12. Question papers must be targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

## Grade descriptions

13. Grade descriptions are provided to give a general indication of the standards of achievement likely to have been shown by candidates awarded particular grades. The descriptions must be interpreted in relation to the content in the specification; they are not designed to define that content.
14. The grade awarded will depend in practice upon the extent to which the candidate has met the assessment objectives overall. Shortcomings in some aspects of candidates' performance in the assessment may be balanced by better performances in others.

Grade	Description
A	<p>Candidates recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge and thorough understanding of leisure and tourism.</p> <p>They apply relevant knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of situations to plan and carry out investigations and tasks effectively.</p> <p>They analyse and evaluate the evidence available. They present information clearly and accurately, making reasoned judgements and presenting substantiated conclusions.</p>
C	<p>Candidates recall, select and communicate sound knowledge and understanding of aspects of leisure and tourism.</p> <p>They apply knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of situations to plan and carry out investigations and tasks.</p> <p>They review the evidence available, analysing and evaluating some of</p>

	<p>the information clearly, and with some accuracy. They make judgements and draw appropriate conclusions.</p>
F	<p>Candidates recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of basic aspects of leisure and tourism.</p> <p>They apply limited knowledge, understanding and skills to plan and carry out simple investigations and tasks.</p> <p>They review the evidence, make simple connections and draw basic conclusions.</p>