

A Student's Guide to the GCSE in Leisure & Tourism (Double Award)



What is a GCSE in Leisure & Tourism?

A GCSE in Leisure & Tourism is a nationally recognised work-related qualification designed to provide you with a choice of routes into further education or employment. It is made up of three units.

What is a Double Award?

A double award is a qualification equal to two GCSEs - it is twice the size of most GCSEs.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the GCSE in Leisure & Tourism?

You do not need to have studied leisure and tourism before starting the GCSE. It is important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the leisure and tourism industries, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

Why should I choose this course?

You will:

- gain an understanding of leisure and tourism and the part it plays in society
- investigate how the leisure and tourism industries meet the needs of their customers
- have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way
- follow a programme of study that enables progression to further courses and employment in leisure or tourism
- develop Key Skills which are highly valued by employers and further education
- gain confidence by developing independent learning skills.

Who is the GCSE in Leisure & Tourism for?

This course will appeal to you if you:

- have a keen interest in leisure or tourism
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to your life and experiences
- want to find out more about leisure and tourism through personal investigation
- are interested in developing an understanding of how leisure and tourism influences our daily lives
- want to study a course that is active and enjoyable
- want to move on to a related career or further education in either leisure or tourism
- wish to build up a qualification by studying individual units

The structure of the GCSE in Leisure & Tourism

Unit 1: Investigating Leisure & Tourism

This unit will help you to understand the important part leisure and tourism play in today's society. You will learn that industries in the UK provide a variety of activities for people to enjoy. There are many different facilities and organisations ranging from theatres and theme parks to travel agents and airlines.

Unit 2: Marketing in Leisure & Tourism

There are many different leisure and tourism organisations trying to sell to customers. You will learn what marketing is and how important it is in these highly competitive industries. You will look at promotion and have the chance to produce some promotional material.

Unit 3: Customer Service in Leisure & Tourism

Leisure and tourism organisations rely on customers, without customers they could not exist. An important part of keeping existing customers and attracting new ones is through excellent customer service. You will learn about customer service and how to provide good customer service. You will also learn how to handle difficult customers and complaints.

How is it graded?

A GCSE in Leisure & Tourism is a double award, so it is awarded two grades. The grades will be the summary of your results for each of the three units. These will be reported as A*A* through to GG depending on how well you have done in each of your units.

What assessments will I do?

During the course you will carry out a number of assignments based on Units 2 and 3. In Unit 2 for example you may investigate a theme park, what sort of people use it and how the theme park advertises. Based on your findings, you could then produce an advert or a brochure. For Unit 3 you might act out the part of an airline check-in desk attendant dealing with a difficult customer and record your involvement.

After completing your assignment your teacher will mark your work. During your course you will build up a folder (portfolio) containing your work for Units 2 and 3. This portfolio will count towards your final grade.

As part of your course you will take a written test based on Unit 1, set and marked by Edexcel. The mark for your test will also count towards your final grade.

Can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering aspects of leisure and tourism, you will also develop your Key Skills in the areas of:

- Communication
- Application of Number
- Information Technology
- Problem solving
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance

If you take part in a discussion or role play, for example, you will develop your **Communication** Key Skill, as will reports that you write as part of your course. Collecting and analysing information is part of the **Application of Number** Key Skill, and if you present this using IT, you are starting to develop your **Information Technology** Key Skill.

What courses or employment can I progress to at the end of my course?

Students gaining a GCSE in Leisure and Tourism will have access to a range of career and further education opportunities. You will use a variety of skills throughout the course, including collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in great demand and are recognised and highly valued by employers and colleges. The options open to you depend on the results achieved and your own interests, your teacher will be able to help you decide on the next step.

If you wish to continue studying either leisure or tourism in a vocational context, you may consider a Vocational A level in either Leisure and Recreation or Travel and Tourism. You may wish instead to study one of the related BTEC National courses such as Airport Operations, Airline and Airport Operations or Sport. Otherwise, you may wish to study an Advanced Subsidiary or Advanced GCE in Physical Education or Geography. You can then continue your studies in Higher Education on either a BTEC Higher National or degree. There are a large variety of higher education courses that are based around either leisure, travel or tourism management.

Alternatively, there are many careers that build on from the GCSE in Leisure and Tourism, such as working in a travel agents, theme park or leisure centre. Some areas of employment have further learning opportunities within them, for example a Modern Apprenticeships.

Further details are available from your school or college