

FACTSHEET

Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education in Travel and Tourism

The Advanced Vocational Certificate is a new qualification being introduced in September 2000.

The Advanced VCE

- ◆ comprises 6 Advanced units
- ◆ is the vocational equivalent of the Advanced GCE
- ◆ can be extended to a 12 unit award
- ◆ adds breadth to a vocational programme of study
- ◆ adds a vocational dimension to an academic curriculum
- ◆ is recognised for HE entry and attracts the same UCAS points as an Advanced GCE
- ◆ is achieved through a combination of portfolio evidence and external assessment
- ◆ provides opportunities for the development of Key Skills
- ◆ develops knowledge, skills and understanding in a vocational context
- ◆ fosters imaginative and critical thinking through active and enjoyable learning
- ◆ encourages the development of independent learning skills

The Advanced VCE in Travel and Tourism

- ◆ has been developed in consultation with the travel and tourism industries
- ◆ provides an overview of world travel geography
- ◆ encourages students to form links with the travel and tourism industries
- ◆ develops an understanding of the issues surrounding sustainable tourism
- ◆ stimulates and sustains students' interest
- ◆ encourages effective customer service skills
- ◆ shares common themes with Advanced VCEs in Business, Leisure & Recreation, Retail & Distributive Services and Hospitality and Catering
- ◆ has a wide choice of optional units

Course delivery

The Advanced VCE in Travel and Tourism is ideally suited for study alongside Advanced GCEs in Geography, Modern Foreign Languages or Advanced VCEs in Business, Leisure and Recreation, Hospitality and Catering and Retail and Distributive Services.

The Advanced VCE can be delivered as a one-year programme certificated at the end of the one year, or as the first part of an Advanced VCE (Double Award) or as a two year programme alongside other Advanced VCEs or GCEs.

Compulsory Units

Students must complete **ALL** the following units

Unit No.	Unit Title	Assessment
1	Investigating Travel & Tourism	Portfolio
2	Tourism Development	External
3	Worldwide Travel Destinations	Portfolio
4	Marketing in Travel & Tourism	External
5	Customer Service in Travel & Tourism	Portfolio

Unit 1 – Investigating Travel & Tourism

Students will gain an understanding of the Travel & Tourism industry. This will include the organisations involved, products and services provided, the significance of the industry to the UK economy and employment opportunities.

Unit 2 – Tourism Development

This unit explores the impact that tourism development has on the industry, the organisations that are involved and how this can be managed effectively.

Unit 3 – Worldwide Travel Destinations

Students research the major continental European and long haul destinations for UK tourists, studying location and key features, and the attraction of these destinations for different tourist groups.

Unit 4 – Marketing in Travel & Tourism

This unit investigates the marketing process and the way in which it can help Travel & Tourism industries achieve their objectives. Students look at the way organisations identify and meet customer needs; and the methods of communication used.

Unit 5 – Customer Service in Travel & Tourism

Students find out why excellent customer service is so important in Travel & Tourism. It offers them opportunities to provide service to customers in a variety of situations, with different types of customers and investigate the effectiveness of customer service in Travel & Tourism organisations.

Optional Units

Students must complete **ONE** of the following units

Unit No.	Unit Title	Assessment
6	Travel & Tourism in Action	Portfolio
7	UK Travel Destinations	External
8	Travel Agency Operations	Portfolio
9	Business Travel	Portfolio
10	Tour Operations	Portfolio
11	Passenger Transport	Portfolio
12	Working as an Overseas Representative	Portfolio
13	Staging Conferences and Related Events	Portfolio
14	Visitor Attractions	Portfolio
15	Hospitality in Travel & Tourism	Portfolio
16	UK Public Sector Tourism	Portfolio
17	Responding to Other Cultures	Portfolio
18	Financial Planning and Control	Portfolio
19	Business Systems in the Travel & Tourism Industry	External
20	Human Resources in the Travel & Tourism Industry	External
21	Arts, Museums and Cultural Heritage	Portfolio
22	Countryside Recreation	Portfolio

Applied Language Units

There are two Applied Language Units:

Oral Communications (Listening and Speaking)

Written Communications (Reading and Writing)

One of these units may be substituted for an optional unit.

The units are

- available in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek, English (Foreign Language) Japanese and Russian
- available at two levels: Level 2 (Standard) and Level 3 (Extended)
- graded A to E
- assessed through a portfolio with external moderation

Unit Specifications are available via the Edexcel website and specific INSET will be provided for teachers.

Assessment

Units are assessed either by portfolio evidence or external assessment.

Up to four units will be internally assessed through a programme of assignments set and marked in the centre. This work is kept in a portfolio.

At least two units will be externally set and marked by Edexcel.

External Assessments in the Advanced VCE in Travel and Tourism

Unit 2 Tourism Development

A number of scenarios followed by questions

Unit 4 Marketing in Travel and Tourism

Case study followed by questions, some requiring extended writing

Unit 7 UK Travel Destinations *(if chosen)*

Short unseen case studies with questions

Unit 19 Business Systems in the Travel and Tourism Industry *(if chosen)*

Case study followed by questions, some requiring extended writing

Unit 20 Human Resources in the Travel and Tourism Industry *(if chosen)*

A number of short scenarios followed by questions, some requiring extended writing

Grading

Points are awarded to each unit as follows:

GRADE	BELOW E	E	D	C	B	A
POINTS	0 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 18	19 - 24

A student's overall grade will be calculated by aggregating unit scores.

GRADE	BELOW E	E	D	C	B	A
TOTAL	0 - 41	42 - 59	60 - 77	78 - 95	96 - 113	114 - 144

Moderation

Portfolio evidence is externally moderated at the end of the programme. The moderator confirms that the centre's assessment decisions agree with national standards.

Key Skills

As well as completing the Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education in Travel and Tourism, students have the opportunity to develop their Key Skills. The Key Skills Qualification that includes Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology provides a profile of the student's achievement in the Key Skills.

These Key Skills units attract UCAS points as follows:

Level 4 unit	30 points
Level 3 unit	20 points
Level 2 unit	10 points

Students can also develop the wider key skills of Problem Solving, Working with Others and Improving own Learning and Performance through the Advanced VCE.

Portfolio work offers opportunities for students to develop and collect evidence for all Key Skills, although it will not necessarily cover every aspect. Other opportunities will arise during lessons, individual study and activities undertaken in or outside school or college.

Discussion or role-play, for example, will provide evidence for Communication Key Skill as will reports. Collecting and analysing information is part of the Application of Number Key Skill, and if this is presented using IT, evidence will be produced for the Information Technology Key Skill.

Progression

An Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education is equivalent to an Advanced GCE at grades A to E.

Students with an Advanced VCE in Travel and Tourism have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities.

Skills developed during the course such as collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject prepare students for Further and Higher Education study.

An Advanced VCE in Travel & Tourism combines well with almost all other AS and Advanced GCE level subjects to enable progression to a range of university courses. These include Business Studies, Geography, Sociology, Marketing and Travel & Tourism Management.

Many students choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment, rather than go on to higher education. Advanced VCE Travel & Tourism students develop the transferable skills and the key skills that employers are looking for, hence they have access to a wide range of employment opportunities including Tour Operations, Airlines and Business Travel.

Getting Started

INSET	Centres may wish to consider INSET activities to support the delivery of the Advanced VCE. Each term the INSET programme will focus on two specific units to help staff in the teaching and assessment of the course.										
Curriculum Planning	The Advanced VCE supports a wide range of Advanced study programmes, both academic and vocational.										
Tutor Support Packs	Heinemann are producing Advanced VCE Tutor Support Packs on behalf of Edexcel. The packs cover compulsory and optional units and include an overview of teaching and learning strategies, suggested topic breakdown, learning activities, suggestions for assessments, exemplar assignments and comprehensive resource lists.										
Exemplar Materials	These will be made available during the year to assist centres in assessing to national standards										
Co-teachability	<p>The units within the Advanced VCE are a subset of the units available in the Advanced VCE (Double Award). Students on both programmes could be co-taught.</p> <p>Similarly a number of the units in Leisure and Recreation, Travel and Tourism and Business have the same basic content so these groups could be co-taught.</p>										
Moderation	It will be important to have a system for internal moderation of portfolio work to ensure that all assessors in the centre are assessing to national standards										
Approval	If you are intending to offer the Advanced VCE contact your regional office. A member of the regional staff will be able to support you in your planning.										
Website	Keep checking the Edexcel website for further information and support. www.edexcel.org.uk										
Regional Office	Contact your regional office for details of local INSET and support networks.										
Fees	<table><tr><td>Advanced VCE</td><td>£65.00</td></tr><tr><td>Advanced VCE (Double Award)</td><td>£125.00</td></tr><tr><td>Advanced Subsidiary VCE</td><td>£35.00</td></tr><tr><td>Advanced VCE individual units</td><td>£12.50</td></tr><tr><td>Advanced VCE retake of external assessment</td><td>£8.75</td></tr></table>	Advanced VCE	£65.00	Advanced VCE (Double Award)	£125.00	Advanced Subsidiary VCE	£35.00	Advanced VCE individual units	£12.50	Advanced VCE retake of external assessment	£8.75
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YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

Edexcel serves the centres with which it works through a network of 12 regional offices. The offices are staffed during normal working hours throughout the year. They close on Bank Holidays.

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**For more general information on Edexcel qualifications,
please contact your regional office or our Customer
Response Centre on:**

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