



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Single Award AS/A2

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Exam Board: OCR



Fact File

- GCSEs to include a C in English
- Merit grade in a vocational Level 2 subject, if taken
- Assessed by coursework portfolio and examination
- Students often go on to study tourism-related courses at university or find employment in the industry.

Course summary

The travel and tourism industry is one of the largest in the world and offers many employment opportunities. The AS/A2 Single Award in Travel and Tourism is a vocational A Level qualification that looks at the business of travel and tourism. The course is assessed by two thirds coursework and one third examination.

As a student on this course you will learn about what makes up the industry and the importance of customer service. You will investigate how one organisation meets the needs of its customers, as well as the appeal of two travel destinations to different types of visitor. You will then put the skills you have developed into practice as you plan and lead an event and a guided tour. You will also learn about tourism development, be encouraged to use your initiative and have the opportunity to develop research skills.

Students applying for this course need to be dedicated, prepared to work hard and have the ability to study independently. If you enjoy an applied approach to learning and are interested in working within the travel and tourism industry in the UK, then the Travel and Tourism course is a good starting point.

Specific entry requirements

All students on a full AS/A2 Level programme are expected to have at least five A*–C grade GCSEs. For this course you will need at least a C grade in English. If taken, Level 2 vocational subjects require a Merit grade.

What kinds of topics will I be studying?

The AS/A2 Single Award course looks at the business of travel and tourism. In Year 1 you will learn about what makes up the industry and the importance of customer service. You will investigate how one organisation meets the needs of its customers, as well as the appeal of two travel destinations to different types of visitor. In Year 2 you will put the skills you have developed into practice as you plan and lead an event and a guided tour. You will also learn about tourism development.

What will my final qualification be?

You will work towards an applied AS Level at the end of one year and a full A Level qualification at the end of two years of study, awarded by OCR.

How will my work be assessed?

Your work is assessed through examinations and coursework.

What extra support/enrichment activities might be offered?

Off-site visits will be arranged to supplement the course. These are self-funding and require minimum numbers in order to run successfully. In Year 2 students are required to arrange an event that may be offered to Year 1 candidates. Past activities have included visits to local attractions, London tourist destinations and to Europe.

What other subjects combine well with this course?

Languages, Business Studies and traditional subjects all go well with the applied Travel and Tourism course. Media, Dance, Art and Photography also combine well, though anyone considering these options is strongly advised to talk to subject staff at an early stage to ensure that their preferred choices don't all require large amounts of coursework.

Where might it lead?

The travel and tourism industry employs an estimated 2.6 million people in the UK (Visit Britain) and accounts for over 231 million jobs globally (World Travel & Tourism Council 2007), making it one of the top employers in the world. Ideally you will be considering a career in the travel and tourism industry or wanting to go on to higher education to study a tourism-related subject. However, the business topics and research, presentation and life skills learnt on this course transfer well to most higher education subjects and career choices.

Will I need any specialist materials or equipment?

The College Library has a number of key resources which you will be encouraged to use, including a limited number of text books. You will be encouraged to purchase a travel industry atlas and text book. It is vital that you have a USB pen and folders. There will be some additional costs related to printing coursework and for the enrichment activities which are self-funding.

Do I need any previous knowledge of Travel and Tourism?

No, you do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE.