

VCSE



Level 1 / Level 2 VCSE

# Travel and Tourism

Teaching from September 2027

Quick Guide



Please note that all information included in our Quick Guides is subject to approval from Qualifications Wales.

Made for Wales.  
Ready for the world.

# Empowering learners, supporting teachers

As Wales' largest awarding body, we have over 75 years of experience in delivering trusted, high-quality qualifications that support learners, educators, and employers across Wales.

We provide a wide range of bilingual qualifications that are accessible, engaging, and designed to meet the needs of today's learners.

Our qualifications are backed by expert subject teams, high quality resources, and responsive, specialist support. Our work is guided and shaped through close collaboration with schools, colleges, regional consortia, sector experts and Qualifications Wales.

As the only awarding body offering qualifications in every suite of the 14-16 National Qualifications offer, we are proud to play a key role in supporting the Welsh Government's ambition to make education in Wales a source of national pride, and we remain committed to helping every learner achieve their potential and progress with confidence.



# VCSEs: Engaging, practical, and built for progression

Our Level 1/2 Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education (VCSE) qualifications are designed to inspire and support learners aged 14-16, offering a two-year programme that is accessible, engaging, and rooted in real-world learning. With a strong emphasis on practical activities and hands-on experience, these qualifications help learners build confidence, develop essential skills, and achieve meaningful success.

VCSEs are unitised, allowing learners to complete some assessments in Year 10 and others in Year 11. This flexible approach supports steady progress, reduces assessment pressure, and enables learners to demonstrate achievement throughout the course.

For our VCSEs, external assessments, normally worth 40% of the overall qualification, are designed to assess foundational knowledge and can be completed near the start of the course, giving learners more time to focus on developing higher-level skills. This structure adds rigour and credibility to the qualification while helping to reduce teacher workload.

The compensatory nature of our VCSEs recognises learners' strengths across different units. High achievement in one area can offset lower performance in another, promoting a more inclusive and supportive assessment experience.

With content that is relevant, motivating, and tailored to learners' needs, WJEC VCSEs provide a solid foundation for progression to further study at Levels 1 to 3. Whether learners continue in the subject or not, they will gain valuable knowledge, practical skills, and a sense of accomplishment that prepares them for life, learning, and work.

See our full range of VCSEs: [www.wjec.co.uk/wave3](http://www.wjec.co.uk/wave3)

# About the VCSE in Travel and Tourism

The tourism industry is vital to Wales's economy and cultural identity, connecting people with destinations locally and globally.

This qualification introduces learners to the sector's scope, job roles, and career pathways, alongside key considerations such as legislation, planning, and sustainability.

Through practical activities, learners research destinations, plan trips, and create marketing materials, building confidence and transferable skills as they prepare for further study, apprenticeships, or careers in this dynamic and diverse industry.

## Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Travel and Tourism qualification is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offering a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It provides a strong foundation of industry knowledge while developing essential skills, preparing learners for further study, apprenticeships, or careers in the sector. Ideal for students seeking real-world experience alongside academic study, it opens pathways into a dynamic and growing industry.

# What does the qualification cover?

Unit	Focus
<b>1. Introduction to the Travel and Tourism Industry (24 GLH)</b>	<p>In this unit, learners will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the different sectors of the travel and tourism industry</li><li>• different job roles, responsibilities and career progression in the industry</li><li>• key features of the visitor economy in Wales.</li></ul>
<b>2. Tourist Destinations (24 GLH)</b>	<p>In this unit, learners will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• local, national and international tourist destinations and their features</li><li>• tourists' motivations for travel</li><li>• the impacts of travel and tourism and ways in which these can be managed</li><li>• how to research and present information related to tourism.</li></ul>
<b>3. Travel and Tourism in Action (72 GLH)</b>	<p>In this unit, learners will develop and apply the skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• propose, research and plan a trip</li><li>• develop marketing materials and communicate a trip</li><li>• review their planning and communication using feedback</li><li>• evaluate their personal performance.</li></ul>

# Summary of Assessment

Unit	Type
1	<p><b>WJEC marked Sector Test</b></p> <p><b>1 hour - 50 marks - 20% of Qualification</b></p> <p>The test has two sections of 25 marks each.</p> <p>Section A includes a range of objective question types, such as multiple choice, multiple response, fill-in-the-blank, drag-and-drop, and hot spot questions.</p> <p>Section B includes a range of short answer question types.</p> <p>Centres can choose to enter candidates for an on-screen or paper version.</p>
2	<p><b>WJEC marked non-examination assessment</b></p> <p><b>6 hours, plus 2 hours research</b> <b>50 marks - 20% of Qualification</b></p> <p>Learners will complete tasks to produce a detailed fact file on a chosen destination.</p> <p>A brief will be released each year specifying a country and learners will be able to choose a destination within that country.</p>

Unit	Type
3	<p data-bbox="344 293 1182 331"><b>Centre marked non-examination assessment</b></p> <p data-bbox="344 398 1139 436"><b>15 hours - 90 marks - 60% of Qualification</b></p> <p data-bbox="344 504 1398 645">Learners will complete tasks demonstrating their ability to research, plan and develop, market and communicate and review a trip in Wales.</p> <p data-bbox="344 712 1358 801">They will select a target group and plan the trip based on the needs of this group.</p> <p data-bbox="344 869 1286 958">The assessment is based on a static brief, enabling flexible delivery and timetabling by centres.</p>

“Our VCSE qualifications bring learning to life. Through practical, real-world experiences and flexible, inclusive assessment, they empower young people to build confidence, develop essential skills and achieve success — laying strong foundations for progression, future learning and the world of work.

Our dedicated subject teams are here to guide you every step of the way, supported by tailored resources and professional learning opportunities, empowering you to confidently deliver these exciting new qualifications.”

**Sarah Harris**

Assistant Director  
(Vocational Qualifications)



# Need more support?

Our Regional Representative **Sophie Dobbs** is available to support your centre to deliver these exciting new qualifications:

“ I work closely with schools and colleges across Wales, helping them understand the new Wave 3 qualifications that are coming as part of National 14-16 Qualifications reform in September 2027.

I'm here to support centres at every stage of the journey — from early conversations and planning, right through to delivery.

Before starting at WJEC I spent 17 years in secondary education. Having that experience, and a clear understanding of the practical challenges senior leaders face around staffing, timetabling, resources and budgets, means I'm well placed to support centres strategically and practically through the Wave 3 transition.”

Get in touch with Sophie:

**[wave3@wjec.co.uk](mailto:wave3@wjec.co.uk)**



## The final wave of new National 14-16 Qualifications for Wales is almost here, with first teaching beginning September 2027.

We're building upon everything we've learned from co-creating our Made-for-Wales GCSEs, engaging with over 100 centres and 60+ employers to develop an inclusive, broad and balanced range of new qualifications that will enable different ways of learning and skills development.

Discover a range of inclusive new qualifications with WJEC, Wales' most established exam board:

- **Personal Project**
- **Skills Suite (Skills for Life and Skills for Work)**
- **Foundation (General and Work Related)**
- **VCSE (Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education)**

Learn more: [www.wjec.co.uk/wave3](http://www.wjec.co.uk/wave3)



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