

Assessment guidance for Edexcel GCE in Travel and Tourism – *Unit 3: Destination Europe*

Definition of Europe

For the purposes of assessment in the Edexcel GCE in Travel and Tourism *Unit 3: Destination Europe*, it is essential that learners select destinations from the following geographical area only: Europe is defined as all countries within continental Europe (west of the Urals) including Iceland, Cyprus, Madeira, Turkey, the Canary Islands and the Azores. For the purpose of the assessment of this unit, Europe **does not** include the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) or the Republic of Ireland, as these are covered in *Unit 4: Destination Britain*.

Definition of a destination

A list of destination categories is provided in the specifications. Learners should be careful when selecting destinations as they **cannot** be whole countries (eg Spain) nor can they simply be a tourist attraction (eg Port Aventura).

Definitions of tourist destinations

Coastal areas: A coastal area destination could be an expanse of coastline that is specifically defined as one area (eg Costa Blanca or the Venetian Riviera) but not a more general description such as 'South of France'. It could also be a specific coastal resort (eg Benidorm or Taormina). Islands that are destinations popular specifically for their coastlines are also acceptable (eg Tenerife, Corfu). However, groups of islands are **not** considered as destinations for this unit (eg the Canaries, the Greek Islands).

Tourist towns and cities: An acceptable destination to use in this category is a specific town or city which is known as a tourist destination. This includes capital cities (such as Paris, Rome or Tallin) and others such as Venice, Oporto, Nice, Barcelona, or Milan.

Business and conference destinations: These are defined as towns or cities with facilities to cope with business tourists, such as large conference and/or exhibition centres, a range of business tourist facilities (a large number of 4* and 5* hotels, good transport links, etc) and usually close proximity to an international airport. Some may lack large conference and exhibition centres but be a significant commercial centre and therefore still attract significant numbers of business travellers. Examples include Berlin, Barcelona and The Hague.

Countryside areas: These are rural areas away from town and cities and not necessarily specific named resorts. They are areas that incorporate a number of features, such as mountains, lakes, forests, hills etc. Examples would be the Black Forest, Provence, Tuscany. Whole mountain ranges (eg the Alps) would **not** be considered a countryside area; however, a specific countryside area within a mountain range would be acceptable (eg Bernese Oberland).

Heritage and cultural destinations: These are specific towns, cities, villages and resorts that are known for having maintained the history and heritage of the destination and/or the culture of the region or country. Examples include many cultural capital cities such as Paris, Vienna, Budapest or Rome and smaller destinations such as Seville, Reims, Bruges or Carcassone. They could also be destinations linked to UNESCO cultural heritage sites eg Dubrovnik or Warsaw.

Purpose built: These are destinations developed specifically for tourists which provide all the facilities needed in one place. Theme parks are not generally acceptable, although this category may include theme park resorts such as Disneyland Paris or large holiday centres such as Center Parcs. It may also include some whole resorts in their own right, such as La Manga.