

# REVIEW SECTION

## GCSE Resistant Materials Technology for Edexcel Student Book

## GCSE Resistant Materials Technology for Edexcel Teacher's Resource File

*Reviewed by Alison Hardy, Head of Design and Technology, Caistor Yarborough School, Lincoln*

Edexcel have worked hard with Heinemann to produce clear, helpful resources for teachers and students. They have succeeded with the teacher's guide and textbook. If you have just started teaching the Edexcel GCSE specification then I would recommend that you purchase both of these.

### Teacher's Resource File

The guide is made up of three discrete sections:

1. Introduction.
2. Resource sheets (photocopiable).
3. Coursework guidance.

The introduction contains some material that is readily available from Edexcel via the website and subject officers and I feel that this is just padding. It includes cross-referencing, linking the student book pages and resource sheets that are in the guide that I found helpful (note – not all of the cross-referencing is correct).

The resource sheets are plain and well laid out supporting a teacher in the delivery of the specification content. The layout and level of content is low level in places and more suited to Key Stage 3 with larger than necessary spaces left for students to answer questions. The activities and tasks set are useful prompts for a teacher or student but again they are rather simple – higher tier students will require tasks that look for

more in-depth analysis. There is no information and communications technology (ICT) support material and little for manufacturing; these are two areas where many teachers will be looking for guidance.

The final section, coursework guidance, gives suggestions as to how a teacher may support their students in being successful. Some of this material is repeated in the textbook. There is nothing revolutionary here and in some ways it is rather staid. I am concerned about some comments made, as ever the exam boards have laid down the design process as being linear, this guide continues that thinking. However, it is a guide written by the Chief Examiner of Edexcel resistant materials so you would be advised to take note of what is written within it!

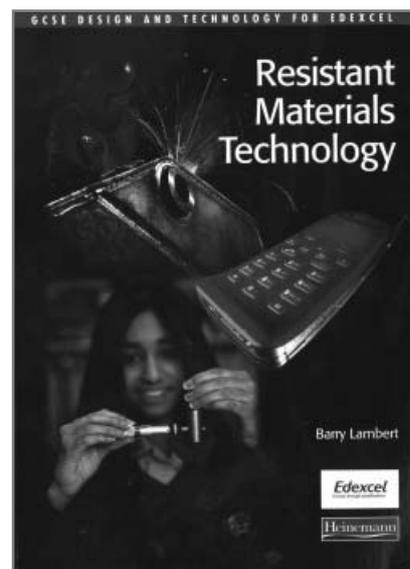
### Student book

The student book has six discrete sections; the first four cover the specification content, the last two deal with the coursework element (section E: full-course coursework and section F: short-course coursework).

The sections are well presented with clear graphics and reference tables. At the end of each section there are practice examination questions. As with the resource sheets in the teacher's guide the information is basic, a teacher will need further resources to work with if they hope to have students achieving the higher grades. There is nothing exciting or different about the first four sections of the book. I have bought 10 of these books for use with my classes and it is the fifth section that I make the most use of.

The coursework guidance for students is the best part of the textbook; clear layout with colour coding and advice on how to succeed. I have encouraged my students to make use of this section independent of me as a reference for their own work. Again I have reservations about some of the content of the coursework guidance, the specimen material given for developing ideas is a bird feeder – I have been trying to move my students away from bird tables and other garden paraphernalia for the last few years and this book takes them right back there.

What is noticeable about both the guide and the student book is that the short- and full-course is catered for with



assessment criteria exemplification and coursework tasks.

If you want students to pass Edexcel GCSE, then buy the book and guide. If you want your students to be design and technologists, then you will need more than these two resources. They will successfully assist teachers and students in achieving GCSE passes but they do not set me aflame with excitement about design and technology.

This book and teacher guide is part of a set produced by Edexcel for their new GCSE specifications.

### GCSE Resistant Materials Technology for Edexcel Student Book £13.50

### GCSE Resistant Materials Technology for Edexcel Teacher's Resource File £41.99

Barry Lambert

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Appropriate content	////	Generic use	
Pupil/student use	///	One of a series	←
Teacher resource	////	Photocopiable	←
Visuals	///	Pupil/student activities	←
Overall style	///	Cross-curricular	