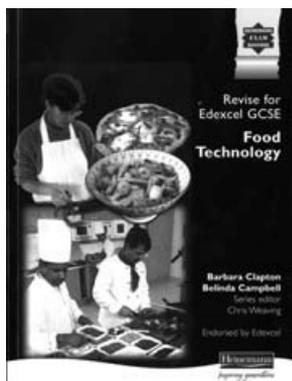


Revise for Edexcel GCSE Food Technology

Reviewed by Jonty Kinsella, Deputy Head of Department, Orleans Park School



As its name implies, this is a revision book from the Edexcel Examination Board. It is a thin, quarto size publication, printed in black and white, with 105 pages. There are few photographs. It does get away from the 'spread' format and each unit, of which there are about 30, may cover up to five pages.

The text is in four sections. By far the largest section covers the requirements of Assessment Objective One: what may have been called the 'theory' in old parlance.

The 'theory' units are independent from one another, although a general theme runs throughout the order, for example: protein; fats; carbohydrates in one run. Or 'Using ICT in single item production', 'Using CAM in single item production', in another.

Every unit has the same format. It begins with a 'topic' box containing several related points. Then there is a list, in several paragraphs, of Key Points. Following this is a small reference to the Industrial application of the topic. Then, the really important section – a series of questions, with answers deemed to be acceptable by the examiner. Sometimes there are handy hints from the examiner.

Another, short section considers Assessment Objective Three. The last section gives advice on design and product analysis questions.

A novel feature is an emphasis on short course versus long course

questions. This book has good use for those schools whose candidates are entered for the short course.

I was disappointed that there was no index. This limits the use of the book as general text book in which to find information quickly. Too few textbooks have good, cross-referenced indexes, which I feel help the less as well as the most able. Pupils do get frustrated if they can't find things straight away and gone are the days when mixed ability classes had the sort of patience we expect from more able pupils. The publishing cost of an index is worth while.

There is now a host of other revision books. This is a midway book. It is accessible by the broad band of pupils who will get grade E to grade A. The text is not dense and the layout is clear. Language is simple and concise. And I feel that pupils would be able to able to work through this on their own. It would also serve as a good homework and cover book throughout the GCSE course. It is on these grounds that I would make my purchase. Perhaps the title 'revision' is underselling the book.

It is midway also in terms of price. But probably not cheap enough for pupils to feel able to purchase one themselves, as they do for a current, popular text.

Candidates sitting exams from other Boards would find it useful also. I used one unit for this summer's AQA examination because of the simple format and useful questions and answers.

Revise for Edexcel GCSE Food Technology
 Authors: Barbara Clapton and Belinda Campbell
 Publisher: Heinemann Educational
 ISBN: 0 435 41719 3
 Price: £5.99

Appropriate Content	✓✓✓✓	Generic Use	✓
Pupil/Student Use	✓✓✓✓✓	One of a series	
Teacher Resource	✓✓✓✓✓	Photocopiable	
Visuals	✓✓✓	Pupil/student activities	
Overall Style	✓✓✓✓	Cross-curricular	