

# GCSE Resistant Materials Technology for OCR

*Reviewed by Les Porter, Course Director, Design Department, Brunel University*

This splendid book has been written to support teachers and their students who are following both full and short GCSE courses and the Certificate of Achievement in Resistant Materials Technology.

Primarily the book has been written to give students who are following OCR syllabi subject success, but students following courses with other examination boards will find the publication equally valuable.

The clever graphics of the front cover makes the book look attractive and encourages the reader to be receptive about the content. (Who wouldn't be seduced by this clever use of sketching, wire frame model and fully rendered CAD?)

The publication is supplied in two distinct parts:  
Part One – The Student's Book includes a whole section supporting students in their coursework, is written in manageable double-page spreads with summarized key points and comprehension, and highlights the opportunities for using ICT in resistant materials technology work. It also has questions to test knowledge and understanding on every topic.

Part Two – The photocopiable Teacher's Resource file contains plenty of teaching help and examiners' tips to show teachers how to get the best from their students and includes extra photocopiable worksheets for class or homework. It also shows where Citizenship programmes of study are covered, and indicates where tasks will provide evidence for Key Skills.

The book is colour-coded into sections for easy reference, the top and bottom page margins carry the same colour throughout that section. Symbols are also used on the double page spreads to show work covering ICT and industrial practice. Underneath these symbols are the references to NC programmes of study. Teachers will find these particularly useful when producing their departmental curriculum maps.

The student book is divided into six sections, these being:

- Developing a design brief and drawing up a specification.
- Generating design proposals.
- Product development.
- Product planning and realisation.
- Product evaluation.
- Internal assessment and post-GCSE options.

Each of the double-page spreads includes:

- Specification links, which show which sections of the specification are covered by the spread.
- Activities that test knowledge and understanding and can also be used for independent study and revision.
- Key points which summarise some of the most important issues and will also provide a focused guide for revision.

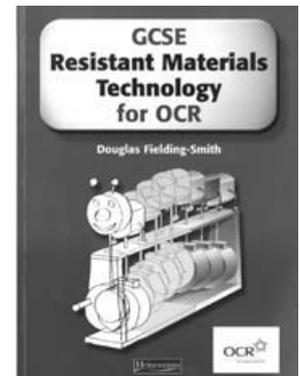
The style of the book is colourful and the text is well presented and written in a style that is easy to read while at the same time being motivational and challenging. The double page, per topic, format is excellent. It gives just enough information to be informative and motivate the reader to undertake further activity on the topic without the overkill that so many other similar books give.

One element that I particularly liked teaches the students to use Star Diagrams as an analytical tool that is a simple and effective way to evaluate their own ideas and for evaluating existing products. These are the type of

activities that need to be encouraged to provide academic rigour for our subject.

The book is totally up-to-date and the examples provided for the students are relevant to current life-style. It provides exemplars of good practice and the examples that the book provides in the section on 'Internal assessment: objective 4' are of particularly high quality (some examples follow below).

Douglas Fielding-Smith is an inspirational writer and this book will, no doubt, prove to be an asset to any school's technology department. To many schools the book is affordable as a class set and Heinemann must be congratulated for that. This is a book that will stand the test of time and I would encourage its purchase. I read it cover-to-cover in one go, but it would be just as easy to dip in and out of sections as the student requires specific information. Congratulations to both author and publisher.



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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	✓