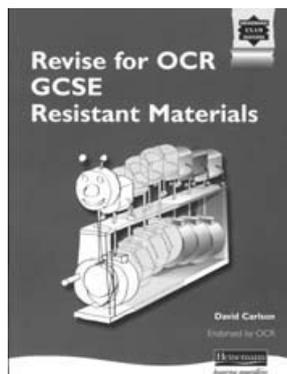


Revise for OCR GCSE Resistant Materials

Reviewed by Alison Hardy, Head of Technology, Lodge Park Technology College



This book is written to assist GCSE students studying OCR Resistant Materials; its primary aim is to support them in revising for the examination.

The book starts with clear guidance on how to use the book, detailing its layout and content. There is also useful exam guidance regarding interpreting exam questions and the OCR paper requirements.

The main content of the book is divided into two sections: Designing and Making; Knowledge and Understanding. Specimen exam questions are included at the end.

The layout of the two main sections is consistent, with a piece at the beginning of each topic stating what will be covered. This makes it easier for a student to locate exactly what they want to revise. Key words are also identified at the side of each page – I think this is invaluable to students as many of them do not remember the key words and can

struggle in an exam to understand a question because of this.

At the end of a topic there are key points listed for a quick check, with follow up questions and activities. The topics are covered with suitable depth for students who are likely to get a C grade or higher. The guide will also help those who are borderline C/D although some may find the level of language quite high.

The information is presented succinctly as is appropriate for a revision guide; it was difficult to begin with to remember to look at the book as a revision guide rather than as a textbook. There are less graphics than you would hope to find in a good textbook and this is slightly concerning as it does not cater for different learning styles by primarily using text to communicate.

The questions are exam type questions but are primarily to do with recall. The activities tend to encourage the student to apply knowledge rather than just regurgitate it. Students will be able to use this book independently with access to class notes and texts used in their lessons.

At the end of the book there are several specimen exam questions; for teachers who have used OCR for a while they will recognise some of these questions as past papers! Most good teachers will have done several past papers so the material in this part of the book

will not be new to some students. I appreciate that it is difficult to write specimen exam questions but this does let the end of the book down. I was also surprised that there was no index, which would be helpful to students enabling them to use the book as a quick reference when revising.

Overall I would recommend this book, not as a class revision book but for teachers to target certain students to enable them to achieve higher marks in the exam. Historically exam marks for GCSE Design and Technology have been lower than coursework so it is good to see that texts are becoming available for teachers to recommend to students for revision. This is the best revision guide I have seen for resistant materials that has been endorsed by an exam board. With more graphics, a quick reference facility and up to date exam questions this would be an excellent book.

Revise for OCR GCSE Resistant Materials

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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	