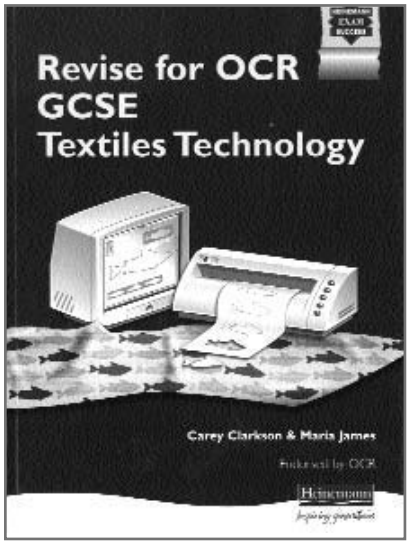
Revise for OCR GCSE Textiles Technology
Coney Clarkson and Maria James
Reviewed by Julie Boyd
Head of Textiles, Lutterworth Grammar School and Community College

This book has been written as a revision guide for students studying the OCR Specification for GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles. It can be used in conjunction with the GCSE Textiles Technology for OCR student book, which gives more detailed coverage of the specification content.

The book aims to cover the basic information and knowledge required to ensure students are better prepared for their exam. It is divided into four sections: a short section on how to use the book including general exam guidance; a long detailed section on designing and making followed by another on knowledge and understanding with specimen exam questions and answers towards the end. Each section is broken down into chapters covering the relevant information for students. The designing and making section covers information on writing a brief and specification, generating and developing ideas, product development, product planning, tools and equipment, processes, ICT, industrial applications and product evaluation. Within the knowledge and understanding section there is information on materials and components, fibres and fabrics, smart and modern materials, systems and control, products and applications, quality and health and safety.

Each chapter starts with a list of the main specification points that the chapter covers. This is particularly useful for the teacher when planning a lesson. Down the side of every page there is a column for key words (with definitions) which is a useful focus for students. Most of the page is taken up with summaries of the important points students need to know for their exam. These are set out under sub headings and a lot of use is made of spider diagrams. Further reinforcement is given by a bullet point list of key points at the end of each chapter. All chapters have well written activities and / or questions at the end, which are a useful focus for both students and teachers. These do not have answers but this encourages students to revisit the text and to practice the application of knowledge. Although there are questions throughout the book there is only one example of a full exam paper at the end. These are available in other formats, whether it be directly from the board or from other OCR publications, but it would have been useful to have had at least one other paper in the book.



The book has a paperback cover that is a bold cerise / purple colour which is a little too close to pink for my liking! It is a minor point but I always shy away from front covers that give the impression of the book being too girly as I teach a lot of boys. The images used on the front cover however do show CAD/CAM which is a positive image to portray. The layout of the book is quite good as lots of sub-headings are used but there is a lot of writing and relatively few images, which many students would find uninspiring. Where images and spider diagrams are used information is much more accessible. The book is also in black and white, presumably to make it more affordable, but this does add to the slightly dry feeling. Use of language is satisfactory although some explanations could be a little more student friendly. Overall this book is probably not really suitable for most less able students to use on their own but many average and particularly higher ability students would find it a useful focus when revising at home.

The book is affordable for schools at £5.99, a price which most students and parents would also find reasonable. I think some schools might find it useful to order class sets of these books especially where a teacher is less experienced or very busy as it does provide a good structured revision programme. Personally I would find it a good resource to dip into and to support what is already in place. I would be happy to recommend it as a book for students to buy although I would suggest they looked at it first because the amount of writing would not suit all learning styles.

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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**	

* Suitable for top KS3, most KS4 and some KS5

** Questions and activities at the end of each section. Examination questions at the end of the book.

REVIEWS