Maximise your Mark: A Revision Guide

Reviewed by David Foster

I suppose £150 does seem quite a lot for a revision guide when you first think about it but this really is something else. First of all it is one of a series, which as a group cover the main aspects of Design and Technology. There are guides for Food Technology and Textiles Technology as well as this volume which covers the syllabus of the GCSE Design and Realisation syllabus.

The main cost is of course a piece of software, which in common with other similar publications is supplied on a CD. This provides a single user license.

I tried the disk out with a group of my students who are cramming their heads with revision at the moment. Most of the pupils in this target group find revision to be a real chore. They have trouble finishing off topics for many subjects simply because they feel that they just have too much to read. The information just doesn't sink in. To some extent I have some sympathy. Most pupils find the revision of the theory elements of courses to be a real slog. This product offers something of a breath of fresh air for pupils who were happy to work through the CD with the minimum of supervision. It kept them interested in the topics it contained and provided them with instant feedback as to their answering of the enclosed questions. All the information contained on the CD was excellent and relevant. Anything which makes learning an enjoyable experience is surely a winner.

The booklet itself is well presented on quality paper and contains clear, easily understood information. Much of the information is supplied with easily remembered diagrams and images which my pupils found easy to recall. This then is another success. The language used is very middle of the road and this alone makes the booklet a winner in the eyes of pupils. How often are we reminded of the under performance of boys in the area of literacy? How often though are these boys willing to read for hours when given material which interests them? The booklet seemed to grip them for a considerable time and they came back on subsequent occasions eager to have another go!

As a tool then for holding the interest of the pupils it is excellent. As a book they would choose, it scores highly again. As a means of actually 'Maximising Your Mark' I would heartily recommend this product. Even pupils who have difficulty learning the theory element of

the Design and Realisation course found the disk easy to work with and to follow. I have to say that their retention of information impressed me and convinced me that this group of pupils would really benefit from its use in school. I have found it to be an excellent resource and well worth the investment. Of course, your order book ought to have space for the others in the series to help the other courses in the department, so get ready for the rush!

Maximise your Mark: A Revision Guide
Authors: Melanie Fasciato and Tristan Shephard
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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**	