

## Endorsed Resources Statement of Policy

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### Who we are

OCR is a leading UK awarding body. We provide qualifications which engage people of all ages and abilities at school, college, in work or through part-time learning programmes.

Our general and vocational qualifications equip students with the knowledge and skills they need for their future, helping them achieve their full potential.

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment. We work closely with a diverse range of publishers to provide first-rate support for our qualifications.

### 1. Purpose of this document

This document summarises OCR's approach to the endorsement of materials that have been produced to support our qualifications, and the principles that underpin this process. It is intended to be used in conjunction with our detailed instructions for publishers who wish to submit their resources for endorsement review: [Endorsed resources: a guide for publishers](#).

### 2. Our approach to the endorsement of resources

OCR works actively with different publishers to ensure that our qualifications are supported by a range of high-quality teaching and learning resources, including textbooks. Whilst these resources are not required for successful delivery of our qualifications, they can play a valuable role in supporting teachers to deliver the best possible experience for their students

We operate an open endorsement policy and encourage any publisher interested in producing innovative materials to support an OCR qualification to contact us. The process of review and criteria for approval is the same for all publishers, including Cambridge University Press.

Resources that are endorsed by OCR are suitably aligned with our specifications and fulfil the requirements of quality and approach set out in the [guide for publishers](#).

Endorsed resources have been reviewed by a suitably qualified expert, usually a senior examiner for the relevant subject, and have been judged to meet the necessary criteria, which are detailed in the guide for publishers.

An endorsed textbook must contain comprehensive teaching and learning coverage of the content of the topic, unit, or entire specification, in question.

An endorsed teaching and learning resource must provide high quality, effective support for the delivery of the topic, unit, or entire specification in question. OCR does not endorse revision guides, or other forms of resource that are specifically focused on preparation for assessment.

Endorsement by OCR is a mark of quality that indicates to a teacher that a resource will be a valuable source of support for their students. Such endorsement in no way indicates that access to a resource is necessary to achieve a qualification, or that other supporting resources are not available.

We do not endorse textbooks that contain questions described as ‘exam-style’; or that contain examiner or assessor tips. We do not approve marketing material that may in any way imply the textbook contains privileged information, or that it is necessary for successful completion of the course.

Endorsement will be indicated in the same way on all resources that are granted endorsement. All endorsed resources must include text reading ‘A textbook/resource endorsed by’ and the OCR logo provided to the publisher.

### **3. Key principles**

*What is an endorsed resource?*

- A resource that has been endorsed by OCR includes teaching and learning content that will effectively support a course of study that leads to one of our qualifications.
- Endorsed resources can be textbooks, e-textbooks, or other forms of resource, including digital resources.
- An endorsed textbook may cover an entire specification, or one or more parts of a specification. In either case, it will fully cover the relevant content of the specification in question, and will provide a solid basis for study.
- An endorsed teaching and learning resource may cover an entire specification, or one or more parts of a specification. It will provide useful supplementary support to teaching of the relevant specification content.
- An endorsed resource is a helpful, but optional, resource that OCR customers may or may not choose to utilise.
- Endorsed resources support the delivery of the content of an OCR specification. Their use will help students to become ready for assessment, but they are not focused on preparing for assessment. OCR does not endorse revision guides or any resource focused primarily on exam preparation.

*Who can submit resources for endorsement?*

We welcome applications for endorsement from any educational publisher, or subject-expert organisation that has produced learning materials that they believe may be suitable and which meet the self-assessment criteria. We expect any organisation submitting resources for endorsement to be able to demonstrate that their materials have been prepared by subject experts and have been through a robust quality-control process.

Draft specification materials will be made available to all publishers working on resources for endorsement at the same point in time (usually 6 months prior to open publication), subject to the completion of a non-disclosure agreement.

*Who can write OCR endorsed resources?*

OCR Assessment Specialists may normally author textbooks or other learning materials that are submitted for endorsement. They are required to declare all authoring activities to OCR at the point of signing an Assessment Specialist contract with us. We also ask publishers to declare any known relationship between their author and the specification when they apply for endorsement. Where necessary, specific actions may be taken to manage potential conflicts of interest.

All endorsed materials must be free from any reference to any role that the author(s) may undertake for OCR, other than their generic role (for example ‘a Senior Examiner’ or ‘a Principal

Moderator') or their experience (for example, 'with over five years marking experience').

### *How to submit resources for endorsement*

To submit a resource for consideration for endorsement please complete the relevant submission form, which can be found at <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/resource-finder/endorsed-resources/>.

## **4. Marketing of endorsed resources**

- In all our marketing activities we ensure that we give OCR teachers full information about the range of support available to them, from OCR and from all endorsed publishers.
- When promoting any resources for our specifications, we always state the source of the materials.
- Support produced by endorsed publishers, is always optional and not required for the delivery of the qualification.
- We clearly mark those resources which are endorsed by OCR
- We will not suggest that any endorsed resource provides an advantage over any other relevant endorsed resource. This includes endorsed resources produced by Cambridge University Press.

When OCR has confirmed endorsement of a resource, we will provide the relevant OCR endorsement logo. The logo is for the book covers, resource landing page, or opening element of the resource only and not to be used anywhere else. The placement of the logo, back cover copy and any marketing material referencing the endorsement should be submitted to OCR for approval.

## **5. Regulation**

OCR operates in accordance with Qfqual and CCEA's General Conditions of Recognition and Qualifications Wales' Standard Conditions of Recognition.

In addition, OCR follows the [Agreed Code of Practice: Awarding Body/Publisher Relationships, JCQ January 2008 produced by the Joint Council for Qualifications](#).

## **6. Key contacts**

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