

A photograph of three young adults in a library setting. A young man on the left is laughing and pointing. A young woman in the center, wearing glasses and a dark polka-dot top, is smiling and looking at a book. A young man on the right is partially visible, looking towards the woman. They are surrounded by bookshelves filled with books. In the foreground, there is a laptop and some papers on a desk.

## RESOURCES AND ENDORSEMENT

### A guide for publishers and digital providers

Version 5 November 2024

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## What is OCR endorsement?

OCR works actively with publishers to ensure that our qualifications are supported by a range of high-quality teaching and learning resources, including textbooks. These resources play a valuable role in supporting learning and in helping 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 approval is independent and the same for all publishers, including Cambridge publishing.

Endorsement by OCR is a mark of quality that indicates to a teacher that a resource will be a valuable source of support for them and their students.

Resources and textbooks that provide substantial support for an OCR specification may be eligible for endorsement. However, to qualify for endorsement there must be coverage of:

- the complete specification  
or
- the entire content of a topic/unit/component/module from the specification  
or
- a skill area that supports learning for the qualification, for example, statistics for Geography

We will not consider for endorsement, resources that primarily focus on revision or assessment preparation. OCR endorses resources based on several criteria including factual accuracy and breadth and depth of coverage. These resources will bear the OCR logo with the statement 'A textbook/teaching and learning resource endorsed by OCR'.

You can find OCR's endorsement criteria in the Stage 1 Self-assessment and Statement of Intent form, which can be found [here](#). By completing and submitting this form, you allow us to check the resource's likely eligibility for endorsement, and we encourage you to do so early in the production process.

## Non-endorsed resources

Even if you think the resource may not be eligible, we invite you to submit the completed form. As teachers value a range of resource types, we also support the work of publishers and providers who do not qualify, or do not want to apply, for endorsement. Publishers and resource providers who contact us, sign a non-disclosure agreement, and discuss their intentions may be provided with our publisher briefing for qualifications in progress and subsequently given access to specifications and sample assessment materials. We will not however review content or guarantee the quality of such resources but will recommend that teachers use their professional judgement when choosing the resource.

## Benefits of endorsement

Your resource will be reviewed by an expert reviewer and an OCR assessment standards manager for the relevant subject, to determine the:

- quality of the resource
- accuracy of the teaching content
- acceptability of the practice questions (please refer closely to the guidance provided later in this document)
- alignment to our specification

The reviews are also checked internally by our team of subject advisors who are specialists in their subjects.

Endorsed resources should display the OCR endorsement logo on their cover (textbooks/ eTextbooks) or prominently alongside the digital resource. The logo is accompanied by an endorsement statement (please refer to [Use of the OCR endorsement logos and statements, page 6](#)).

OCR endorsement provides customers with assurance that a resource is suitable for supporting a particular OCR specification.

Endorsed resources will be listed prominently on the subject pages of the OCR website and on Teach Cambridge our teacher portal. This positions them as valuable, OCR supported resources to the numerous teachers who access the site on a regular basis. Non-endorsed resources may be listed in these areas but less prominently and with a clear statement that they have not been reviewed by OCR.

Once your resource is endorsed, you may request a list of centres that entered candidates in the last summer series of the specification for which your resource has been endorsed along with candidate numbers.

## Who can submit resources for endorsement?

We acknowledge that there are a range of excellent resources created by individuals for our qualifications and appreciate the support those resources offer to teachers. However, our list of eligible organisations from which we will accept resources for review are:

- publishers (print and digital)
- EdTech companies
- not-for-profits
- universities

These eligibility criteria ensure that OCR endorses resources from organisations with a track record of successful publishing, a rigorous approach to product development, and the resources to support marketing and sales of OCR-endorsed products. If you do not fit into one of these categories, but are successfully marketing and providing resources, please contact us to discuss your eligibility.

## The Cambridge Approach to textbooks and resources

[The Cambridge Approach](#) is a set of principles for designing high-quality textbooks and resource materials. These principles were developed as an outcome of extensive analysis of textbooks and learning materials from a set of high-performing jurisdictions around the world, and can be found [here](#). The OCR endorsement forms encourage publishers to reflect on these principles and outline how their resources put them into practice.

## Endorsement fees

Charges to the publisher are outlined in the table below. For publishers submitting resources to the endorsement process for the first time, an account will need to be set up with our Finance department. We invoice all publishers before the first review commences. If for some reason, such as format or presentation, these fees do not make sense, please contact the endorsement team to discuss.

All prices are **exclusive** of VAT.

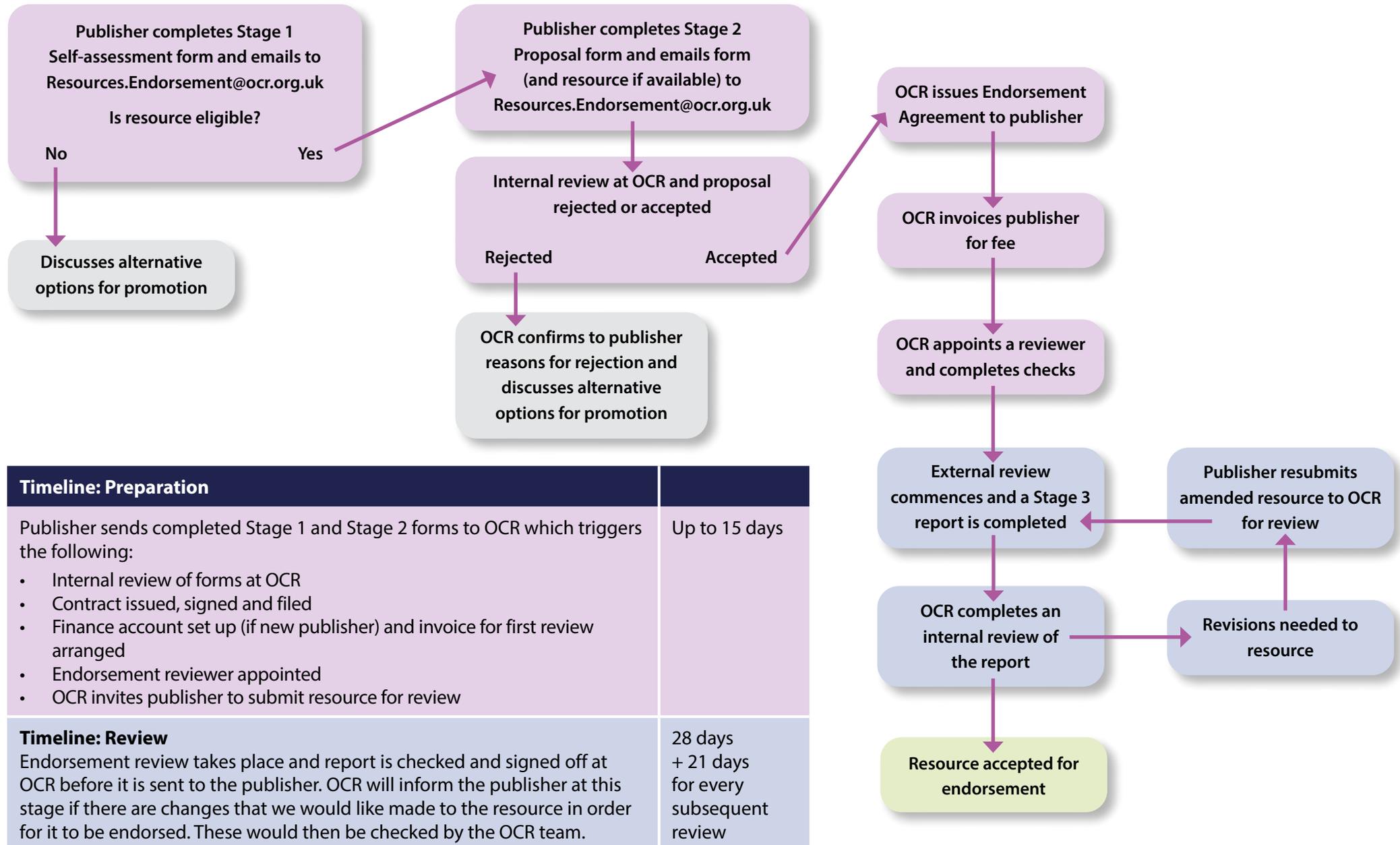
### Fees for textbooks and eTextbooks

Number of pages	Charge to publisher (first review*) £	Charge to publisher (second review**) £
Up to 150 pages	500	125
151-300 pages	700	175
301-500 pages	850	212.50
501-700 pages	1000	250
701-900 pages	1200	300

\*First review is conducted by the reviewer after the first submission of the resource to OCR.

\*\*Second review is conducted once the publisher has submitted their changes to the resource, if changes are required following the first review.

# Endorsement process and timelines



## How long will it take to review my resource?

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Publishers should liaise with OCR to plan their expected submission dates as soon as possible so that OCR can recruit a suitable reviewer and guarantee their time. This is particularly important as there are times of the year when senior examiners and assessment specialists are not available due to commitments for the live examiner series.

The first review will usually take up to 28 days from receipt of the resource.

When a resource is resubmitted to verify required changes, the second review should normally take up to 21 days from receipt of the resource. Whilst we strive to meet deadlines, the actual turnaround time will depend on the number of submissions received at that time, the quality of the material submitted and the availability of reviewers. Please note reviews may take longer during marking periods.

If the turnaround times are likely to be missed, OCR will inform the publisher as soon as possible.

## Use of the OCR endorsement logos and statements

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### Textbooks/ e-textbooks

The OCR Endorsement logo should appear on the front cover of the resource with the short-form endorsement statement underneath. The full endorsement statement should appear on the inside front cover or introductory pages, using the relevant qualification code and title (see examples below).

### Digital teaching and learning resources

The OCR Endorsement logo should appear within the resource itself where possible. For digital platforms, the logo should appear prominently on the landing page. The full endorsement statement should also be prominently displayed, using the relevant qualification code and title (see examples below).

### Endorsement statement

The teaching content of this resource is endorsed by OCR for use with specification AS Level Mathematics A (H230) and specification A Level Mathematics A (H240). All references to assessment, including assessment preparation and practice questions of any format/style are the publisher's interpretation of the specification and are not endorsed by OCR.

This resource was designed for use with the version of the specification available at the time of publication. However, as specifications are updated over time, there may be contradictions between the resource and the specification, therefore please use the information on the latest specification and sample assessment materials at all times to ensure students are fully prepared for their assessments.

Endorsement indicates that a resource is suitable to support delivery of an OCR specification, but it does not mean that the endorsed resource is the *only* suitable resource to support delivery, or that it is required or necessary to achieve the qualification.

OCR recommends that teachers consider using a range of teaching and learning resources based on their own professional judgement for their students' needs. For more information about the endorsement process, please visit the [OCR website](#).

## Marketing materials

### Approval of covers and marketing copy

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.

All marketing material that refers to the endorsement or carries the OCR endorsement logo should be submitted to [Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk](mailto:Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk) for approval.

Resources that are going through the endorsement process may be described as having been 'submitted to the OCR endorsement process' or 'being considered for endorsement by OCR'.

## Use of questions from OCR assessments

Inclusion of practice questions (taken from OCR assessments or written by authors) must comply with the approach outlined under 'practice questions in OCR-endorsed resources' below.

- Material can only be published after one year has elapsed since the live exam date. Publishers may not reproduce any part of a question paper that is currently stored securely and distributed through Teach Cambridge.
- Publishers are responsible for sourcing question paper content from the OCR website. The versions of the material that can be used for external publication must be that found on the OCR website [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).
- Publishers are required to obtain their own copyright clearance for any third-party content contained within questions. OCR cannot provide clearance, or licence others, to use third-party material.

- Publishers may not include OCR past paper questions in any electronic service (online or otherwise) which allows users to create their own tests or examinations, without additional permissions.
- Where an external publisher is seeking to include OCR material alongside any exam guidance or model answers, it must be made clear that this is purely the work of the publisher and/or their authors and that this work has neither been seen nor verified by OCR.
- Question papers may not be reproduced in their entirety without further permission.
- Individual questions may be used, and each question should be reproduced in its entirety (all sub-parts must be included) and the text of the question may not be altered in any way. Please contact [Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk](mailto:Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk) if you wish to amend OCR questions to suit your purposes. Permission *may* be granted on the condition that you clearly indicate the amendment next to the question and in the acknowledgement.
- Reproduced questions should acknowledge OCR, the exam details and the exam date, for example, OCR, GCE Mathematics, Paper 4751, June 2014.
- There will normally be no charge for use of this material, but, if you are applying for endorsement, please include these questions in your list of questions clearly indicating they are from a past paper.
- If you wish to use past paper content in ways not covered by this guidance, please contact [Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk](mailto:Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk)

## Practice questions in OCR endorsed resources

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**Please read this section very carefully as this is the element on which most resources fail endorsement.**

We acknowledge that students benefit greatly from the inclusion of a range of questions and exercises in their learning resources, from quick knowledge-checking tests to more substantial practice questions. The guidance in this section is intended to give publishers as much flexibility as possible to create engaging resources that encourage active learning by including a range of question types.

In line with Ofqual guidance, OCR does not use questions in live assessment materials that repeat those which appear in endorsed resources, as this has the potential to make the assessments more predictable or confer an advantage on someone who had prepared from the endorsed resource.

For this reason, we limit the number of exam-style practice questions that can be included in textbooks. Failing to do so could lead to a narrowing of what can be set in live assessments.

To achieve this, while protecting the validity of future live assessments, we distinguish 'formative' questions and exercises (which we do not limit in number) from 'practice questions' (which, in most cases, we do limit). We understand that this distinction is easier to achieve in some subjects than others, and that for some it may not be possible at all. If you have any questions or concerns about following this approach, please contact us at [Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk](mailto:Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk) at **as early a stage as possible**. It is worth getting clarification early as the use of practice questions is one of the main reasons that application for endorsement fails. It is also worth including this guidance in your author briefs.

### Formative questions and exercises

- OCR encourages the inclusion of questions and exercises in textbooks and other resources that support active, engaged learning, facilitate retention of knowledge and test understanding.
- The approach taken in these questions/exercises must be clearly **distinct** from that taken in 'exam-style' practice questions (see below). For example, they should be spread throughout the text, be informal in style, and free from any title or labelling that implies they are practice for assessment.
- When writing formative questions and exercises, authors and publishers should consult the relevant sample assessment materials for the specification in question, and ensure that the question type used for a particular topic area is **demonstrably** different. 'Formative' questions should help learners to check or consolidate knowledge and understanding rather than mirroring the OCR assessment model. For example, a formative question might involve the application of knowledge to a specific scenario or context ('Explain how the UK Coastguard might use the Internet of Everything'). Or a question might be more broad or reflective than typically the case in an exam paper ('Identify the physiological benefits of a warm up').
- Command words used in the SAMs may be replicated in formative questions and exercises, provided the approach of the question is **sufficiently distinct** from the exam. Please note that, the questions should still be sufficiently different from an exam-style in order for the command words to be used acceptably. If the question doesn't meet this criteria one way of adjusting the question could be to use an alternative to a command word.
- If multiple-choice questions (MCQs) are not used in the assessment model for the qualification, these would be an acceptable question type for formative questions. Please do check the assessment model for the subject before taking this approach.
- Formative questions and exercises should not include any marks or accompanying mark scheme.

## Practice questions

- The decision of the OCR Assessment Standards Manager will be final. The assessment expert knows whether the type and number of questions will increase the predictability of live assessments.
- OCR will continue to accept author-created practice questions in endorsed resources. These should be clearly labelled as ‘practice questions’, and not ‘exam-style questions’ or any similar term.
- Publishers must submit a full list of all questions included (along with any answers or marks as appropriate) in the resource to OCR as a separate Word document indicating where the questions are located, when submitting the resource for endorsement. Please mark any questions that have been taken from past papers with the paper number and date. If this list is missing, it will be requested, and the review date will not start until it is received.
- The preliminary material of the endorsed resource should include the following disclaimer: ‘The practice questions and accompanying marks and mark schemes included in this resource are an opportunity to practice exam skills, but they do not replicate examination papers and are not endorsed by OCR.’
- We reserve the right to require publishers to include the following disclaimer, alongside every instance of these questions: ‘These practice questions are an opportunity to practice exam skills, but they do not replicate examination papers and are not endorsed by OCR.’
- Practice questions should follow the approach taken in the SAMs as closely as possible. For example, question stems should begin with the relevant command words. Publishers should access the specification’s command words from the OCR website or SAM at the start of the writing process.
- For the majority of specifications, the total number of practice questions on a particular topic should not exceed the total number of questions that can be expected to appear on that topic within a question paper. Questions from past papers do not contribute to this total as their use does not increase the predictability of future exams. Be mindful of the number used, keeping in mind the resource should not be predominantly assessment focused. Publishers should refer to the relevant SAMs at the beginning of the writing process for exemplification. If the topic in question is not covered by the SAMs, or if any clarification is needed, then a request for guidance should be submitted to OCR as early as possible. For some subjects (e.g. Maths) it may be possible to include a greater number of practice questions without narrowing the range of questions for live assessments. More flexibility will be possible in these instances. Please contact OCR if you think this applies to your project.
- Marks against questions and mark schemes are permitted, but we reserve the right to require you to include the following disclaimer against each instance: ‘The marks attached to these practice questions are a guideline only, and are not endorsed by OCR.’
- Publishers should make OCR aware of any scenario-based questions in a resource. Such questions should be based around a single scenario, rather than multiple scenarios.
- Tips are acceptable; however, they should be general revision tips and not called ‘Examiners’ Tips’, ‘Exam Tips’, ‘Assessors’ Tips’, or anything similar.
- OCR **must** be informed of any changes made to practice questions post-publication (e.g. in reprints, or changes made to digital editions). Any such changes must continue to conform to the guidelines set out above.
- If a new edition of a book/resource is submitted for endorsement, then OCR will require details of all practice questions that have been added/deleted/amended in the new edition.

## Teaching and learning resources (digital route)

The same principles apply to endorsement of teaching and learning resources as for textbooks. Any questions that could be considered to be 'practice questions' will have to be submitted to OCR. Publishers should contact OCR at as early a stage as possible for a discussion about the resource they are considering submitting for endorsement, and a decision about whether the volume of practice questions contained in a resource mean it is eligible for endorsement.

Some additional requirements apply to digital teaching and learning resources.

- If publishers wish to add any additional practice questions to a resource after endorsement has been granted, then the publishers must inform OCR of this before the questions are uploaded. We reserve the right to withdraw our endorsement if the number of practice questions included reaches an unacceptable limit.
- The content of any additional or amended questions must be supplied to OCR in a Word document.
- OCR reserves the right to require that the uploading of additional questions to a resource be delayed until after an exam series has taken place.

## Revision guides

OCR does not endorse revision guides or similar resources, and there's no need to submit questions to us. Where 'practice questions' are being included in these resources publishers are encouraged to follow the good practice guidance in distinguishing practice questions from other forms of question set out above.

Exception: where a revision guide author has any role in setting the question paper for the specification in question, and has declared a potential conflict of interest to OCR, then a Word document containing all questions will need to be submitted.

## Diversity policy

### Our shared vision for endorsed resources

OCR is committed to diversity and inclusivity in our assessment and endorsed resources, so we work with publishers who share our vision that endorsed print and digital resources should:

- be accurate and accessible for all learners
- portray and navigate cultural, racial and religious differences respectfully
- demonstrate a commitment to equal and fair gender representation

Please refer to any specific EDIB requirements in the relevant publisher briefing for the particular qualification.

For more on our mission and approach visit [www.ocr.org.uk/about/what-we-do/people-and-planet](http://www.ocr.org.uk/about/what-we-do/people-and-planet)

## What else do I need to know?

### Endorsed resources statement of policy

This document can be accessed [here](#).

### How do I submit my resource for review?

For textbooks and eTextbooks, we will accept resources that are at first proof stage or later. We don't ask our reviewers to check manuscripts due to the high volume of changes between manuscript and first proof stage.

For digital teaching and learning resources, please ensure that a login is provided both for OCR internal review as well as a generic login for the anonymous external reviewer.

A full list of all the questions included in your resource must be submitted to OCR as a separate Word document when submitting a textbook for endorsement.

Please refer to the 'Practice Questions in OCR-endorsed resources' section of this guide for more information. If we need to request this list, the review schedule will not begin until it is received.

### Endorsement is not a recommendation

OCR endorsement does not mean that OCR is making any specific claims about the resource and is not recommending its use above alternative resources.

### 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').

If you have questions that are not addressed here, please send them to [Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk](mailto:Resources.Endorsement@ocr.org.uk)

## Need to get in touch?

If you ever have any questions about OCR qualifications or services (including administration, logistics and teaching) please feel free to get in touch with our customer support centre.

Call us on  
**01223 553998**

Alternatively, you can email us on  
**support@ocr.org.uk**

For more information visit

 **ocr.org.uk/qualifications/resource-finder**

 **ocr.org.uk**

 **facebook.com/ocrexams**

 **twitter.com/ocrexams**

 **instagram.com/ocrexaminations**

 **linkedin.com/company/ocr**

 **youtube.com/ocrexams**



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OCR operates academic and vocational qualifications regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA as listed in their qualifications registers including A Levels, GCSEs, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals.

OCR provides resources to help you deliver our qualifications. These resources do not represent any particular teaching method we expect you to use. We update our resources regularly and aim to make sure content is accurate but please check the OCR website so that you have the most up to date version. OCR cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in these resources.

Though we make every effort to check our resources, there may be contradictions between published support and the specification, so it is important that you always use information in the latest specification. We indicate any specification changes within the document itself, change the version number and provide a summary of the changes. If you do notice a discrepancy between the specification and a resource, please [contact us](#).

You can copy and distribute this resource in your centre, in line with any specific restrictions detailed in the resource. Resources intended for teacher use should not be shared with students. Resources should not be published on social media platforms or other websites.

OCR acknowledges the use of the following content: N/A

Whether you already offer OCR qualifications, are new to OCR or are thinking about switching, you can request more information using our [Expression of Interest form](#).

Please [get in touch](#) if you want to discuss the accessibility of resources we offer to support you in delivering our qualifications.

## We really value your feedback

Click to send us an autogenerated email about this resource.  
Add comments if you want to. Let us know how we can improve this resource or what else you need. Your email address will not be used or shared for any marketing purposes.



Please note – web links are correct at date of publication but other websites may change over time. If you have any problems with a link you may want to navigate to that organisation's website for a direct search.