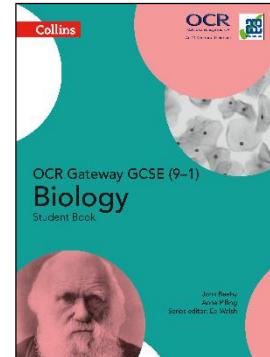


Collins OCR Gateway Biology

The revised GCSEs present new challenges in content, working scientifically, practical work and mathematical skills. This text from the Collins book supports the more traditional of OCR's two new offerings for GCSE Biology – Gateway.

A traditional structure of double-page spreads, organised into six chapters, **covers the content thoroughly and logically**. It uses the approach of starting at the cellular level and building up to global issues in the final chapter. Specific pages are dedicated to practical work (linked to OCR's Practical Assessment Groups, or PAGs), maths skills and 'key concepts' and the difference in flavour from previous GCSE specifications is made obvious.



A good balance is struck between accessibility and interest for talented students. Activities and guidance throughout the book help students to think scientifically and to work at higher levels. Ramped questioning within each topic, more **extensive questions** at the end of each chapter and **annotated worked examples** of exam style questions all provide useful resources for students working independently or with teacher guidance.

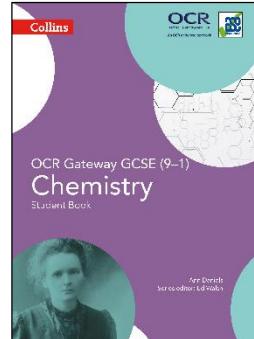
This book is a useful support for the teaching of OCR Gateway GCSE. It **covers the content in a thorough, interesting and attractive way for use in class or by students at home**. As with all textbooks, it does not replace good planning and teaching. This applies particularly to developing students' ability to work scientifically and their broader skills. **There are plenty of different activities in the book that do not require extra preparation by the teacher and that alone is well worth having at your fingertips.**

ISBN: 978-0-00-815094-5

Collins OCR Gateway Chemistry

A high quality bespoke textbook is an excellent tool to support high quality teaching and learning, as it ensures that students cover the content and skills required for success without providing them with a large quantity of superfluous background knowledge. In our information-rich society, additional information for enrichment or extension can easily be found from other sources.

The textbook is arranged into six chapters, some of which are divided into sub-sections, which exactly match the six areas of the specification. **The content and order of the book are identical to those of the specification, which is helpful for schools' progression planning.**



Each chapter broadly follows the same structure as other textbooks in the series. **Content spreads** are engaging for students, uncluttered and differentiated into three levels. They are complemented by other spreads: '*Key concept*' spreads focus on core ideas addressed within the chapter; **maths spreads appear at relevant places and cover all necessary maths skills**, some which may be covered more than once; and '*Practical*' spreads address the eight PAGs (practical activity groups) from the OCR Gateway specification. The OCR specification is not highly prescriptive about practical work and Collins has mirrored this approach with the practical work suggested in the textbook. The '*Check your progress*' section at the end of each chapter works well as a self-assessment tool and is differentiated into three levels in a similar way to content spreads.

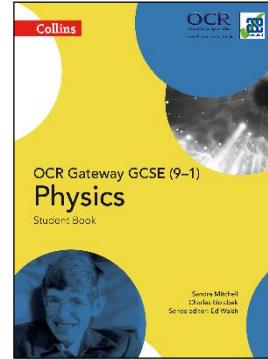
The Collins OCR Gateway Chemistry textbook is a good resource for supporting teachers in delivering well-planned lessons and is supportive of schools planning different routes through the specification. It provides good support for maths and '*working scientifically*' skills required by students for success at GCSE. It is readable and visually engaging for students, providing them with comprehensive chemistry content, subject skills and assessment.

ISBN: 978-0-00-815095-2

Collins OCR Gateway Physics

The GCSE specification changes herald a new era in which there is a greater emphasis on mathematical skills and assessment of scientific enquiry by examination paper. In these less certain times, a good quality textbook is an important tool in the teacher's arsenal.

The book is easily navigable by both teachers and students. It is divided into eight chapters, which exactly match the eight topic areas of the specification. Each chapter begins with a two-page spread that recaps ideas students have previously met, and introduces new ones. Each chapter contains three different types of two-page spreads: '*physics content*', '*Key concepts*', '*Maths*' and '*Practical skills*'. Content spreads begin with learning objectives and key words. Learning objectives are ramped, using command words such as '*describe*', '*explain*', '*apply*' and '*calculate*'. Each spread begins with an interesting hook, followed by physics content differentiated into three levels, which becomes more demanding across the spread. The colours used are green, blue and pink, which match the differentiated assessment pages. At the end of each chapter there is a '*Check your progress*' page, a '*Worked example*' page and '*End of chapter questions*', which support both teacher and self-assessment.



In common with other quality textbooks, it is designed as a resource to complement good teaching and well-planned lessons rather than being followed slavishly, spread by spread. It is very supportive for schools that plan their own route through the physics course from the specification, because the content, references and terminology match the OCR specification exactly.

In conclusion, the textbook is well thought-out and well-designed. It has appropriate level of support for mathematics and for physics, and addresses many of the '*working scientifically*' skills that students will require for success. It is visually engaging and provides good opportunity for assessment both within lessons and at the end of sections of work.

ISBN: 978-0-00-815096-9