

ENDORSEMENT CRITERIA FOR RESOURCES

Pearson fully supports the Agreed Code of Practice for awarding body/publisher relationships, published by the Joint Council for Qualifications. Our criteria for endorsement have been designed to work within this Code to ensure consistency in the decisions Pearson makes for endorsement of resources which support Pearson qualifications, and to make clear what is signified by an 'endorsed' resource.

Pearson has an open endorsement policy and any publisher or organisation can request endorsement of materials aimed at supporting Pearson qualifications. Resources eligible for endorsement include textbooks or e-textbooks, study guides, revision guides, teacher guides and other online resources that support the teaching or learning of a particular qualification.

Endorsed resources are produced by publishers separate from the awarding organisation and do not contain any privileged information required for successful completion of a particular course or qualification. Users of an endorsed resource should always refer to the specification and any other free materials available from the awarding organisation as the only official sources of information.

Endorsement of a resource means that its content has been reviewed to ensure that it covers all of the teaching and learning requirements of a specification, or part of the specification, at which it is aimed. Pearson makes no judgment on its style or the approach to delivery it might advocate – it is a matter for users to decide the approach that will best suit their needs, once they have the assurance that the content is covered in full. Assessment activities such as practice exam questions or assignments are often provided by publishers in their resources, but those included in an endorsed resource are not 'authorised' or 'approved' in any way, as only the awarding organisation can produce such materials.

Endorsement is not meant to imply that a particular resource is essential or recommended for study of a particular qualification. Pearson aims to have a range of resources endorsed, and it is likely that there will also be other high quality resources which have not been put forward for endorsement.

Pearson has adopted strict regulatory controls to ensure that no one will have been involved in the preparation of an endorsed resource for qualifications for which they are contracted or employed by Pearson as a senior examiner. This is to ensure a separation between preparation for a qualification and its assessment.

Pearson operates a transparent endorsement process which manages any risks to the integrity of our qualifications and qualification standards. The endorsement process comprises a rigorous quality assurance procedure where we review teaching and learning materials designed to support and prepare learners for a qualification.

A resource will be endorsed if it meets the following criteria:

- It offers high-quality support for a particular qualification or specification by being factually accurate and relevant to their target audience.

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- It does not focus on exam preparation or guidance on exams unless they are specifically identified as revision guides or other study aids.
- It does not refer to grades or how to gain a specific grade or mark by focusing on one grade boundary, e.g. A/B, in a particular programme. This also applies to revision guides and study aids.
- It covers the breadth and depth of the specification they are aimed at by encouraging deeper understanding of a particular subject through wider reading and research.
- It does not promote a narrow pathway to gain a qualification by focusing on a minimum coverage of compulsory content. Unless the resource is explicitly covering a section of content only, all compulsory content should be equally covered.
- It does not demonstrate an imbalance between teaching, learning and preparation for assessment by offering repeated exam tips and advice, or focusing solely on exam preparation or how to pass a particular exam.
- It is accessible to learners of all ability ranges and levels unless they are specifically aimed at a particular cohort of learners of a specific gender or geographical group or ability.
- It aims to stretch and support achievement at all grades, e.g. Pass/Merit/Distinction.

Resources which have been endorsed, including those published by Pearson, will carry the official endorsement statement and endorsement logo to confirm that they have been through the official awarding body quality assurance approval process.

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