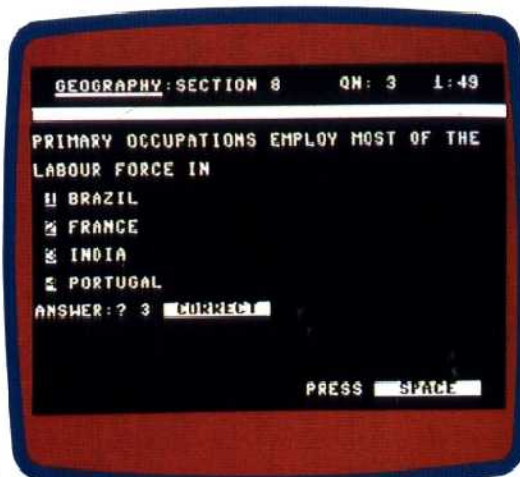


English Literature

Unfortunately for the software producers, English Literature syllabuses at both Ordinary and Advanced levels are based on particular works – and the list of their titles is a long one.

Sussex Software's *Pride and Prejudice* is an excellent example of the large amount of work that goes into the production of a package of this type. Written for Research Machines' 380Z (and hence, with some modification, potentially available for any other CP/M based computer) and the Commodore 3000 and 4000 series, the package is delivered on three disks, and concentrates on the characters, themes and story, as well as the social context.

This package, in common with other offerings in the fields of literature and history from this supplier, is claimed to extend to the CSE syllabus, but seems much more appropriate to GCE Ordinary and Advanced level students. While Sussex Software has been obliged to use multiple choice as its method of asking questions, each question is reinforced by a comprehensive explanation, and the reasons for arriving at the answer are given as fully as possible.



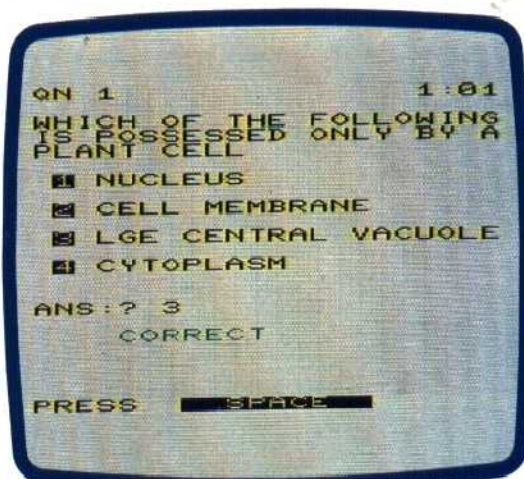
History And Geography

History, geography and economics demand interpretation of hard facts and are thus subjects that lend themselves well to computerised revision. Learning in these areas is largely a matter of rote, and it is in this field that computerised revision performs best.

Sussex Software has issued more than a dozen such packages; its main series is aimed at 380Z and Commodore 4000 users, while a parallel series is written for the Sinclair Spectrum, marketed under the Akadimias imprint. These latter programs should also become available for the BBC Microcomputer during 1984.

Commodore also has a history package, *The History of the 20th Century*, for the Commodore 64. Published jointly with Ivan Berg Software (which also co-publishes the titles available for the Vic-20), with editorial material supplied by Hodder and Stoughton, this package is a comprehensive revision guide to the political, social and economic history of the period, laid out in eight segments.

The package is available on cassette from Commodore dealers and independent software retailers and costs around £10, as do most of the other packages described here.



Mathematics And Sciences

At GCE level there is no latitude for personal interpretation in mathematics and science. These subjects are perhaps the easiest to present within the constraints of a computerised revision program. There are a vast number of products available in this section of the market, covering both general and specific aspects of the subjects (geometry or trigonometry, for instance, within the mathematics curriculum).

Commodore's mathematics packages, which are in two parts, are good examples of a general mathematics revision course. Similar software is available for most of the microcomputers normally found in the home. It is also worth mentioning Rose Software's series of titles for the Spectrum, and SciCAL's for the BBC Microcomputer. Because much mathematical and scientific material is easily illustrated by simple diagrams, it is in this area of educational programs that computer graphics made their first appearance.

Revision material is available that covers the common scientific subjects (chemistry, physics and biology) 'across the board' or in individual aspects of a particular syllabus – heat and light, for example, or physiology. Packages of this nature are the mainstay of educational software and are available from a wide variety of sources.