

# A Laboratory in the post:

An exploration of the early years of teaching science and technology at the OU

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May 2020



- Dealing with huge student numbers
- Printed materials
- Home Experiment Kits
- Teaching via TV
- Pioneering ways of communicating with students
- Summer Schools
- Assessment





## Student numbers – some facts and figures

- 25,000 places were available for students for the first teaching year – 1971.
- There would be four courses available in the first year:
  - M100 – Maths foundation course
  - S100 – Science foundation course
  - D100 – Social Science foundation course
  - A100 – Arts foundation course

(T100 – the first Technology course – started in 1972)



# UNITY & DIVERSITY



Do you remember, from Units 2 and 23, the phenomenon which always goes with an electric charge in motion?

An electric charge in motion is always accompanied by a magnetic field. Now an important discovery, made simultaneously by Faraday in Britain and Henry in the U.S.A. in 1830, was that when a magnetic field changes, an electric field is set up (Fig. 3). Faraday showed that the electric field

electromagnetic induction

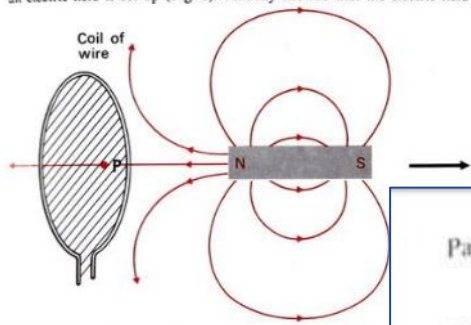
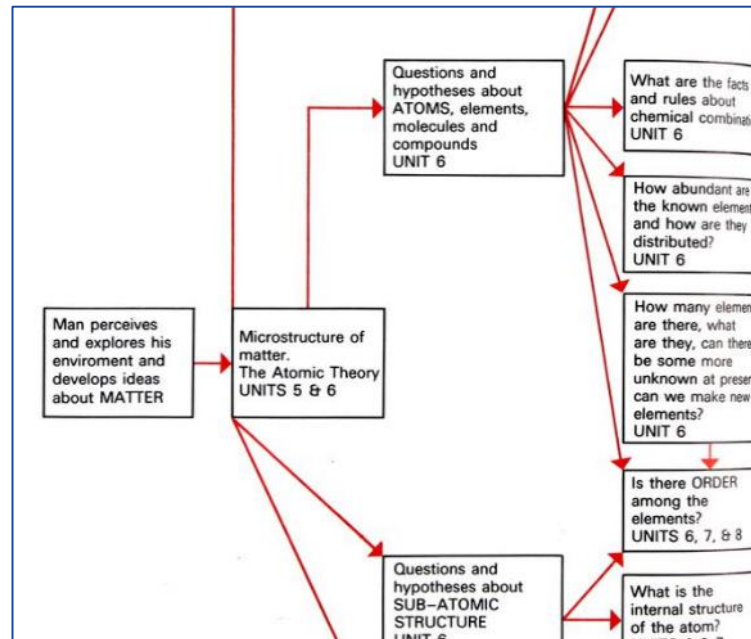


Figure 3 Moving a bar magnet changes the magnetic field at a point like P. An electric field is set up in the plane perpendicular to the direction in which the magnetic field is changing. The electric field would therefore lie in the shaded plane, the plane of the wire.

Examples of early OU Printed materials

Page 1 of 2 pages

UNIT 6 TELEVISION SUPPLEMENT  
Millikan's Experiment



**Broadcast Notes**

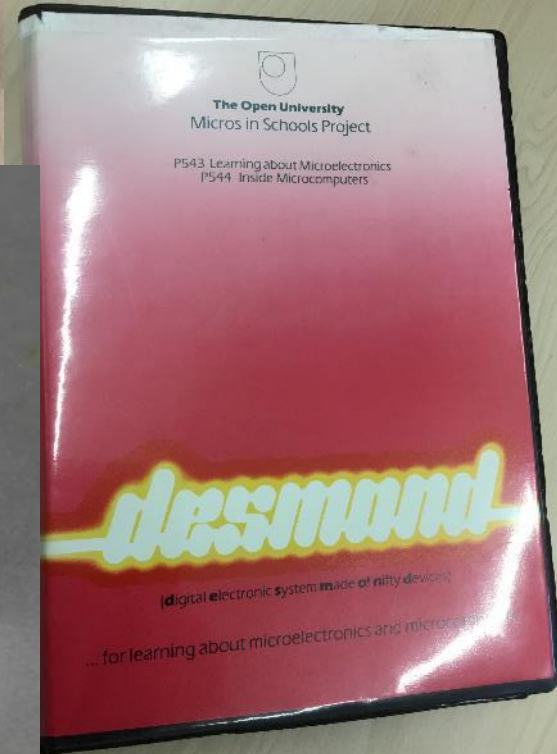




## Access to equipment at OU study centres

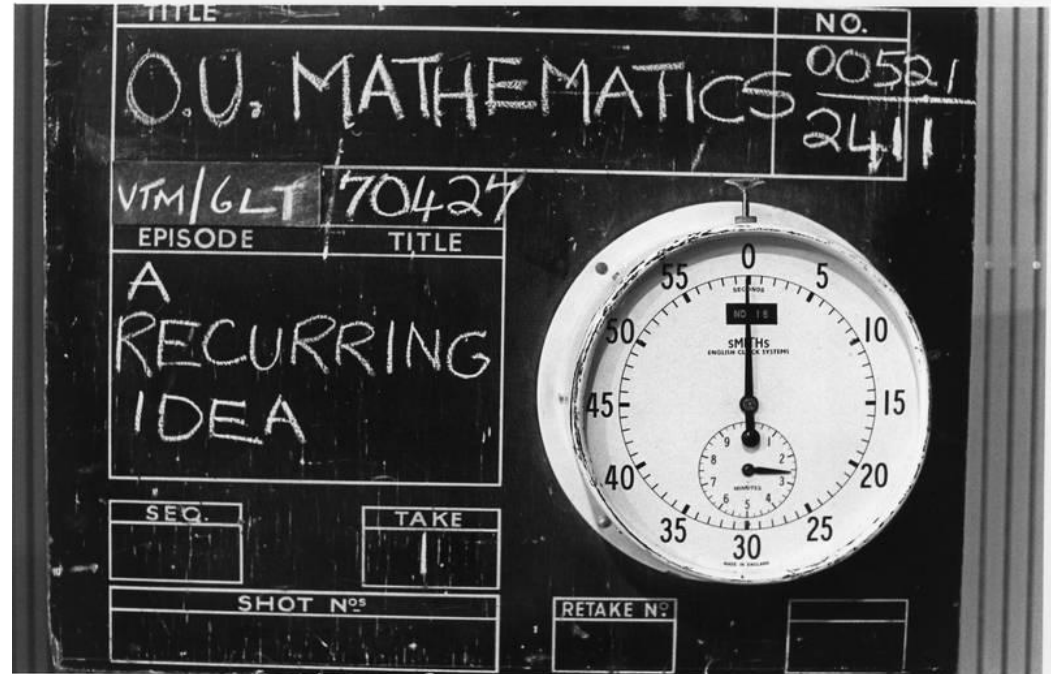
- Viewing/listening to OU programmes
- Access to computer terminals

## Home Experiment Kits





# Teaching via TV



# Pioneering ways of communicating with students

Some key developments 1969-2000

- 1969 OU's Institute of Educational Technology (IET) established
- 1970 Student Computing Service set up
- 1976-early 80s development of the Cyclops telewriting system
- 1987 Online Library search
- 1988 The first home computing policy
- 1994 Virtual summer school trial
- 1995 Knowledge Media Institute (Kmi) set up
- 1999 first fully online undergraduate module
- 2000 first virtual graduation ceremony



Materials from the M205 Fundamentals of Computing course – 1988-1997



# Student Assessment

- Exams
- TMAs (Tutor Marked Assignments)
- CMAs (Computer Marked Assignments)

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY  
 Foundation Course in Science  
 Computer Marked Assignment

Number S100 56  
 (Covering Unit 18)

KEY a: completely confident  
 b: very confident  
 c: moderately confident  
 d: slightly confident.

(Pencil out a, b, c or d in the comment 1 row for each question.)  
 These confidence comments will *not* be taken into account in calculating your score.

Q.C1 The colour change from dark to pale is probably controlled by the same physiological system as that from pale to dark.

Q.C2 The colour change from dark to pale is probably under nervous control.

Q.C3 The colour change from dark to pale is probably under hormonal control.

Q.C4 The colour change from pale to dark is probably under hormonal control.

	ANSWER	COMMENT 1
1	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
2	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
3	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
4	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
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	COMMENT 2	
	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D

**Tutor Marked Assignment**

**THANK YOU**

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