



## Introduction

Option A, “My Home”, focuses on the building with which we are all most familiar — the place in which we live. When the option has been completed, each student will have compiled a complete profile of his/her home and will have acquired a better understanding of its physical, functional and aesthetic qualities.

“My Home” presents the students with a number of questions for investigation and discussion.

- Why do we have homes?
- Why are houses designed as they are?
- How are they designed?
- What are houses made of?
- How do houses stand up?
- How are housing schemes planned?

Throughout the option, students are presented with a variety of problem-solving and learning experiences, both written and practical. Through these, they gain access to the concepts, methods and terminology of house design and construction. They are led towards a greater understanding and appreciation of the buildings in which they live.

The option consists of ten lessons which are designed to be worked through in sequence. While each lesson has a structured format, it is open to modification at the discretion of the teacher and/or the request of the students. In order to develop additional lines of enquiry, a list of Cross-Curricular Connections is provided at the end of each lesson.

*Note: The words “home” and “house” have a variety of meanings, whether physical, psychological or social. Students may live in large detached houses, flats, apartments, terraced houses, caravans or cottages. The authors have therefore tried to be as non-specific as possible in their use of these words without always referring to them as “dwellings” or “the place in which you live”. Teachers will, of course, be sensitive to the circumstances of their own students and will choose the appropriate terminology when working with them.*