CONTENTS

		Page
1.	Introduction to Polymers and their Characteristics	1
	What is a Polymer?	2
	Monomers	5
	Types of Polymer (homopolymers, copolymers)	10
2	Structure of Plastic and Rubbery Polymers and Their Physical Properties	13
	Molecular Weight and Molecular Weight Distribution	18
	Plastic and Elasticity	21
	Definition of Plastics and Rubbers	22
3	Polymerisation Reactions and the manufacture of Plastics and Rubbers	24
	Addition Polymerisation (radical, cationic, anionic and coordination or complex Polymerisation)	24
	Polycondensation	33
	Polyaddition	34
	Ring-opening Polymerisation	35
	Manufacturing Methods (bulk, Solution, suspension, emulsion fixed-bed, flluidised bed)	36
	Modification of Polymers after Polymerisation (oxidation, hydrogenation, halogenation, Hydrochlorination, chlorosulphonation, free radical addition, grafting, jump And coupling reactions)	48
4	Plastics Technology	55
	Moulding	56
	Extrusion	58
	Blow Moulding and Film Forming	58
	Vacuum Forming	60
	Cold Forming and Stamping from Sheet	60
	Calendering	60
	Coating	61
	Rotational Casting	62
	Cellular Expansion	63
	Miscellaneous	64
5	Rubber Technology	66
	Compounding (mill, internal mixer)	66
	Compression Moulding	69
	Injection Moulding	69
	Extrusion	70
	Calendering	71
	Vulcanisation	72
	Reinforcement, Fillers and Carbon Black	73
	Oil Extension of Rubber	75
	Reclaim Rubber	75
	Sponge Rubber and Foamed Rubbers (sponge, Latex foam, polyurethane foam)	76
	Non-rubber Applications of rubbers	80
	Economics of Synthetic Rubbers	80
	Selection of Synthetic Rubbers – synopsis	83
6	Composite Materials	86
	Ebonite or Hard Rubber	86
	High Impact Polystyrene	87

ABS 89
Transparent Compositions – PVC and MBS 91
Glass Reinforced Plastics (GRP) 91

7 Speculations for the Future 92

Appendix I – Methods and Apparatus for the Analysis and Evaluation of Polymers 95
Appendix II – The Education of Polymer Scientists and Technologists in the united Kingdom 105
Appendix III – Recommended bibliography for Polymers 107
Appendix IV – Conversion Factors to SI Units 108

Index 109