Jacqueline Jenkins
Finale: Livre de l'étudiant
Hodder and Stoughton: 1997. ISBN 0 340 673 990. £8.99
reviewed by Marilyn Hunt, University of Warwick

Finale is a flexible new course for KS4 pupils preparing for either the full or short course at GCSE. There is a carefully structured progression within each unit with 5 colour-coded levels: *Mise en route* for revision purposes and to introduce the topic, common core, medium and higher level and *Infomerciale*, a section which transfers the language to a vocational context. This innovative idea is, in reality, a little disappointing and the concept could have been exploited more imaginatively. In some units it is omitted altogether and on one occasion replaced with a "literary interlude" on Molière! Each unit relates to some aspect of the Areas of Experience and, although there is some very good material, the levels even within the core can range from very basic to very demanding. Transactional language for shopping, eating out, lost property, doctor's and chemist's is condensed into the final unit « Guide débrouille ».

The layout is generally appealing with a good input of authentic materials (although some print is rather small), coloured blocks for important structures and grammar rules, some hand-written notes and letters and a good mix of photos, drawings and symbols. There is, of course, the risk of photos of famous people dating rapidly and those chosen may not have any real significance for teenagers.

The Teacher's Book includes a very clear Scheme of Work overview stating objectives, key language, grammar, assessment and suggestions for coursework in writing and speaking at Foundation and Higher Levels. For each unit of the text book the Teacher's Book incorporates transcripts, ideas for starting a unit, clear explanations of activities included in the text book, suggestions for games and further ideas for exploitation and practice. Icons are used to indicate reinforcement activities, extension activities involving a higher level of competence and ideas for IT. Each unit has a very good variety of ideas for integrating IT into lessons with differentiated suggestions in some cases for Foundation and Higher Level candidates and including ideas for word-processing, using DTP packages, scanning in photos, using clip-art images, e-mail, fax or creating a database. There are many good aspects to the course but, as with many

coursebooks, no doubt supplementary materials would be necessary, as its attempt to cater fully for the whole ability range is somewhat ambitious.