
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN

Design and Technology is a practical subject where students develop their capability through combining their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding, helping them to design and make a range of practical products.

Students will develop their capability through: designing and making assignments in which they will use their ability to develop products that meet real identified needs ▪ focused practical tasks where students will develop and practise particular skills and knowledge ▪ critical assessment of products in everyday use in which you will explore and evaluate existing products and then use this knowledge and understanding to influence your approach to designing and making quality products ▪ analysis of the finished products and working methods of several contemporary designers ▪ the use of CAD/CAM and an awareness of modern industrial manufacturing processes

Examining board
AQA

Specification
A Level 7552

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE A LEVEL COURSE

Please see the Sixth Form Admissions Policy for the entry requirements to this course.

This qualification is linear: students will sit all their exams and submit their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

Subject content

1. Technical principles
2. Design and Making principles
3. NEA (Practical application of technical principles and designing and making principles)

Paper 1

What's assessed? Core technical principles and core designing and making principles.

How it's assessed? Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes: 120 marks, 30% of A Level.

Questions: Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.

Paper 2

What is assessed?

Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles.

How is it assessed? Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks. 20% of A Level.

Questions: Mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Section A: Product Analysis, up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B: Commercial manufacture. Mixture of short and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What is assessed? Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.

How is it assessed? Substantial design and make task, 45 hours, 100 marks. 50% of A Level.

Evidence: Digital design portfolio (PowerPoint) and photographic evidence of final prototype.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Industry is always anxious to recruit people who can demonstrate their capability to: make decisions and think for themselves; understand modern design and manufacturing processes; produce high quality practical products. This A Level course is accepted as a university entrance for:

Industrial Design, including the design of many types of manufactured products, such as cars, medical equipment, household goods and agricultural machinery.
Civil Engineering which covers the construction of large one-off projects, such as bridges, tunnels, harbours etc.

Production Engineering: designing and managing the appropriate methods of production and manufacture of a range of products.

Three-Dimensional Design which is divided into spatial and product design, covering interiors, displays, domestic goods, jewellery and furniture.

Graphic Design, including photography, illustration, model making and audio-visual techniques.