



# Design and Technology GCSE

*Ofsted said: "Leaders have overseen the improvement of facilities to support learning." February 2022*

# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

Students will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

**Written exam (2 hours)** 100 marks - 50% of GCSE

### **What is assessed?**

Core technical principles (20 marks)

Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions, including a 12 mark design question

**Assessed Project (30-35 hours)** 100 marks - 50% of GCSE

### **What is assessed?**

**Practical application:** Core technical, specialist technical principles, and designing and making principles

**Task(s):** Substantial design and make task

**Assessment criteria:** Investigating, designing, making, analysing and evaluation.

Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages). Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

NB Pupils may be required to make a financial contribution for their material choices for their final NEA product.

## **SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:**

**Weekly Drop-Ins at school**

**Product Design STEM university visit** Estimated Cost: £0

External visitors - engineers Cost £0

## **SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?**

Design and Technology will give students the opportunity to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. The students will be building upon and extending their existing skills and knowledge and applying them to real life situations. Students must be prepared to work outside of lesson times to complete additional research as the NEA can be quite demanding.

### ***What will my child gain from design and technology?***

They will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. In addition, students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Within the course the students will learn a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

### ***Where will design and technology take my child?***

Students will be able to access further education with their qualification into courses such as A levels in Product Design and Resistant Materials. Furthermore, they will gain experiences and skills that will include CAD and CAM which will support a whole host of job and higher education avenues such as:

- Product designer
- Engineer
- Graphic designer
- Architect
- Advertising
- Interior design
- Carpenter
- Interior manufacturer
- Set/stage designer
- Civil engineer
- Automotive
- Marketing

## **Further reading/ suggested revision materials:**

AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology: All Material Categories and Systems, Hodder Education

AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology, MJ Ross

Alessi: the Design Factory Alessi

CGP GCSE AQA Design & Technology the revision guide (9-1)

Design modelling: visualising ideas in 2D and 3D  
Bairstow, John

**For further information, please contact:**

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