



A Level Design Technology – Product Design

Key contact: Mr A Strawford (Head of Department)
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the Course:

This exciting, creative and thought-provoking course gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers; especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

What will you study?

A Level Design and Technology: Product Design requires students to engage in both practical and theoretical study. This specification requires students to cover design and technology skills and knowledge as set out below. These have been separated into:

- Core technical principles
- Core designing and making principles
- Additional specialist knowledge.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Technical principles.

Written exam: 2.5 hours
30% of A Level
Questions – Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.

Paper 2 – Designing and making principles.

Written exam: 1.5 hours
20% of A Level

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

- Section A: Product Analysis - Up to six 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)

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.
Substantial design and make task 50% of A Level Evidence - Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Possible career path?

Students may well go on to further education and pursue design related careers in Product Design, Fashion, Graphics, Architecture, Interior Design, and various types of engineering.

However, in recent years several students have completed this course because of a personal interest in design and have found the work to be a stimulating way of achieving an A Level qualification.

Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics **and** GCSE Design Technology at Grade 6 or above.