

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

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Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus Code:
8552

Website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

GCSE at a glance

Design & Technology at GCSE is a fluid progression from what is taught at Key Stage 3. Students work independently and are guided by their teacher through a practice coursework assignment in year 10 and ending in a final Controlled Assessment in Year 11. All Key Stage 4 students currently follow the AQA GCSE Design and Technology course.

50% NEA (coursework) due 2024

50% written exam due June 2024

Autumn Term

Content:

1 hour of theory based learning a week:

Unit 5b: timber-based materials

Unit 5c: Metals

Unit 5d: polymers

2 hours of NEA:

Complete section AO2 of the NEA (AO2 Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose):

C Generating design ideas 20

D Developing design ideas 20

E Realising design ideas 20

Assessment:

Assessment week beginning

Mock exam week beginning

Spring Term

Content

1 hour of theory based learning a week:

Unit 6: designing principles

Unit 7: making principles

2 hours of NEA:

Complete section AO2 of the NEA (section E – realising/maing the final prototype.

Students also need to complete AO3 (analyse and evaluate) by March 2024.

Final submission for the entire NEA is Friday 15th March 2024.

Assessment:

PPEs week beginning

Summer Term

Theory: students spend the remainder of year 11 recapping the core and specialist topics for their exam in 2024. Units covered are:

Unit 1: new and emerging technologies

Unit 2: energy, materials, systems and devices

Unit 3: Materials

Unit 4: common specialist technical principles

Assessment:

Unit 5b: timber-based materials
Unit 5c: Metals
Unit 5d: polymers
Unit 6: designing principles
Unit 7: making principles

Year 11 Assessment & Marking

Teachers are expected to:

- Make suggestions on improving accuracy of practical skills and making through any practical activities offering guidance and feedback based on the AQA assessment criteria.
- Provide students with the AQA assessment criteria at the beginning of the year.
- Correct any inaccurate technical language relating to describing materials, manufacturing methods and production techniques. This applies to theory work and skills-based learning tasks.
- To mark books once every three weeks and provide targets to students (based on theoretical knowledge, designing, making and evaluating).

Students are expected to:

- Revise any notes taking during theory lessons to consolidate exam units. Students also need to take ownership of theory-based lessons and discuss any gaps in learning with their teacher.
- Be engaged with both theory and skills-based learning lessons and always try their best in all aspects of Design and Technology
- To self-assess any research or design work in their D&T booklets/NEA.
- To complete any practical work to a high quality and degree of precision.
- To peer assess any design work to provide another viewpoint and opinion of how to alter and improve ideas.

Year 11 Home Learning

Home learning will be provided on a weekly basis and support the theory-based learning in class. This will be assessed the following week for any inaccuracies and gaps/errors in knowledge.

Family Support

Visit exhibitions and galleries which will keep your child informed of current and past design movements, designers, architects and illustrators.

Encourage your child to do his/her D&T home learning. In Key Stage 3 students will receive home learning once every two weeks and once a week in Key Stage 4. These home learnings are often theory based and backup the practical elements of D&T completed in lesson times.

Encourage your child to attend intervention sessions (Ks4). D&T interventions enrich what is taught in lessons and runs every Friday 3.05pm-4pm. Intervention sessions run at the same time for year 10 and 11 students for them to achieve the highest possible grade for their GCSE in Design and Technology.

Read over the theory notes made in class. There are a lot of theory units (listed above) to cover in the two-year course. It would be extremely useful to read through the notes written in class with your son/daughter to consolidate their knowledge and further prepare them for their exam in 2024.

Student Enrichment

Wider reading and useful web-sites or activities to support learning:

Encourage your child to complete additional research. Websites such as www.technologystudent.com and www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/ are great for building independent learning skills.

