



A Level

Product Design

The course builds on knowledge and skills developed in years 10 and 11 as part of GCSE Technology. A Level Design Technology follows the AQA syllabus and is called "Design Technology: Product Design". This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing products of your choice.

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

How is the Course Assessed?

The two-year course is split into 3 units.

Paper 1:

Core technical principles. This is assessed through a written exam (2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks, 30% of A level) involving a mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.

Paper 2:

Designing and making principles. This is also assessed through a written exam (1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks, 20% of A level). Again, it involves a mixture of short answer and extended principles: Section A: Product Analysis (30 marks, up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of products.); Section B: Commercial Manufacture (50 marks, a mixture of short and extended response questions).

Non – exam assessment (controlled assessment).

This assesses the practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge. It involves a substantial design and make task, 100 mark, 50% of A Level). Evidence is in the form of a written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of the final prototype.

Why Study Product Design at A Level?

Design is everywhere and literally shapes the world around us. Taking Product Design at A Level provides an opportunity to develop and enjoy the creative aspect of design within an enjoyable and stimulating course, whilst allowing your innovative style to take root. Opportunities for design are closely linked to the real world of product manufacture and Product Design has many strands leading to numerous vocational paths. As a country, we always need and rely on fantastic designers to lead the pathway in innovation. This subject builds on the experience of GCSE and allows you to further your design education. During the course, you will study design knowledge and learn to use manufacturing skills, propose prototype and concept solutions to designing situations. You will also use a range of graphic and resistant materials, closely linked to the real world of product manufacture.

Where Will an A Level in Product Design Lead Me?

Successful outcomes in this course will feed into all design-related Further Education and Degree level courses, as well as vocational, apprentice and employment opportunities, including: Art and Design, Architecture, Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing, Craft Production, Marine Engineering, Graphic Design, Animation, Product Design, Computer Aided Design, Civil Engineering, Town Planning, Industrial Design, Media Presentation and Marketing.