

Subject:	Design & Technology
Level:	GCSE
Awarding Body:	AQA
Specification Code:	8552
Awarding Body website:	www.aqa.org.uk
ASSESSMENT:	
Controlled Assessment %:	50% Portfolio
When will it be taken?	June of Year 10 through to April Year 11
Examination %:	50% externally set written examination
When will it be sat?	May/June at the end of Year 11
TIERS:	
Higher Tier Grades:	N/A
Foundation Tier Grades:	N/A
No Tier Grades:	9 - 1
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Description

GCSE Design and Technology specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification should be delivered through the practical application of this knowledge and understanding. This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit an exam and submit their non-exam assessment (NEA) at the end of the course.

What will I learn?

Topics and themes have been grouped to help students break down their subject knowledge and skills. These are split into three sections:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Students must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to design and technology.

Students will be given a choice of questions at the end of year 10. They will then carry out a design and make task which will form their NEA coursework.

What will my learning experience be like?

- Practical lessons in one of the DT rooms.
- Some films, talks and discussions around materials and their functions, specialist equipment and technical knowledge, environmental and social issues, new and emerging materials and techniques, manufacturing processes and the principals of how a product is designed.
- Visits to manufacturing establishments and art galleries to help with their creativity.
- Theory booklets, to be completed, that will then be used to support exam revision.

- Assessments based around questions specific to exam.
- Designing and making a product in year 11 as part of the NEA.

How will my work be assessed?

Portfolio of Coursework (NEA)

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA. This is set in June of year 10 and to be completed by April of year 11.

Total 50% of final grade.

Externally Set Written Exam

Exam paper set by AQA and issued June in Year 11.

Marked by AQA Exam Board.

Total 50% of final grade.

How will studying this be of value to me?

As well as improving the students' practical design and technology skills, the course leads to an appreciation and better-informed critical appraisal of the commercial world.

A good GCSE grade in design and technology allows students to go on to study A Level and BTEC courses which in turn are essential for a degree, Teacher training, marketing and Design based courses.

This is an opportunity for students to work using processes and techniques that will allow them to develop their technical knowledge and skills to be able to access Post 16 and Degree apprenticeship courses.

Examples of potential future careers are:

Engineering

Product design

Fashion design

Interior design

Industrial design

Architecture

Electrician/Plumbing/Joinery/Building Trade

Marketing and Sales

Account Management