

A LEVEL

Exam board AQA

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in a DT GCSE subject. If you have not previously studied one of these subjects at GCSE, grade 5 or above in GCSE maths **and** English language will be required. You need good practical workshop skills and an interest in the design of products.

COURSE CONTENT

The subject builds on the experience gained in either GCSE design & technology or engineering and allows you to further your studies through various design and make activities, covering a wide range of materials and processes, including extensive use of CAD/CAM. Year 12 involves developing both your design and practical making skills, through a number of small projects, alongside learning about commercial processes.

Year 13 is mostly spent on one substantial design and make project of your own choice, allowing you to focus on your particular career direction, such as an engineering-based project or an aesthetic design-based project.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

Paper 1: technical principles. 2½ hours, 30% of the A-Level.

Paper 2: design and making principles. 1½ hours, 20% of the A-Level.

The **NEA** is a substantial design and make project worth 50% of the A-Level.

SKILLS, LINKS AND PROGRESSION

This course is a natural progression from GCSE design & technology as well as GCSE engineering. Students tend to link it with A Level art for design-based careers or with A Level mathematics and physics for engineering careers. Career opportunities include any design or engineering-based university course, such as design for industry, 3D product design, graphic design and furniture design, as well as mechanical, transport, architectural and aeronautical engineering. Universities also recognise design & technology as a good qualification for many other courses as well as those which are purely design related, because the coursework undertaken provides students with evidence of all key skills, and shows their ability to problem solve and manage a large project. The NEA coursework portfolio often forms the basis of interviews.

Increasingly, apprenticeship providers prefer students to apply at 18, after doing A Levels, and more students are now applying for higher apprenticeships. This subject therefore provides a good grounding in general practical and design skills and the project undertaken is often the reason why students gain an apprenticeship over other candidates.

CONTACT

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