

Product Design: Design and Technology

A Level AQA 7552

Course Leader: Mr Jefferson

What's it all about?

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.

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 prototypes 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.

This course gives excellent progression from GCSE product design in preparation for higher and further education. While building on the product design GCSE knowledge base, it introduces wider range of materials and manufacturing processes thus opening up a vast range of possible careers. The 50% coursework element gives the students the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge in practical design and make projects. The specification has been designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

What are the entry requirements?

9 - 4 in GCSE Design Technology, Mathematics and English.

It may be that they want to continue onto Higher or Further education in which case it is an excellent primer for any area of technology.

Self-motivation is vital, as is the desire to learn new skills whether they be graphic, computer based or practical. The best students are inquisitive, innovative and willing to experiment. They also make good use of their independent study time both in school and at home.

A Level Examinations

Paper 1:

Technical Principles Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
120 marks
30% of A-Level

Paper 2:

Designing and Making Principles Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks

20% of A-Level

Questions

Mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Section A:

- Product Analysis: 30 marks
- Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B:

- Commercial manufacture: 50 marks
- Mixture of short and extended response questions

Both papers are a mixture of short answers and extended responses

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Practical application of technical principals, designing and making principals.

- Substantial design and make project
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

Evidence

Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Summary

Have you got the design bug? Ever wondered how, what or why a product has been designed and manufactured, considered important issues such as moral, social or ethical implications of design. Ever imagined creating your own designer products using a wide range of materials and processes? Then this is the course for you?

Who can I contact for further information?

See Mr Jefferson for more details. bjefferson@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Full specification available on <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/as-and-a-level/design-and-technology-product-design-7552>