Supporting your child through their Design and Technology GCSE

Aims of the course

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Please bear in mind that there is theory taught alongside this GCSE and it is not all making and practical. Topics such as material functions and working properties, sustainability, environmental impact, manufacturing processes and lots more theory will be covered as part of this specification. There are also multiple Math elements in the exam.

How is it assessed; A written exam and NEA (non examined assessment or coursework)

Paper 1

What's assessed

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

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed

Practical application of:

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

How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Task(s)

- Substantial design and make task
- Assessment criteria:
  - Identifying and investigating design possibilities
  - Producing a design brief and specification
  - Generating design ideas
  - Developing design ideas
  - Realising design ideas
  - Analysing & evaluating
- In the spirit of the iterative design process, the above should be awarded holistically where they take place and not in a linear manner
- Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence
- Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

Useful websites

https://www.technologystudent.com/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvg4d2p

https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/free-aqa-dt-gcse-revision/

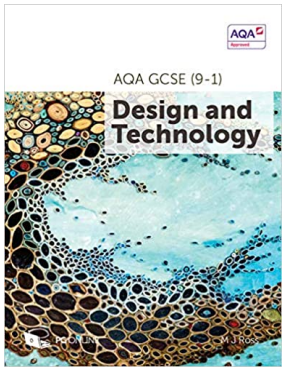
Equipment

You will be required to pay for your materials at the beginning of each school year and you will need to have the following equipment, which can be purchased from the school if you choose;

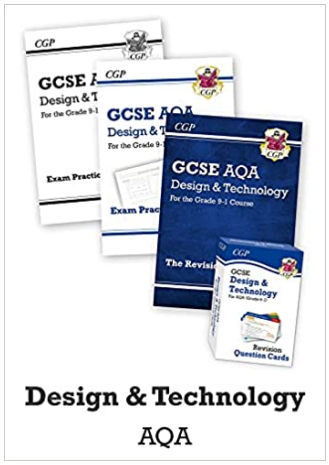
- Drawing pens and pencils
- Colouring pencils
- Compass
- Rulers and set squares

- A3 carry folder
- A3 presentation folder

Textbooks



£20 for course textbook https://amzn.eu/d/0veqViM



£22.62 for set of 4 revision books and revision cards

https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-Design-Technology-AQA-Essentials/dp/B08RXMYQ4K/ref=sr_1_4?crid=2IX7QVU73L19N&keywords=design+and+technology+revision+book&qid=1647611795&s=books&sprefix=design+and+technology+revision+book%2Cstripbooks%2C82&sr=1-4

A free version of CAD is also available from Sketch up where you can download a student liensce and draw in 3D on a computer which looks great for your NEA (coursework)

https://www.sketchup.com/

https://www.tinkercad.com/login