



Design and Technology (Product Design)

Awarding Body	AQA	Specification Code	7552
Purpose of the course	A Level Product Design develops creative, practical and analytical design skills. Students explore how products are designed, developed and manufactured, while considering user needs, materials, sustainability, technology and commercial influences. Students will apply their learning through design and practical work, developing prototypes and using a range of traditional and modern manufacturing techniques. The course builds the knowledge and skills needed for higher education, apprenticeships and careers in design, engineering and related industries.		
Entry requirements	Students should have studied GCSE Design and Technology or Engineering and achieved at least a Grade 5 in the subject and in Mathematics.		
Type of qualification	A Level		
Course contents	Technical Principles, including: • Materials, properties and applications • Modern and smart materials • Manufacturing processes and production methods • CAD/CAM and digital technologies • Testing, modification and quality control • Sustainability and environmental impact Designing and Making Principles, including: • Design methods and iterative development • Product analysis and evaluation • Ergonomics and anthropometrics • Designers, design movements and influences • Commercial manufacture and product development • Communicating, modelling and developing design ideas		
Assessment method	Students complete two written examinations: Paper 1: Technical Principles 2 hours 30 minutes — 30% of the A Level Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles 1 hour 30 minutes — 20% of the A Level Students also complete a substantial Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) worth 50% of the A Level. This is an individual design-and-make project in which students identify a problem, research and develop a solution, manufacture a prototype and evaluate their final outcome.		
Further studies	Product Design can lead to university courses, apprenticeships and careers across design, engineering, architecture and manufacturing. Possible pathways include: Product / Industrial Design, Engineering, Architecture, Furniture Design, Interior and Spatial Design, CAD / Digital Design, Manufacturing and Product Development, Sustainable Design		
Subject Lead	Mr S Bonner		