

**Subject:** Design Technology - 8552

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

### **What will I study?**

Whilst studying this subject you will build innovative design skills, explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. Design Technology enables you to use your creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants and values. Creative design and making is at the heart of what you will do, you should enjoy communicating through drawing and be passionate about problem solving. You will learn how to take design risks, helping you to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising. Design Technology gives you opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design and computing. You will develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

### **How is this course assessed?**

You will follow a structure of a lesson each of theory, project work and NEA every week.

### **The course has two components:**

**Component 1: Written examination: 2 Hours, 50% of the qualification, 100 marks.**

**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.

**In addition:**

- at least 15% of the exam will assess Maths.
- at least 10% of the exam will assess Science.

**Component 2: Non-examined assessment (NEA), 50% of the qualification, 100 marks.**

#### **Content overview**

You will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by the exam board.

- The "Contextual Challenge brief" is released on 1st June of year 10
- The project will test your skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.
- Task will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

There are four parts to the assessment:

- 1 – Investigate (16 marks)
- 2 – Design (42 marks)
- 3 – Make (36 marks)
- 4 – Evaluate (6 marks)

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

A GCSE DT qualification forms part of a career path leading to further technical, creative or academic product design qualifications, for example A Level Product Design.

Not only does this course give students experience in designing and making in new exciting way, it opens up a range of possibilities on leaving school in careers such as: Architecture, Advertising, Fashion Design, Graphic Designer, Web Design, Typographer, Interior Design, Jeweller, Ceramicist, Product Engineer, Furniture Designer, Packaging, Communications, Film, Software, Transport, Product Engineering, Landscape designer, etc.

The subject gives students a firm grounding in the skills of creativity problem-solving, communication and ICT which would apply to all careers.

### **Further Information**

Additional information about the course at [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

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