

A Level Design & Technology – Product Design



Exam Board: OCR

A-level D&T - Product Design develops the methods students use to problem solve, their ability to analyse existing design and use it to inspire their own ideas. Whether working individually or collaboratively, this course helps improve their own, and others, design and manufacturing outcomes.

Students develop their creative, practical and entrepreneurial skills to meet the increased rigour and understanding required at A-level, applying this to their A level NEA/coursework involving a client/stakeholder, and the in-depth nature of the A-level exam questions.

A-level Design and Technology perfectly complements Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Art and Design at A-Level, or can be used as a contrasting subject with English, History, Geography or Modern Languages.

The course will provide candidates with the ability to:

- Be open to taking design risks, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering their role as responsible designers and citizens.
- Develop their capacity to think creatively, innovatively and critically through focused research and the exploration of design opportunities arising from the needs, wants and values of users and clients.
- Develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use.
- Be able to create and analyse a design concept and use a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including Maths and Science, to inform decisions in design and the application or development of technology.
- Work collaboratively and/or independently.
- Have a critical understanding of the wider influences of D&T, including cultural, economic, environmental, historical and social factors.
- Become empathetic and successful designers

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Assessment:

Principles of product design - 80 mark exam – 1hr 30mins written paper - 26.7% of total A-level

Problem Solving in Product Design 70 mark exam – 1hr 45mins written paper - 23.3% of total A-level

Non Examined Assessment (NEA) Interpretation – Product Design 100 marks - Approx 65 hours of NEA – 50% of total A-level

Entry requirements:

Grade 6+ in GCSE Design & Technology, or another creative subject, plus ability in Maths and Science.

Who is the course for?

Students who are considering following degree, or further education, courses in Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Furniture Design, 3D Design, Computer Aided Design, Industrial Design, Computer Graphics, Jewellery Design, Animation, and Engineering Disciplines.

Additional course information:

- Students are expected to buy specialist equipment and materials to assist them in their studies – a full list will be made available.

Financial support is available through the 6th form bursary scheme.

Career pathways

This qualification can lead to a variety of different career pathways, including product design, engineering and architecture. It could also form part of your route into university, especially if you wish to pursue a subject like Engineering.

“I’ve really enjoyed working with a client during the NEA process, as this has broadened my thinking, and really focused my thinking on the problem they want me to solve, as they are key to the design decisions I am making.”