



Design and Technology

Outline of Course - AQA

What does a product designer do? How are products designed? How do you figure out what people need or want? What looks good, bad or ugly? What's inside your mobile or iPod? Or, put simply, everything and anything to do with designing the products that improve the quality of all our lives.

This course will allow candidates to learn about a range of materials, manufacturing processes, techniques and technologies and to be able to use them as appropriate to the design and make process.

Assessment Method

Written paper: 50% of GCSE, 2 hours, 100 marks

Areas covered: core technical principles, specialist technical principles, designing and making principles.

Non-exam assessment: 50% of GCSE, approximately 30-35 hours, 100 marks.

Substantial design and make task covering investigation of context, designing, making, analysis and evaluation. Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages) based on a range of exam board set tasks.

Study Requirements

Candidates will work with a mixture of materials, including paper and card, wood, metal and plastics. Students will develop their design skills through freehand sketching, technical drawing and computer aided design (CAD).

What can I do with this Qualification?

A GCSE in design and technology is a stepping stone to a wide range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment. A good grade at GCSE will help you progress to an A level in product or graphic design.

GCSE design and technology also prepares you to present your ideas graphically, which can be very useful for careers such as web design, management and innovation.

Additional Costs

The course involves a lot of practical skill and use of materials. There is a cost of approximately £5 in years 9 and 10 to cover the materials used. In year 11, students are required to fund the materials used to create their exam project.

For further information see Miss R Keen rkeen@sharnbrook.academy