

Design Technology
Examination Board: AQA

What is the course like?

This course offers pupils the opportunity to extend their design experiences into new areas and fully develop their practical skills. Pupils will study six core content areas to give a broad base of knowledge and understanding of DT and then focus on one of the following three specific areas outlined below.

What is studied during the course?

The six core content areas that all pupils will study are:

- New and emerging technologies.
- Energy storage and generation.
- Modern and smart materials.
- Systems approach to designing.
- Mechanical devices.
- Materials and their working properties.

GCSE Design Technology is suitable for pupils who wish to investigate Resistant Materials or Systems & Control. It offers pupils the chance to gain experience of technical design and making within a workshop, making quality items from materials such as wood, metal or plastics and suits those who may wish to follow a practical apprenticeship or career in product design, architecture, or engineering in the future. Pupils are taught specialist techniques in the workshop and apply them to products they have designed using a variety of resources and materials.

As part of the course pupils will also explore the wide variety of technological systems designed and used by people focusing on structures, electronics, mechanisms, and computer control. GCSE Design and Technology requires high level thinking skills to achieve a successful outcome and although much of the work is of a practical nature, pupils will also need to use their scientific and mathematical skills.

How is the course assessed?

A 35-hour non-examined assessment is undertaken in Year 11 based on a large design and make project to fit with a contextual challenge provided by AQA. This contributes 50% of the overall GCSE grade and is assessed on:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities.
- Producing a design brief and specification.
- Generating design ideas.
- Developing design ideas.
- Realising design ideas.
- Analysing & evaluating.

A 2 hour written exam accounts for the remaining 50% of the course, with multiple choice, short and extended questions which assess knowledge and understanding of the six core content areas as well as a specialist focus area.

Additional Information

Pupils should express a preference on their option form to show which of the two specialist areas they would like to focus on during part of the DT course.

For further information, please contact Mr Barnett.