

GCSE Design and Technology Examination Information

Subject Content:

- Core technical principles (page 9)
- Specialist technical principles (page 19)
- Designing and making principles (page 28)

Subject	Exam board	Exam Board Specification Title	Link to specification
GCSE Design and Technology	AQA	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (8552)	Specification

Assessment:

Paper 1:
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core technical principles• Specialist technical principles• Designing and making principles In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• at least 15% of the exam will assess maths• at least 10% of the exam will assess science
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam• 2 hours• 100 marks• 50% of GCSE
Questions

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- **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.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed

- Practical application of:
- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

How it's assessed

Non-exam assessment (NEA):

- 30–35 hours approx
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Task(s)

Substantial design and make task

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities

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- Producing a design brief and specification
 - Generating design ideas • Developing design ideas
 - Realising design ideas
 - Analysing & evaluating
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- In the spirit of the iterative design process, the above should be awarded holistically where they take place and not in a linear manner
 - Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA
 - Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence
 - Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA