

Product Design

Exam Board: AQA

Product design is an AS A2 level subject that offers candidates the opportunity to with a variety of materials to design and make a range of products e.g. lighting and furniture. Students will also acquire theoretical knowledge through learning about materials, applications and components.

Product Design should only be studied by students who have studied one of the technology subjects at GCSE excluding Food Technology.

Summary of course content

AS level students are set coursework tasks by the exam board. These tasks enable students to experiment with and gain experience of a variety of resistant materials e.g. wood, plastic and metal. ICT is also an integral part of the course and students will be expected to use CAD to illustrate and communicate their ideas.

Students also follow a programme of study to enable them to acquire a vast amount of theoretical knowledge. This is examined in a terminal examination.

A2 level is student centred. The coursework element of the course is developed by the student enabling them to write their own design brief.

The A2 exam will challenge students in that they are required to write essays on a range of design related topics.

Summary of assessment scheme

AS Level

AS Examination	
Unit 1 – Prod 1 2 hour written paper Questions are based on materials and components	50% of AS, 25% of A Level 80 Marks
Unit 2 – Prod 2 – Learning Through Designing and Making Coursework – approximately 50 hours	50% of AS, 25% of A Level 80 Marks

A2 Level

A2 Examination	
Unit 3 – Prod 3 – Design and Manufacture 2 hour written paper	25% of A Level (84 marks)
Unit 4 – Prod 4 – Design and Making Practice Coursework approximately 60 hours	25% of A Level (85 marks)

Frequently asked questions

What GCSE grades do I need to study Product Design?

You must have a C grade or above in Resistant Materials at GCSE. Although practically based, this is an academic course.

What resources will I need?

Each student will be given resistant materials text books to work with, a design portfolio and a text book to refer to.

Study visits to the London Design Museum will enable students to carry out industry analysis. Students will also attend the Sixth Form Conference held annually at the University of London. Taster day sessions at Herfordshire University are arranged annually in November.

How will studying Product Design help me after A levels?

The subject is an ideal qualification for a range of industrial and commercial opportunities as well as entry to further and higher education courses, particularly in design, engineering, architecture, aerospace engineering, manufacturing, graphics and IT.

J Cotterell, A Level Product Design