

# AQA Design & Technology: Key Stage 4: Overview

The course is comprised of a written papers (50% of final grade) and a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is a project with a practical outcome (50% of final grade).

GCSE course: **AQA Design and Technology**

Assessment: **50% NEA in year 11, 50% written examination at the end of year 11**

## NEA:

- 50% of the qualification
- 100 marks

**Section A – Identifying a Need:** By analysing the contextual challenge students will identify design possibilities, investigate client needs and wants and factors including economic and social challenges.

**Section B – Design Brief and Specification:** Based on conclusions from their investigations students will outline design possibilities by producing a design brief and design specification.

**Section C – Generating Design Ideas:** Students should explore a range of possible ideas linking to the contextual challenge selected.

**Section D – Developing Design Ideas:** Students will develop and refine design ideas.

**Section E – Realising Design Ideas:** Students will work with a range of appropriate materials/components to produce prototypes that are accurate and within close tolerances.

**Section F – Evaluating:** Students are expected to analyse and evaluate throughout the project.

## Written examination:

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 50% of the qualification
- 100 marks

### **Unit 1 (New and Emerging Technologies):**

- Industry and Enterprise
- Sustainability and the Environment
- People, Culture and Society
- Production Techniques and Systems
- Informing Design Decisions

### **Unit 2 (Energy, Materials, Systems and Devices):**

- Energy Generation and Storage
- Modern & Smart Materials, Composites, Technical Textiles
- Electronic Systems

### **Unit 3 (Materials and their properties):**

- Papers and Boards
- Timbers
- Metals and Alloys
- Polymers
- Textiles

### **Unit 4 (Common Technical Principles):**

- Forces and Stresses
- The 6 R's
- Scales of Production

### **Unit 5 (Woods and Polymers):**

- Sources, origins and properties of Timbers and Polymers
- Working with Timbers and Polymers
- Manufacturing and Finishing Timbers and Polymers

## Key Resources to support learning:

- *CGP Design and Technology 9-1*
- *MY Revision Notes: Hodder Design and Technology 9-1 (Timbers, Metals and Polymers)*
- *Seneca Learning*
- *BBC Bitesize*
- *Technology Student*