

AQA
STUDENT GUIDE

why choose

D&T PRODUCT DESIGN A Level



It's a 3D world

Think about the objects that you love. Your mobile phone with its delicious curves was designed on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced size clay model. A building that you admire sprang from the drawing board of an architect. And it's not a new phenomenon. Our fascination with 3D design goes back to flint arrow heads and earthenware pots.

As a 3D designer you are at the crossroads of a number of skills. Of course you need creativity, in order to imagine the shape and function of the object. But you'll also need to know about manufacturing processes, materials and marketing.

Bringing ideas to life

3D Design is an enormously satisfying career. You have an idea and - with the use of tools like clay or computers - it comes to life. Imagine how satisfying it must be for the person who designed the iPhone or Razer to hold the finished product in their hand.

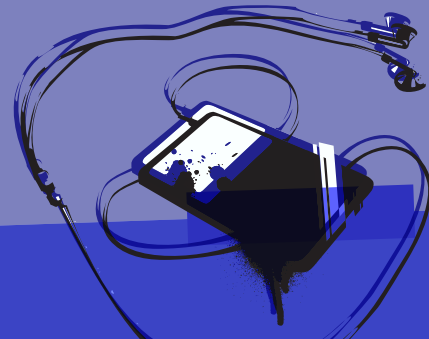


Your key learning topics

Your A Level studies cover four main topics, and you'll study two of these each year.

In '*Materials, components and application*' - you'll look at materials, production processes and the impact of cost and design. In '*Learning through designing and making*' you'll produce some coursework using your own design with a range of materials and media.

In the second year you'll get to grips with '*Design and manufacture*' - helping you to appreciate the relationship between design and technology, or form and function. '*Design and making in practice*' is the practical, coursework part. You'll make an object and record the processes that you went through.



On your marks...

In the first year you'll have two assessments. A two hour written paper accounts for 25% of your total marks. The coursework and your design portfolio account for another 25% of your marks.

Year two is the same. A two hour written paper accounts for 25% of your marks and the coursework and your design portfolio account for the final 25% of your A Level marks.

Where will success take me?

3D design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course there's product or automotive design. But what about computer generated cartoons? Or maybe CAD for industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into architecture, teaching, manufacturing, advertising or engineering.

What skills will I learn?

The D&T Product Design 3D will help you develop a number of skills:

- How to assemble data and assess it
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view fluently
- How to work as a team to achieve results
- How to take responsibility for your own learning.

Will it fit in my life?

3D Design goes well with other subjects. If you want a career in design you might also consider Art & Design, Business Studies, Computing or Electronics as companion A Levels.

Can't wait to get started?

Your tutor and career adviser will be the best people to help you decide that this course is the right choice for you. They will be as passionate as you to find the best subject to develop your talents!

For more info, visit:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/dt_product_design_new.php

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