

Year 11 Long Term Scheme of Learning 2026-2027

Subject: AQA GCSE Design & Technology

National curriculum or specification coverage

AQA GCSE Design & Technology (8552) – Overview

Students develop knowledge and understanding of materials, manufacturing processes, emerging technologies and sustainability, alongside practical design and problem-solving skills. They learn to research, design, develop, make and evaluate products, applying technical knowledge to real-world design contexts. Assessment: 50% written exam + 50% NEA (design & make project).

Date	Exams/ Assessments	Learning Intentions		Core Task / Assessments
31/08/26		<u>Non- Exam Assessment (Coursework)</u> Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence following the iterative design process. Assessed through: The practical application of: - Core technical principles - Specialist technical principles - Designing and making principles GCSE NEA coursework assessment criteria How it is assessed: 100 marks	3.1 Core technical principles - new and emerging technologies - energy generation and storage developments in new materials	Ongoing NEA assessment and feedback will be provided in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Pupils will complete PPE written theory examinations during designated assessment weeks in addition to progress tests based on homework.
07/09/26				
14/09/26				
21/09/26				
28/09/26				
05/10/26				

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12/10/26	Y11	50% of GCSE Section A: Identifying and investigating design possibilities (10 marks)		
19/10/26	Y11	Section B: Producing a design brief and specification (10 marks)		
26/10/26	HALF TERM			
02/11/26		Section C: Generating design ideas (20 marks)	- systems approach to designing - mechanical devices materials and their working properties	
09/11/26		Section D: Developing design ideas (20 marks)		
16/11/26				
23/11/26				
30/11/26				
07/12/26				
14/12/26				
21/12/26	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY			
28/12/26				
04/01/27		Section E: Realising design ideas (making) (20 marks)	3.2 Specialist technical principles - selection of materials or components - forces and stresses - ecological and social footprint - sources and origins - using and working with materials	PPE 2
11/01/27				
18/01/27		Section F Analysing and evaluating (20 marks)		
25/01/27				
01/02/27	Y11			
08/02/27	Y11			
15/02/27	HALF TERM			
22/02/27		Pupils will revisit and consolidate key theory topics and complete tasks aligned with the GCSE specification.	Stock forms, types and sizes - scales of production - specialist techniques and processes - Surface treatments and finishes.	
01/03/27				
08/03/27				
15/03/27				
22/03/27				
29/03/27	SPRING BREAK			
05/04/27				
12/04/27			3.3 Designing and making principles	

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19/04/27			• investigation, primary and secondary data • environmental, social and economic challenge • the work of others • design strategies • communication of design ideas • prototype development • selection of materials and components • tolerances • material management • specialist tools and equipment • Specialist techniques and processes	
26/04/27				
03/05/27				
10/05/27				
17/05/27				
24/05/27				
31/05/27	HALF TERM			
07/06/27		Start of GCSE Exams		
14/06/27				
21/06/27				
28/06/27				
05/07/27				
12/07/27				