

AS and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design

Your companion guide
to our new specifications



First teaching September 2017

First AS assessments summer 2018

First A-level assessments summer 2019

Find out more at:

aqa.org.uk/dandt

Introducing our new AS and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design

We've created this guide to help you understand how the new AS and A-level changes from Ofqual and the Department for Education will affect you and your students.

These changes will apply to all exam boards offering AS and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design, from September 2017.

A-levels will be linear

Students will sit all exams at the end of the two year course.

The AS will be a separate qualification

Most AS content matches the first year of A-level content. You can teach AS and first year A-level students together.

Fifteen percent of the written exams will assess maths skills

This is a new requirement.

AS and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design Key dates

Download our draft specifications at aqa.org.uk/dandt	19 May 2016
Attend one of our free launch events	Autumn 2016
Download our accredited specifications from aqa.org.uk/dandt	Autumn 2016
Start teaching	September 2017
First exams for AS	Summer 2018
First exams for A-level	Summer 2019

For more information about AS and A-level changes, visit aqa.org.uk

Specifications for you and your students

Creating new AS and A-level Design and Technology qualifications in Product Design which meet the needs of you and your students is extremely important to us. That's why we've worked with teachers and subject experts to design new specifications that you'll enjoy teaching as much as your students will enjoy learning.

1. We're confident you'll find them engaging, interesting and practical to teach.
2. We provide teaching resources to help you plan lessons, teach and assess your students.
3. We're also hosting numerous free 'prepare to teach' and 'specification launch events', to ensure you're fully prepared to teach the new specifications in September 2017.

We're here if you need us

Want to speak to someone in the AS and A-level design and technology team?

T: 0161 957 3334

E: dandt@qa.org.uk

Explore our draft specifications:
qa.org.uk/dandt

Find out more about the
new AS and A-levels:
qa.org.uk/dandt



Reasons you'll enjoy teaching these new AQA specifications

- Imaginative practical work is at their heart. Students will develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products. They will explore, design, create and evaluate innovative solutions in response to realistic design contexts.
- Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the core technical, designing and making principles for product design.
- The specifications are clear and easy to understand, with clear topic areas to help you develop through schemes of learning.
- Subject content is split into three key sections with suggested opportunities to deliver relevant integrated maths and science skills.
- Topics and skills show where you should focus your teaching.
- We've created fantastic free teaching resources and we're working with publishers to create really helpful textbooks.

Specifications at a glance

The qualifications are linear, meaning students sit all their exams at the end of the course.

A-level

Paper 1	+	Paper 2
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical principles• Designing and making principles• Specialist knowledge		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical principles• Designing and making principles• Specialist knowledge
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 100 marks• 25 % of A-level		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 100 marks• 25 % of A-level
Questions <p>Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.</p>		Questions <p>Section A: Product analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 marks available.• Up to six short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s). <p>Section B: Commercial manufacture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60 marks.• Two extended response questions worth a total of 30 marks each.

Find out more

You can see full details of the new specification at: aqa.org.uk/dandt



Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed

Practical application of:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- Specialist knowledge

How it's assessed

- Single substantial design and make task
- 100 marks
- 50 % of A-level
- Approximately 40 hours in duration
- Written or electronic portfolio with photographic evidence of final outcome
- Assessment criteria to include:
 - exploration
 - designing
 - making
 - analysis and evaluation.

The above will be assessed in a holistic way.

Task(s)

Students will undertake a substantial design and make task and produce a final prototype. The context of the task will be determined by the student.

AS

Paper 1

What's assessed

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- Specialist knowledge

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks
- 50 % of AS

Questions

Section A: Core technical principles and designing and making principles

- 50 marks available.
- Up to 10 multiple choice questions.
- Several short answer questions (totalling 40 marks) to cover full range of the core specification.

Section B: Additional specialist knowledge

- 30 marks.
- Questions relating to product analysis and commercial manufacture of products via just in time, sub assembly, quality control, designers, marketing and promotion of products.

Find out more

You can see full details of the new specification at: aqa.org.uk/dandt



Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed

Practical application of:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- Specialist knowledge

How it's assessed

- Design and make task approximately 30–35 hours
- 80 marks
- 50 % of AS

Task

- Single substantial design and make task
- 80 marks
- 50 % of AS
- Approximately 30–35 hours in duration
- Written or electronic portfolio plus models, test pieces and final outcome
- Assessment criteria to include:
 - exploration
 - designing
 - making
 - analysis and evaluation.

The above will be assessed in a holistic way.

Task(s)

Students will be required to undertake a substantial design and make task. The context of this task will be set by the AQA. With reference to the context, students will be expected to identify a specific task that meets the needs and wants of a user, client or market.

Clear assessment and marking you can trust

We know the time and effort that you and your students put in to exams. We also understand how essential it is that the marks we give are fair, reliable and trustworthy.

Getting the right results

Our Centre for Education Research and Practice (CERP) provides statistics and research evidence to ensure we assess and mark your students' work fairly and accurately. We also recruit and train the highest calibre examiners and continually monitor their work.

Clear question papers

Students of all abilities will understand our clearly worded exam papers.

Well structured mark schemes and exemplar materials

Our mark schemes demonstrate how to help your students get the marks they deserve. Our exemplars use real student answers with comments from senior examiners to explain how our mark schemes are applied.

More exam help and advice available

1. Watch our videos on 'assessment explained' or see 'how we create a specification' at aqa.org.uk/exams
2. Analyse student results with our free Enhanced Results Analysis tool aqa.org.uk/era
3. More exam-related help is available at aqa.org.uk/results

Assessment support

Our exam resources will help you prepare for exams, these include practice questions, tests and revision exercises. If you'd like to speak to us about the new exams, call us on 0161 957 3334.

Free resources help you bring the new specifications to life

We've worked closely with fantastic teachers to create resources you'll find useful and inspiring.

Each resource will help you with a specific aspect of teaching – either planning your lessons, teaching them, or preparing your students for exams.

Free resources include:

- events to introduce you to the new specifications and advise on how you can teach them
- schemes of work and lesson plans
- specimen question papers
- mark schemes
- student exemplar materials
- training and professional development opportunities
- digital resources.

Want to improve your teaching skills?

We can support you throughout your teaching career with practical training, tried, tested and taught by teachers.

Browse and book our professional development events at [aqa.org.uk/professional-development](https://www.aqa.org.uk/professional-development)



Join the conversation
@AQACPD



Meet the team

Steve Healy
Qualifications
Manager



Amanda Luby
Customer
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Keep in touch

To contact the AS and A-level
design and technology team:

T: 0161 957 3334

E: dandt@aqa.org.uk

To receive regular updates
register with us at:

aqa.org.uk/dandt

Want to know about our
new specification, launch
meetings and resources?

aqa.org.uk/dandt

The information in this guide is based on the draft specification submitted to Ofqual in May 2016 and is subject to change. We will publish the accredited specification and specimen question papers as soon as we receive Ofqual accreditation expected in the autumn/winter 2016.

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