

Year 11 KEY TO SUCCESS IN GCSE PRODUCT DESIGN 4557 Exam Board: AQA

Structure of the course:

*40% Unit 1 (45551) written paper 2 hours pre-release materials issued

*60% Unit 2 (45552) controlled assessment design & make task selected from a range of briefs supplied by the exam board approximately 45 hours

What has already been covered?

Unit 1 knowledge

- Materials & components including paper & card, woods, metals, plastics, ceramics, glass, composite materials, smart & modern materials, electrical & control components.
- Processes & manufacture including quality control & assurance, batch production, CAD/CAM & use of ICT in manufacturing systems, health & safety & legal standards, use of tools & machinery to cut, shape & form materials & safe disposal of waste.
- Design & market influences including market pull & technology push, product evolution & design eras of the 19th & 20th centuries, brand & client – customer relationships, marketing & packaging, presentation techniques, drawing & communicating ideas, ethical, environmental, social & sustainability issues & human factors in design, safety & consumer law.
- Practise past papers & practical experience in all areas which will be recapped in revision sessions May 2016.

Unit 2 controlled assessment

- Research section of controlled assessment project including task analysis, client profile, product analysis, customer profile, themes & inspiration board & initial ideas

What we are currently covering?

Unit 2 controlled assessment

- Research section must be finished by 23rd October
- Investigating materials & processes, modelling & idea development must be complete before the mock exam week of 30th November
- Final product must be complete by 5th February
- Testing & evaluation recorded by 7th March

Unit 1 revision

- Mock exam will be taken without any in school revision classes – students should establish their own routine to prepare e.g. read a double page of the text book daily & complete a practise past paper question once a week
- In class revision will commence after 7th March & run until the exam on 27th June (after prom night!) covering the content listed above.

Home study Plan

Students are expected to complete their project work for homestudy to ensure they meet deadlines to hand in consecutive sections. Project work might include research & presentation, visiting clients or surveying potential customers or users, sketching or modelling ideas, working in CAD (via Citrix home login) or writing up their making diaries.

Useful websites and books to help with revision

Full specification outlining all the topics in detail can be found on the AQA website:
<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-4555-W-SP-14.PDF>

Past papers and mark schemes for the exam also on AQA website
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-product-design-4555/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

Text book AQA GCSE Design & technology product design published by Oxford University Press is very useful and can be purchased new or second hand online.

Kerboodle provides an online version of the text book and a variety of study support materials; students have personal log ons to access this facility.

Revision guides are worth getting, buy online or from bookshops. Lonsdale & CGP are both good and the student workbooks can be helpful.

Online revision & apps

DATA DT revision app is excellent value and works well on phones & ipads
<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/design-and-technology/id363449581?mt=8>

BBC Bitesize is currently being rebuilt to be more accessible on mobile devices but will return shortly

Meanwhile try:

<http://www.technologystudent.com/>
<http://mr-dt.com/designing/main.htm>

Exam/Important dates:

23rd October deadline to complete project research & issue of pre-release material for mock exam

Week beginning 30th November mock exam

5th February deadline to finish practical element to controlled assessment

Half-term contingency intensive support sessions for students with incomplete practical projects tbc invite only

7th March 2016 Unit 2 final submission & issue of pre-release material for final exam

Easter holiday contingency intensive support sessions for students not meeting target grades in controlled assessment

27th June 2016 Unit 1 GCSE product design exam 2 hours