Technology and Design

Entrance requirements

Students embarking on AS and A level study in Technology and Design are expected to have achieved at least grade B in GCSE Technology and Design. In addition, students will be expected to have some further background knowledge and a genuine interest in technology, design or engineering.

What will I learn on this A-level course?

The assessment will test your ability to:

•   Develop your own innovation, creativity and communication
•   Develop a critical understanding of the processes and products of Design and Technology
•   Develop an understanding of industrial practices
•   Use information and communications technology to enhance your capability using CAD software (Solidworks)
•   Develop critical evaluation skills in technical, aesthetic, economic, environmental and social contexts
•   Make informed choices as consumers in a modern world with a knowledge of the impact of design on the environment.

Why choose GCE Technology and Design?

In modern society, we are constantly using consumer goods and our demand for these is satisfied by new products as they come onto the market at a rapid pace. This course appeals to students interested in engineering, in products in general or product design and development in particular.

In the course, students will study technology and design in a range of different contexts and scenarios, ranging from the home to community and business through to the world of industry. This course appeals to those who have an enquiring mind, a desire to solve problems and a sense of how the modern world deals with changing trends and demands. Studying GCE Technology and Design can lead to study in further or higher education in a range of areas such as engineering, product development and product design. Students develop skills in identifying problems and creating solutions, developing design ideas, practical skills in hand, machine and CADCAM techniques, critical thinking and self-evaluation. These skills open a wide range of career options such as product design, engineering, graphic design, teaching and architecture.

Scheme of Assessment

The full A level is made up of two AS units plus two A2 unit.

Unit	Assessment	Weighting
AS 1 Design and materials. Product design.	Examination (2x 1 hour papers)	50% of AS 20% of A level
AS 2 Coursework: Product Development	Design folder and practical outcome	50% of AS 20% of A level
A2 1 Product Design	2 hour examination	30% of A level
A2 2 Coursework: Product Design and Manufacture	Design folder and practical outcome	30% of A level

There is a substantial commitment needed at home and school to ensure that homeworks, project work, and background reading of study topics is to be covered. Time management and self-motivation are essential qualities which the Technology and Design student must possess.

What could I go on to do at the end of this course?
Depending on the other A or AS subjects you choose, Design and Technology will aid entry to the following types of Higher Education course or employment.

Mechanical Engineering	Architecture	Advertising
Industrial Design	Electronic Engineering	Interior Design
Packaging Design	Materials Science	Furniture Design
Product Design	Civil Engineering	Marketing
Teaching	Graphic Design	Art and Design
Town Planning	Quantity Surveying	Construction
Technology & Design	Technical Sales	CAD technician
Project Planning	Production Engineering	

The coursework units will provide you with valuable portfolio material, which can be taken to university interviews during the A level year. You will develop skills in CAD using Solidworks; a great head start for mechanical engineering courses at university and highly sought after in today's job market.