

A Level

Product Design

AQA



Who is the course for?

Product Design is a pro-active course, you will need to enjoy experimenting, testing and modelling with a wide range of materials and CAD software to get the most from this course. If you want to make decisions that affect what and how you learn then this would be a good course choice for you.

If you choose not to continue this subject onto year 2, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year 1.

Course Overview

There are two units in the AS course of equal weighting.

Unit 1: 2 hour written examination that tests your knowledge of materials, components and application.

Unit 2: learning through Designing and Making (coursework)

You will complete one design and make project during the AS year. You will focus on problem solving and creative designing using a wide range of modelling techniques. Much of your time will be spent experimenting and modelling with different materials, joining and manufacturing methods so that you are able to really understand how your design can be created.

You will keep a sketch book and e folder that records your experiments, and the design and development of your product. The knowledge gained from your practical experiments will enable you to plan in detail the most cost effective way your product can be manufactured.

The topics you will study will include a range of materials, and manufacturing techniques relevant to the products you will design and manufacture. Traditional practical skills are combined with modern day techniques and ICT; you will have the opportunity to use two CAD packages, 2D Design and the 3D modeling software Solid Works. Both of these packages are available free of charge.



At least five hours self-directed study is expected every week. This will take the form of research tasks, design and development and modelling. You will also complete product analysis exercises of a range of products and examination questions in preparation for the written examination in May.

Methods and Patterns of Assessment

Coursework: You will receive regular feedback on your progress at pre-determined intervals during the term. You will be expected to complete one major design and make task during the AS year.

Written examination: regular feedback from homework tasks will be through teacher marking, class discussion and self-marking.

A2 Level

At A2, candidates are required to build upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in AS with a greater depth of study:

Unit 3: written examination (worth 50%)

Topics to include: sustainable design and manufacture, legislation, energy use, design and society.

Unit 4: learning through Designing and Making (worth 50%)

An extensive design and make project of your own choice.

Product Design

Financial Implications

Materials for research and modelling are provided free of charge. Students will need to pay for their final choice of materials that will be used to manufacture their final product.

You will need a digital camera or a smart phone (with USB lead) as photographs will be taken from the start of the course as part of your research. You will need a camera throughout the making stages.

You will also need to purchase a sketchbook (£5.00) and colour pencils, fine liners, rubber, sharpener, graphite pencils, 4GB USB and printing credit).

The College has a Student Support fund for those students who have difficulty meeting these costs.

Career Possibilities

A2 level Product Design enables access to further study, usually through a portfolio of work onto courses in, Product Design, Product Design Engineering, Product Design CAD, General Engineering Building Studies and Architecture



Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSE's at grade A* - C including Maths and English. Grade C in a Design and Technology subject or a related subject like Art and Design is desirable but not essential. Those without a Design and Technology background at GCSE would be advised to attend extra workshops during the first term to update their skills and knowledge.

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

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