

# D&T KS4 Learning Journey

## Timbers & Textiles



### What is the course about?

The new Design & Technology Product Design (8552) GCSE course from AQA is a brand new (2017) updated course which reflects the process that real life product designers go through to solve real life problems. You will develop your practical skills and learn how to use industry standard software (e.g. Photoshop, Illustrator, and Fusion 360), you will get to use a wide variety of machinery and equipment, such as laser cutting, 3D printing and you will get to work with a wide range of materials, with the option of specialising in a particular material area.



### What will I do and how will I be assessed?

#### Section A: Core Technical

##### What is Assessed?

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy generation and storage
- Developments in new materials
- Systems approach to designing
- Mechanical devices
- Materials and their working properties

##### How?

*Written exam* (20 marks)  
- A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

##### Non-exam Assessment (NEA)

- 30-35 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Students will design (30%) and manufacture (20%) a product which will be determined by a context set by the exam board

### What can I do afterwards?

This course will enable you to progress onto many different routes post 16, from Advanced Level Design Technology routes to specific areas such as Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Product Design, Jewellery Design, 3D Design, and progression into Architecture, Interior Design, Construction, Engineering or Joinery. The transferrable skills will also be useful in business related courses or media.

### Electronic Links

[Teams](#)

[Seneca](#)

[Bitesize](#)

[GCSEPod](#)



#### Section B: Specialist

##### What is Assessed?

- Textiles based materials **OR**
- Timbers and plastics

##### How?

*Written exam* (30 marks)  
- Several short answer questions (2-5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles

#### Section C: Design & Principles Technical

##### Principles Manufacturing

##### What is Assessed?

- 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

##### How?

*Written exam* (50 marks)  
- A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

