



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Course: AQA 7552, Product Design A-Level

Essential Activities for Summer 2024

TASK A

Familiarise yourself with the AQA exam board information

Overview of the course with important links:

[AQA | Design and Technology | A-level | Design and Technology: Product Design](#)

Specification – Content of the course in detail

[AQA | A-level | Design and Technology: Product Design | Specification at a glance](#)

Try some examination questions from past papers

[AQA | A-level | Design and Technology: Product Design | Assessment resources](#)

TASK B

Investigate the work of product designers:

James Dyson, Phillipe Starck, Margaret Calvert, Dieter Rams, Charles and Ray Eames, Marianne Brandt.

[Designers - Design Museum](#)

Excellent resource with most designers that are covered on the A-Level course and many more to widen your understanding of design in the 20th and 21st Century.

TASK C

Investigate important design groups:

Arts and Crafts Movement, Art Deco, Modernism/Bauhaus, Post Modernism/Memphis.

[Design in a nutshell | OpenLearn - Open University](#)

Excellent summaries of the main design groups studied on the A-Level course.

TASK D

Investigate the design and make process:

A series of activities that relate well to the development of designs and model making on a product design A –Level course. [Search | OpenLearn - Open University](#)

TASK E

Create with Onshape - free 3D Modelling Software:

Onshape is free to use anywhere. Try it out online. It needs no download, and your work is saved automatically.

You will need to set up an account of your own and can use the software on any device as it is cloud based. There are very good tutorials online.

[Onshape | Product Development Platform](#)

(Click on the green 'get started now' button on the opening webpage and set up your account)

WHAT TO READ

Completing the A-Level Product Design course in the UK requires a solid understanding of design principles, materials, manufacturing processes, and other relevant concepts. Here are some reference books that can be beneficial for your studies:

Essential Buys

AQA A Level – Design & Technology Product Design by Ian Granger, Will Potts, Julia Morrison, Dave Sumpner
This is the A-Level course book which relates to all theory lessons. It is the one you must buy!

[AQA AS/A-Level Design and Technology: Product Design: Amazon.co.uk: Potts, Will, Morrison, Julia, Granger, Ian, Sumpner, Dave: 9781510414082: Books](#)

My Revision Notes - AQA A Level – Design & Technology Product Design by Julia Morrison, Dave Sumpner. *This is the revision book that matches the main text book.* [My Revision Notes: AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design: Amazon.co.uk: Morrison, Julia, Sumpner, Dave: 9781510432291: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781510432291)

Essential Maths Skills for AS/A Level Design & Technology by Peter Warne and Chris Walker. [Essential Maths Skills for AS/A Level Design and Technology: Amazon.co.uk: Warne, Peter, Walker, Chris: 9781510417069: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781510417069)

OTHER SUPPORTIVE READING

The Materials Sourcebook for Design professionals by Rob Thompson. *The best book for materials, processes and products on the marketplace. Explained clearly with excellent images – expensive but excellent.*

Making It & Materials for Design both by Chris Lefteri. *Also, excellent books for materials, processes and products on the marketplace. Explained clearly with excellent images – reasonably priced.*

Product Design and Technology by Stuart Taylor. *This book provides comprehensive coverage of product design principles and includes case studies to help illustrate key concepts.*

Design and Technology: Product Design by Stuart Taylor and Patrick Miller. *Another excellent book by Stuart Taylor, this one specifically tailored to the A-Level Product Design syllabus. It covers design thinking, materials, and manufacturing processes.*

Product Design by Paul Rodgers and Alex Milton. *This book is widely used in design courses and offers insights into the entire design process, from ideation to manufacturing.*

Manufacturing Processes for Design Professionals by Rob Thompson. *This book is an excellent resource for understanding various manufacturing processes, essential for anyone studying product design.*

Sketching for Product Designers by Koos Eissen and Roselien Steur. *Sketching is a fundamental skill for product designers. This book offers practical advice and exercises to enhance your sketching abilities.*

The Design of Everyday Things by Don Norman. *While not specific to A-Level Product Design, this classic book provides insights into the principles of user-centered design and human factors, which are essential considerations in product design.*

Design: The Whole Story by Elizabeth Wilhide. *This book provides a historical overview of design, offering insights into the evolution of design thinking and aesthetics.*

Additionally, exploring academic journals, online resources, and industry publications can also complement your studies and keep you updated on the latest trends and advancements in product design.

WHAT TO WATCH

How to Draw

[How to Draw . Sketching for Product Designers Tutorial. Tools. Beginner01 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCBtSgEZk914z5InEs_U2J3w)

Sketch-a-day - Spencer Nugent developing sketching skills
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBtSgEZk914z5InEs_U2J3w

EngineerGuy

<https://www.youtube.com/@engineerguyvideo>

This channel features videos on engineering and design principles. It provides insights into materials, manufacturing processes, and the design considerations behind everyday products.

'How It's Made' by Science Channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXBlttiAFHg&list=PL39_ud5aKSvnYDhKdB7wTDUZRiE8RajAt

The 'How It's Made' series showcases the manufacturing processes of various products. It can help you understand the practical applications of the concepts you're learning in your A-level course.

WHAT TO LISTEN TO

Podcasts

50 things that made the modern economy.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08k9pv0>

Series of podcasts about all sorts of products that have changed the way we live; some surprising choices.

30 animals that made us smarter

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xttw7/episodes/downloads>

Series of podcasts about how studying animals and biomimicry has helped humans develop new products.

QUERIES

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