

Frequently Asked Questions A Level Design and Technology (9705)

What sort of design projects would be suitable for a student that has chosen to specialise in Graphic Products?

If a student were to decide to design and make a display for taking to an exhibition, the product would actually be the display. Criterion 4 is to test the Modelling of Ideas and in this case might involve the production of parts of the display to test: different materials; different joining methods or different shape flaps that make the product easy to disassemble. The student would then use this evidence to move onto the Product Development and make decisions based on the performance of the trials.

Can a student choose a design project such as ‘the design of a children’s playground’?

The product cannot just be a model that has no potential development, it might be easier for you to define it as a ‘product that will be useful’ with a certain level of complexity. The problem with ‘designing a children’s playground’ is that there is no product to plan, realise and evaluate, so therefore would not fit the criteria (5 to 8) in the syllabus.

Can students do all of the focus area questions?

Candidates could do any of the focus areas that they have specialised in. However, attempting more than one of these options in the examination would not be recommended. Candidates would not be able to tackle each question with sufficient rigour to obtain high marks effectively, as they would have a third of the time that a candidate attempting only one question would have.

One of my students who originally opted to do (AS) now wants to continue through to A Level and also has not yet completed the coursework requirement for the AS. Is it possible for a student in this situation to submit both the course work components 2 & 4 for the A Level?

The marks for the projects can be made up from either Component 2 + Component 4 or a new project in the final year. However, if there are two pieces of work contributing to the final mark then BOTH must be submitted together.

Regarding possible coursework projects, is it possible to do web page design as part of graphic products?

It certainly would be possible but it should be noted that all of the assessment criteria would need to be met. It would be easy for an unguided student to restrict themselves within these criteria especially in the Product Realisation strand, where for example, to get high marks, one of the statements is that the student should be ‘resourceful and adaptable with materials, tools and equipment’.

Can students develop a project outside their chosen focus area?

Students do not have to do projects in the same chosen focus area. However, it means that it may be more difficult for them to cover the criteria adequately if they do not have the specialised knowledge to back up their research and design. As an Examination Board, we do not request that candidates declare their options.

Do you have any other guides/coursebooks that would be helpful for this subject?

This syllabus covers a broad area of design and technology and as such no single book can be recommended to cover all aspects. The following list is therefore not prescriptive but should give teachers and candidates help in preparing for the examination.

| Title and author | Publisher | ISBN |
|--|---------------------|---------------|
| Advanced Design & Technology <i>Norman, Cubitt, Urry and Whittaker</i> | Longman | 0 582 24406 4 |
| Advanced Manufacturing, Design & Technology <i>Royal College of Arts Schools Technology Project</i> | Hodder & Stoughton | 0 340 70528 0 |
| Advanced Level Technical Drawing <i>E Jackson</i> | Longman | 0 582 35525 7 |
| Design for the Real World <i>V Papanek</i> | Thames & Hudson | 0 500 27358 8 |
| The Design Dimension <i>C Lorenz</i> | Blackwell | 0 631 13747 5 |
| Human Dimensions and Interior Space <i>Zelnik & Pinero</i> | Architectural Press | 0 823 07271 1 |
| Presentation Techniques <i>D Powell</i> | Macdonald | 0 356 14284 1 |
| Illustration and Design <i>T Dalley</i> | Phaidon | 0 741 82347 3 |
| Design Illustration <i>D Beasley</i> | Heinemann | 0 435 75063 1 |

The following publications, although intended for IGCSE and GCE O Level, are also appropriate for candidates preparing for this examination.

| Title and author | Publisher | ISBN |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| Design & Technology: Design & Realisation | Collins Educational | 0 003 22060 5 |
| Design & Technology: Technology | Collins Educational | 0 003 22036 2 |
| Design & Technology: Design & Communication | Collins Educational | 0 003 22034 6 |
| Design & Technology <i>James Garratt</i> | Cambridge University Press | 0 521 36969 X |