Y11 Learning Journey 2025-2026. Subject: Design Technology GCSE

Exam Requirements: Your GCSE in Design Technology is structured, and examined, in the following way:

NEA	External Exam
Non-examined assessment 50% of the qualification 100 marks Content overview There are four parts to the assessment: 1 – Investigate This includes investigation of needs and research, and a product specification 2 – Design This includes producing different design ideas, review of initial ideas, development of design ideas into a chosen design, communication of design ideas and review of the chosen design 3 – Make This includes manufacture, and quality and accuracy 4 – Evaluate This includes testing and evaluation. Assessment overview ● Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by us a year before certification. ● This will be released on 1st June and will be available on our website. ● The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product. ● Task will be internally assessed and externally moderated. ● The marks are awarded for each part as follows. 1 – Investigate (16 marks) 2 – Design (42 marks) 3 – Make (36 marks) 4 – Evaluate (6 marks)	Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 100 marks Assessment overview Section A: Core This section is 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A. Section B: Material categories – Timbers This section is 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 5 marks of calculation questions in Section B

Overview of the Year:

Week Beginning	**The focus of your learning or revision this week:**	**Key assessment pieces or specific homework tasks (including deadlines of any coursework/NEAs)**
08/09/25	NEA – Initial ideas	
15/09/25	NEA – Initial ideas	

22/09/25	NEA – Initial ideas	
29/09/25	NEA – Initial ideas -Review against the spec	
06/10/25	NEA – Initial ideas -Review against the spec - Developments	
13/10/25	NEA – Initial ideas - Developments	**Completion of initial ideas**
20/10/25	NEA – Final Design	
Half Term		
03/11/25	NEA – Final Design - Review	**Final Submission of Design Folder**
10/11/25	NEA – Manufacturing	
17/11/25	NEA – Manufacturing	
24/11/25	**Assessment Week One**	
01/12/25	NEA – Manufacturing	
08/12/25	NEA – Manufacturing	
15/12/25	NEA – Manufacturing	
Christmas Break		
05/01/26	NEA – Manufacturing	
12/01/26	NEA – Manufacturing	
19/01/26	NEA – Manufacturing	
26/01/26	NEA – Manufacturing	
02/02/26	NEA – Manufacturing	**Final Submission of Practical work**
09/02/26	NEA – Testing and Evaluation	
Half Term		
23/02/26	NEA – Testing and Evaluation / Life Cycle Analysis	
02/03/26	**Assessment Week Two**	
09/03/26	Topics 1.17 and 7.1 (As in the specification)	
16/03/26	Topics 7.2 and 7.3 (As in the specification)	
23/03/26	Topics 7.4 and 7.5 (As in the specification)	
30/03/26	Topic 7.6 (As in the specification)	
Easter Break		
20/04/26	Topic 7.7 and 7.8 (As in the specification)	
27/04/26	Revisit topics from 1.1-1.17 and 7.1-7.8	
04/05/26	Revisit topics from 1.1-1.17 and 7.1-7.8	
11/05/26	**GCSEs Start**	

Throughout the completion of the NEA work, students will be set homework on SENECA which will help them to revisit topics 1.1 – 1.17, parents/guardians will be invited to each homework via SENECA, to help support their child, and to help check if they are completing the work or not.

During the manufacturing process, students are expected to upload any photographs they have taken to their PowerPoint.

Exam Practice: **G:\Technology\Resistant Materials\GCSE revision** Edexcel Design and Technology (9-1) from 2017 | Pearson qualifications **Topics** • **New and emerging technologies** • **Energy generation and storage** • **Developments in modern materials** • **Electronic systems** • **Mechanical devices** • **Material categories and properties** • **Design contexts** • **Environmental, social and economic challenges** • **Investigating past work** • **Design strategies** • **Communication of ideas**	**Revision Materials:** **G:\Technology\Resistant Materials\Sample revision guide for Edexcel.pdf** Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology Student Book (Edexcel GCSE Design and Technology (9-1)) : Wellington, Mark, Dennis, Andrew, Colley, Trish, Weston, Tim, Dhami, Jenny: Amazon.co.uk: Books GCSE Design and Technology - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize Seneca - Learn 2x Faster (senecalearning.com) – Edexcel – Design and Technology G:\Technology\Core Knowledge GCSE Revision guide, available on the school network; G:\Technology\New D&T Digital Textbook and NEA delivery guide\DT Textbook Edexcel
Glossaries: Where to find them: **G:\Technology\Core Knowledge** **In the above area, each topic has its own PDF/PowerPoint. At the beginning of every PDF/PowerPoint are all the key words for that topic.**	**Advice and Guidance for Revision** Section 1 When naming the property, link the usage of the product to the material. E.g. if the picture is of a raincoat and it asks for the property, you would say waterproof. You wouldn't say electrical insulator, which is true but not relevant. 2-mark questions and 4-mark questions Ensure you write a point then an explanation of your point. For a 4 marker, write 2 points and 2 explanations. E.g. oak is used for staircases (1 mark), because it is durable and when people walk on the stairs it won't wear away quickly (1 mark). Evaluation questions These are usually 8 marks, and ask for advantages and disadvantages. Plan out somewhere on the page, your 8 points first. Then start to construct your answer. Don't just start writing, plan your answer carefully. Maths questions

	Ensure you use their formulas at the front of the book, and if they state pie is 3.14, use that and don't press pie on your calculator. If maths is not your forte, still have a go but spend time better elsewhere. **Never say strong, always use a proper property** **If using the word cheap, you must compare it to another materials. E.g. Pine is cheaper than oak, because……** Design question Don't get hung up on your drawing, it's the idea that counts. Ensure you add as many labels of materials and processes as you can. Remember to use all of the information given to you in the question, especially measurements.