

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Why choose AQA for GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. You can find out about all our Design and Technology qualifications at [aqa.org.uk/designandtechnology](https://www.aqa.org.uk/designandtechnology)

## 1.2 Support and resources to help you teach

We've worked with experienced teachers to provide you with a range of resources that will help you confidently plan, teach and prepare for exams.

### 1.2.1 Teaching resources

Visit [aqa.org.uk/8552](https://www.aqa.org.uk/8552) to see all our teaching resources. They include:

- teaching guidance including lesson plans, and suggested teaching strategies to provide you with practical guidance to help deliver this specification
- non-exam assessment example materials and a dedicated subject adviser for every school or college to help you understand our expectations for this part of the assessment
- sample schemes of work to help you plan your course with confidence
- textbooks tailored to our specification and approved by AQA
- training courses to help you deliver AQA Design and Technology qualifications
- subject expertise courses for all teachers, from newly qualified teachers who are just getting started to experienced teachers looking for fresh inspiration.

### 1.2.2 Preparing for exams

Visit [aqa.org.uk/8552](https://www.aqa.org.uk/8552) for everything you need to prepare for our exams, including:

- past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports
- specimen papers and mark schemes for new courses
- Exampro: a searchable bank of past AQA exam questions
- example student answers with examiner commentaries.