Year 11 AQA Design & Technology

## 1. Exam & NEA Breakdown - GCSE Design & Technology (AQA 8552)

**Exam (50%)**

* Paper 1 (2 hours, 100 marks)
* Core Technical Principles – 20 marks
* Specialist Technical Principles – 30 marks
* Designing & Making Principles – 50 marks

**NEA - all students have chosen from one of these contexts:**  
Supporting charities,  
 products to help around the home or  
 reducing waste.  
They will be coming soon with questionnaires, please support them with these.

**NEA (50%) – Design & make project set by AQA >**

* Assessed on investigating, designing, making & evaluating
* Final submission Spring 2025 (March)

## 2. How to Support Revision at Home

* Encourage short, regular bursts of revision (20–30 minutes).
* Use the blue revision booklets to create flashcards – quiz your child.
* Ask them to explain processes/designers to you in full sentences.
* Focus on specific terminology (e.g. 'tensile strength' not just 'strong').
* Encourage timed practice using past papers.

## 3. Key Content Checklist

* Materials: properties, uses, advantages/disadvantages. (focus on timbers!)
* Processes: manufacturing methods, tools, equipment, finishes.
* Design & Making Principles: design process, iterative design, prototypes, user needs.
* Wider Issues: sustainability, environmental impact, moral/social issues.
* Design Movements & Designers: James Dyson, Zaha Hadid, Philippe Starck.

## 4. Example Exam Questions

Q1 (Core Knowledge, 2 marks): Name one property of acrylic and explain why it is suitable for signage.

Mark scheme: Property: durable / weather resistant / tough / rigid (1) + Explanation: signage needs to last outdoors and withstand weather (1).

Q2 (Extended Answer, 8 marks): Discuss how a manufacturer could reduce the environmental impact when producing a new household product.

Mark scheme highlights: recyclable materials, reduced energy, modular design for repair, life cycle/disposal considerations.

## 5. Recommended Resources

* Revision Guides: CGP GCSE DT (AQA) Given out last year
* Websites: Technology Student, BBC Bitesize DT,