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

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

> **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.

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,