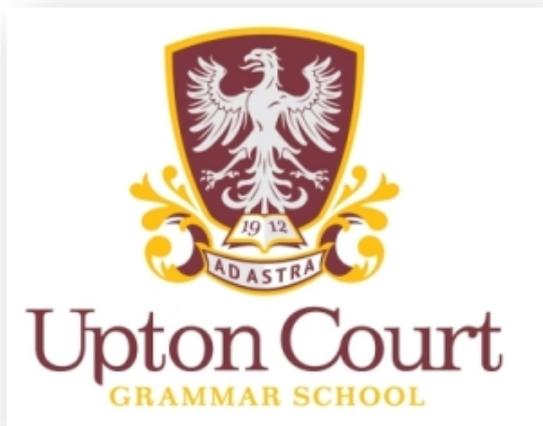




Upton Court
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Design & Technology





Design & Technology

Study guide to GCSE

Within the department, we follow the AQA Specification which is broad and comprehensive.

The department helps students to succeed in their GCSEs in many ways including using various study methods such as COPE, providing extra help

sessions at lunch times and working on exam questions in groups. Technology is a multi-skill practical subject, but also incorporates a lot of technical theory to gain including knowledge of industry practise. Students are helped to learn the theoretical knowledge by researching subjects themselves, putting theory into practise or even modelling it. Students do need to read around topics and look at products etc. out of the classroom as knowledge of the world around us is expected for the subject.

To prepare for studying the subject, even before starting Year 9, you could start to get ahead by trying to observe and draw objects in 3D, trying to observe what and how we see things in 3D and so how to draw them in 3D. Also start to look at products and note what they are made of and start to observe how parts fit together or are joined together. Look also at products you purchase in the shops; who buys them, why?

You could also watch programmes such as 'How is it made?' or 'How do they do that?' Also watch any programme to do with design whether it is about cars, architecture or houses and interiors.

Achieving your potential:

Attend any support sessions/times

Look at real products at home and analyse how they are made and from what materials

Practise drawing in 3D by drawing products in front of you at home

Use useful websites for help in revising, such as technologystudent.com which has question sections at the end of topics.

Use homework activities to consolidate learning and revise for tests and exams – make revision cards or cue cards etc.

Useful websites for GCSE:

www.technologystudent.com – very useful for the Resistant Materials part of the subject, mechanisms topic and also the Graphics subject content.

www.mr-dt.com – also a very useful site for technical topics.

www.MadeHereNow.com – contains inspirational videos, success stories, photography and career ideas.

Strategies for Learning

Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

COPE Strategies:

- Create flash cards after each lesson or at the end of each week covering key content.
- Keep a log of key quotations on an ongoing basis.
- Use Quizlet and Memorise regularly.
- Review class notes within 24 hours of the lesson.

COPE Strategies:

- Write a blog to share your learning with others.
- Support KS3 students to strengthen your skills.
- Create a homework timetable.
- Title and date your work clearly.
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions.
- Use banks of practice questions to create a booklet of essay/writing plans.
- Focus on improving the areas you are weakest at.

Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practise many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.



The exam

The coursework will constitute 50% of the GCSE. This is completed within Year 11 of the course.

The examination will constitute the other 50% of the GCSE and will be one paper of 2 hours, made up of short answers and some designing. There will also be some questions requiring longer answers towards the end of the exam.

Extended Learning

The department encourage students to become subject ambassadors to help promote the subject and encourage younger learners, possibly by taking a club at lunchtimes

There is opportunity to attend subject lectures in London each year for KS5. Other visits are arranged for KS4 students, as good exhibitions and workshops arise each year.

Students are encouraged to take part in the technology clubs available.