

GCSE Design Technology (Materials/Textiles)

What is the difference between Design Technology (Materials) and Design Technology (Textiles)?

They are the same course, with the same specifications and mostly the same exam. In Materials however, you will build products with woods, plastics, and metals, whilst in Textiles you will use primarily textiles to build your products. Materials is like your DT Year 7, 8 & 9 Technology lessons. Textiles is like your Year 7, 8 & 9 Textiles lessons. In the exam there is an optional section and you answer the questions for your specialism either the materials questions or the textiles - not both.

You can only study one type of Design Technology.

Is Design Technology Materials woodwork?

No. Design and Technology is a focus on a variety of materials and processes with a specialism in wood, metals, and plastics. Throughout the course, you will complete 'mini' practical projects alongside learning the theory content to make interesting products.

Will I design and make clothing in my Textiles GCSE?

Yes, you will learn construction and surface embellishment techniques to allow you in to come up with your own project that you will design and make. It is not just clothing, however. Students have produced everything from electronic accessories for the vision impaired to historical costumes as well as fashion-based items and accessories. The big difference with a GCSE in Design Technology rather than that of a design only course is that you will look at the practicalities of how things are made, with a mind to see how they would be developed and manufactured in industry.

Can I do Design and Technology and Engineering? Is it a waste of an option to do both?

Yes, you can do both and no, it is not a waste of an option. In fact, quite a few students opt to do both, and, in most cases, students find that both subjects complement each other very well. Because of this, these students tend to achieve good grades in both subjects.

Do I need to be good at drawing to take Design and Technology?

No. Being good at drawing will not hurt but it is more important to be a good designer rather than a good drawer. Art might be a better choice if drawing is your focus and passion. In this subject we do a lot of designing and technical drawing (isometric projection, 3rd angle orthographic drawing). In Design Technology we are always looking to make what we design so making skills are more important than drawing skills.

Are there good career prospects in Design Technology?

Yes. Every manufacturing or design company employs Product Designers and Engineers. Whether you want to study it at University or get an apprenticeship at 16, Engineering and Design Technology has a pathway for you and your career.