

AQA GCSE Design and Technology - Going for Gold

	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*
Marks	1-2		3-4		5-6		7-8	
Criterion 1: Investigating the Design Context	Limited understanding or analysis of design context		Basic understanding and analysis of the design context		Good understanding and analysis of the design context		Discrimination shown when selecting and acquiring relevant research that will promote originality in designing	
	Minimal analysis of other products or systems undertaken		Some analysis of related products or systems undertaken		Good analysis of relevant products or systems undertaken		Excellent understanding and analysis of the design context	
	Provided little evidence of research and analysis of context		Made a superficial analysis of most of the research material and the context		Good analysis of relevant research and context		Detailed analysis of relevant existing products or systems undertaken related to design intentions	
	Design criteria is very general and lacking in any detail		Design criteria reflects most of the analysis undertaken		Design criteria which reflects the analysis undertaken		Comprehensive analysis of relevant and focussed research undertaken	
	Limited understanding of the target market/user evident		Some consideration has been taken of the likely consumer/user		Target market for product has been identified		Clear and specific design criteria identified, reflecting the analysis undertaken	
							Target market identified and the intended consumer/user profiled	
Marks	0-5	6-11	12-18		19-25		26-32	
Criterion 2: Development of Design Proposals	ideas are lacking in imagination with minimal development or further research	Ideas show some variation in approach or concept	Design ideas show some degree of creativity and further development		Imaginative ideas demonstrating a degree of creativity, which are further developed to take account of ongoing research		Imaginative and innovative ideas have been developed, demonstrating creativity, flair and originality. Further developments made to take account of ongoing research	
	Little evidence of a logical approach being adopted, with no indication of planning	A limited design strategy, with minimal planning, is evident	An appropriate design strategy, with some evidence of planning, adopted for some aspects		An appropriate design strategy, with evidence of planning, adopted for most aspects		A coherent and appropriate design strategy, with clear evidence of a planned approach, adopted throughout	
	Development work shows little consideration of social, moral, environmental and sustainability issues	Some consideration taken of social, moral, environmental and sustainability issue in development of design solutions	Developments of design solutions are influenced to some extent by factors relating to social, moral, environmental and sustainability issues		Development of design proposals take into account the main aspects relating to a variety of social, moral, environmental and sustainability issues		The implications of a wide range of issues including social, moral, environmental and sustainability, are taken into consideration and inform the development of the design proposals	
	Basic development work undertaken using a limited range of techniques	Development work is lacking in detail but makes reference to a number of techniques and modelling (including CAD where appropriate)	Adequate development work achieved through working with a range of techniques and modelling (including CAD where appropriate)		good development work achieved through working with a variety of techniques and modelling (including CAD where appropriate)		Excellent development work through experimentation with a wide variety of techniques and modelling (including CAD where appropriate) in order to produce a final design solution	
	Materials/ingredients and components selected with little regard to their working properties	Materials/ingredients and components selected with limited regard to their working properties	Materials/ingredients and components selected with some regard to their working properties		Appropriate materials/ingredients and components selected with regard to their working properties		Appropriate materials/ingredients and components selected with full regard to their working properties	
	Produced a simple product/manufacturing specification which is general in nature	Limited product/manufacturing specification which reflects most obvious features of analysis	Product/manufacturing specification reflects most aspects of the analysis		Product/manufacturing specification is complete and reflects key aspects of the analysis undertaken		Fully detailed and justified product/manufacturing specification taking full account of the analysis undertaken	

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Marks	0-5	6-11	12-18		19-25		26-32	
Criterion 3: Making	Final outcome is incomplete or represents an undemanding level of making/ modelling/ finishing skills	Final outcome is largely complete and represents a basic level of making/ modelling/finishing skills	Final outcome shows good level of making/modelling/ finishing skills		Final outcome shows very good level of making/ modelling/finishing skills		Final outcome(s) shows a high level of making/ modelling/finishing skills and accuracy	
	Used materials, components and equipment safely under close supervision	Used materials, components and equipment correctly and safely (including CAM if appropriate)	Used appropriate materials, components, equipment and processes correctly and safely (including CAM)		Selected and used appropriate tools, materials and/or technologies including, where appropriate, CAM correctly and safely		Selected and used appropriate tools, materials and/or technologies including, where appropriate, CAM correctly, skillfully and safely	
	Worked with some assistance to produce outcome of limited demand	Some aspects of outcome are demanding	Parts of outcome show high levels of demand		Outcome demonstrates a high level of demand		Worked independently to produce a rigorous and demanding outcome	
	There is limited evidence of any quality control and levels of accuracy are minimal	Some evidence of limited quality control applied throughout the process	Applied quality control checks broadly but superficially		Quality control checks applied in the manufacture of the product		Quality controls are evident throughout the project and it is clear how accuracy has been achieved	
	The outcome has significant weaknesses which limit its suitability for the target market	The outcome has some weaknesses which limit its suitability for the target market	The outcome requires further development in order to be suitable for the target market		The outcome is suitable for the target market and could be commercially viable with further development		The outcome has the potential to be commercially viable and is suitable for the target market	
Marks	0-2		3-5		6-8		9-12	
Criterion 4: Testing and Evaluation	Minimal testing and evaluation throughout the designing and making process		Evidence of some testing and evaluation leading to the production of the final outcome		Appropriate testing and evaluation evident throughout the designing and making process		Detailed testing and evaluation as appropriate throughout the designing and making process taking account of client/user or third party opinion	
	Limited or no testing of final outcome against the design criteria and/or the product/manufacturing specification		Some evidence of testing against the design criteria and/or the product/ manufacturing specification		Most aspects of the final outcome have been tested against the design criteria		All aspects of the final outcome have been tested against the design criteria and/or the product/ manufacturing specification	
	Limited mention of some improvements or modifications that could be made to the product		Some improvements or modifications to product suggested		Evaluate and justify the need for improvements or modifications to the product		Evaluate and justify the need for modifications to the product and consideration given as to how the outcome might need to be modified for commercial production	
Marks	0-2			3-4		5-6		
Criterion 5: Communication	Design folder shows excessive duplication of information and a lack of brevity and focus resulting in irrelevant content			Design folder shows some skill in choice of material for inclusion but includes some irrelevant content		Design folder is focussed, concise and relevant and demonstrates an appropriate selection of material for inclusion		
	ideas and decisions communicated at a simplistic level with a limited grasp of the concepts involved and a limited use of technical vocabulary			Most decisions communicated with some clarity and with some use of technical language		All decisions communicated in a clear and coherent manner with appropriate use of technical language		
	Numerous errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling			There are a small number of errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling		The text is legible, easily understood and shows a good grasp of grammar, punctuation and spelling		

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Grade Boundaries: these are approximate as they change yearly (you need to be well within the boundary to be certain of earning that grade)	A*	83		B	65		D	46		F	28
	A	74		C	55		E	37		G	18