



# GCE AS / A Level Design & Technology

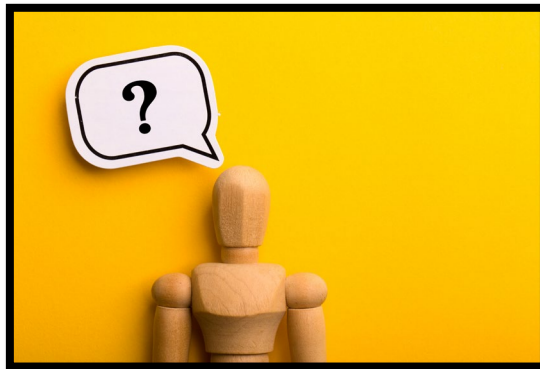
## Frequently Asked Questions



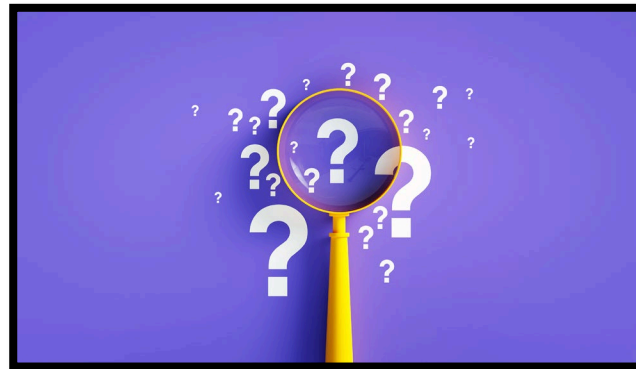
# GCE AS/A Level Design & Technology

## Frequently Asked Questions

This booklet has been collated to allow teachers easy and direct access to our most frequently asked questions. The booklet is divided into 3 sections; general qualification questions, Unit 1 & 3 and Unit 2 & 4. [Click the images below to take you to the relevant section.](#)



General Qualification  
Questions



Unit 1 and Unit 3 –  
The Written Exam



Unit 2 and Unit 4 –  
NEA

**Please note:** WJEC Design and Technology does not have an official social media outlet and is not a member of any other social media groups. In a time of active social media there have been several instances where information, opinions and individual comments have been misinterpreted and, in some cases, resulted in centres / teachers / candidates following incorrect guidance for certain qualifications. Therefore, we would strongly urge centres to follow guidance provided on our official websites and not inaccurate comments, posts, or releases on 'other' social media forums. If in any doubt, contact the [WJEC Design and Technology Team](#).

# General Qualification Questions

- [How are the AS components assessed?](#)
- [What is the split in the AS qualification for the exam and coursework components?](#)
- [How are the A Level components assessed?](#)
- [What is the split in the A Level qualification for the exam and coursework components?](#)
- [What are the entry codes?](#)
- [Does this qualification count in performance tables?](#)
- [Is there a revision guide available?](#)
- [Where can I find professional learning and exemplar materials?](#)
- [Where can I find the grade boundaries?](#)



# Unit 1 (AS) and Unit 3 (A Level) – The Written Exam

- How is the exam structured?
- How are questions structured?
- When do the written exams take place?



# Unit 2 (AS) and Unit 4 (A Level) - NEA

- What is the deadline for submitting the NEA marks?
- How do I submit the NEA marks?
- Where can I find the NEA marksheets?
- Where can I find the moderator's report?
- how many marks is each assessment criteria worth?
- Does work need to be annotated?
- Is there a prescribed NEA workbook for students to work on?
- What should be included within the sketchbook and portfolio?



# Unit 2 (AS) and Unit 4 (A Level) - NEA

- Can the portfolio be purely digital?
- How are Unit 2 and Unit 4 assessed?
- What paper size should be used?
- Are teachers able to give guidance?
- Can design and practical work be taken home?
- Are writing frames allowed?
- Can a specific making process be done by an outside company?
- I have 28 pupils in my class. Can I use substitute materials to reduce the cost of the projects?



# Unit 2 (AS) and Unit 4 (A Level) - NEA

- Can my pupils use CAD drawings from the internet in NEA project work?
- Can students disassemble products and use parts / components in NEA project work?
- Some of my students have produced lots of CAD models. Do I need to print all of these out for the visiting moderator to view in the sample I present?
- The visiting moderator has told us that they cannot give feedback at the end of their visit. Is this correct?
- What level of supervision is required; Can students complete their NEA work at home?
- Can a candidate make a scale model instead of a full-scale prototype due to increasing cost of materials and components?



# AS Summary of Assessment

Taken from the [specification](#)

## Unit 1:

- ✓ 2 hours exam
- ✓ 80 marks
- ✓ Externally examined
- ✓ 20% of qualification

**AS Unit 1: Written paper 1**  
 Written examination: 2 hours  
 20% of qualification 80 marks

Learners take an examination in one of the following endorsed areas:

- engineering design
- fashion and textiles
- product design.

The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of:

- technical principles
- designing and making principles

along with their ability to:

- analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

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**AS Unit 2: Design and make task**  
 Non-exam assessment: approximately 40 hours  
 20% of qualification 80 marks

A design and make task, based on a brief developed by the candidate, assessing the candidate's ability to:

- identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes
- analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

The design and make task will be based within the same endorsed area as the written examination.

## Unit 2:

- ✓ Non-Exam Assessment
- ✓ Approx 40 GLH
- ✓ 80 marks
- ✓ Internally marked, externally moderated
- ✓ 20% of qualification



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# A LEVEL Summary of Assessment

Taken from the [specification](#)

## Unit 3:

- ✓ 2.5 hours exam
- ✓ 100 marks
- ✓ Externally examined
- ✓ 30% of qualification

**A2 Unit 3: Written paper 2**  
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes  
30% of qualification **100 marks**

Learners take a single examination in one of the following endorsed areas:

- engineering design
- fashion and textiles
- product design.

The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of:

- technical principles
- designing and making principles

along with their ability to:

- analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

**A2 Unit 4: Design and make project**  
Non-exam assessment: approximately 60 hours  
30% of qualification **100 marks**

A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate, assessing the candidate's ability to:

- identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes
- analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

The design and make project will be based within the same endorsed area as the written examination.

## Unit 4:

- ✓ Non-Exam Assessment
- ✓ Approx 60 GLH
- ✓ 100 marks
- ✓ Internally marked, externally moderated
- ✓ 30% of qualification



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# Entries

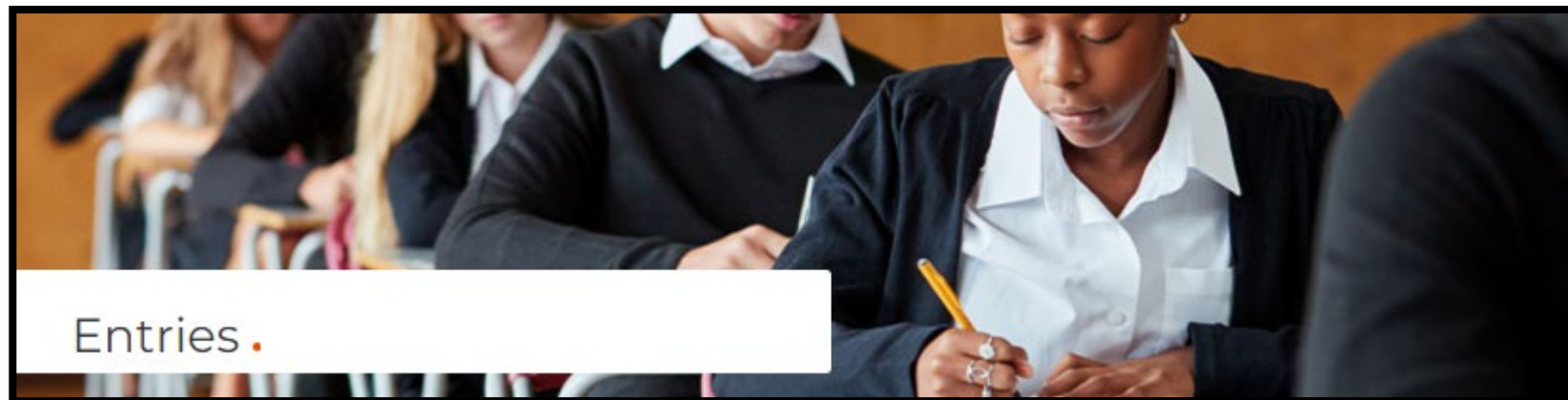
Available from [WJEC Website](#)

WJEC/Eduqas GCE Design and Technology qualification is a linear specification which means that there is only one entry code per level. This one code will enter the students for both Components.

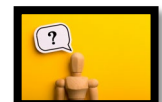
AS Level	Entry Code
AS Engineering Design	2601QS
AS Fashion & Textiles	2602QS
AS Product Design	2603QS

A Level	Entry Code
AL Engineering Design	1601QS
AL Fashion & Textiles	1601QS
AL Product Design	1603QS

**WJEC GCE Design and Technology qualifications counts towards the performance tables measures**



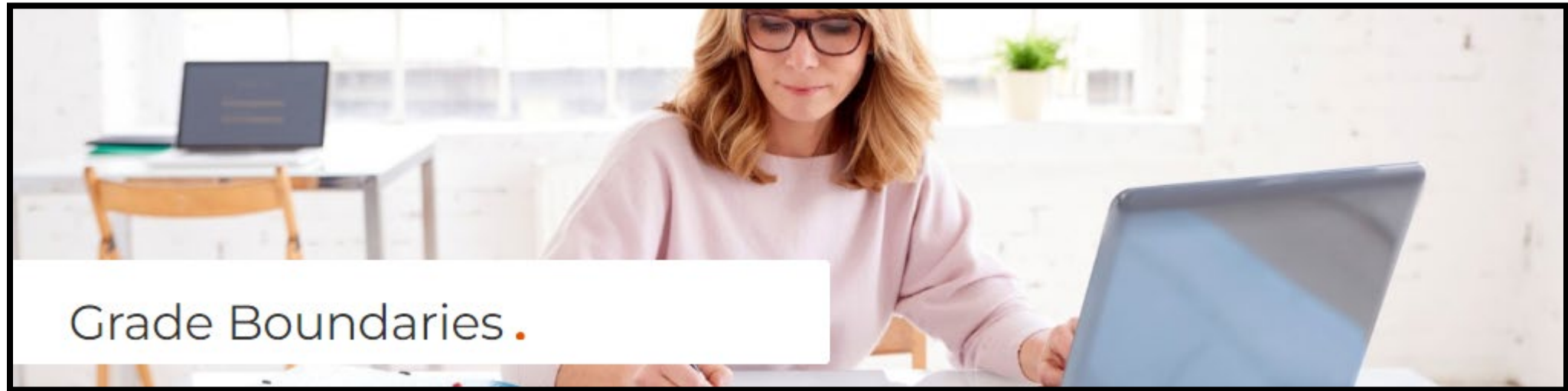
Click the image above to find further information regarding entry codes, the submission of preliminary and final entries, basedata, fees and other entries information.



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# Grade Boundaries

Available from [WJEC Website](#)



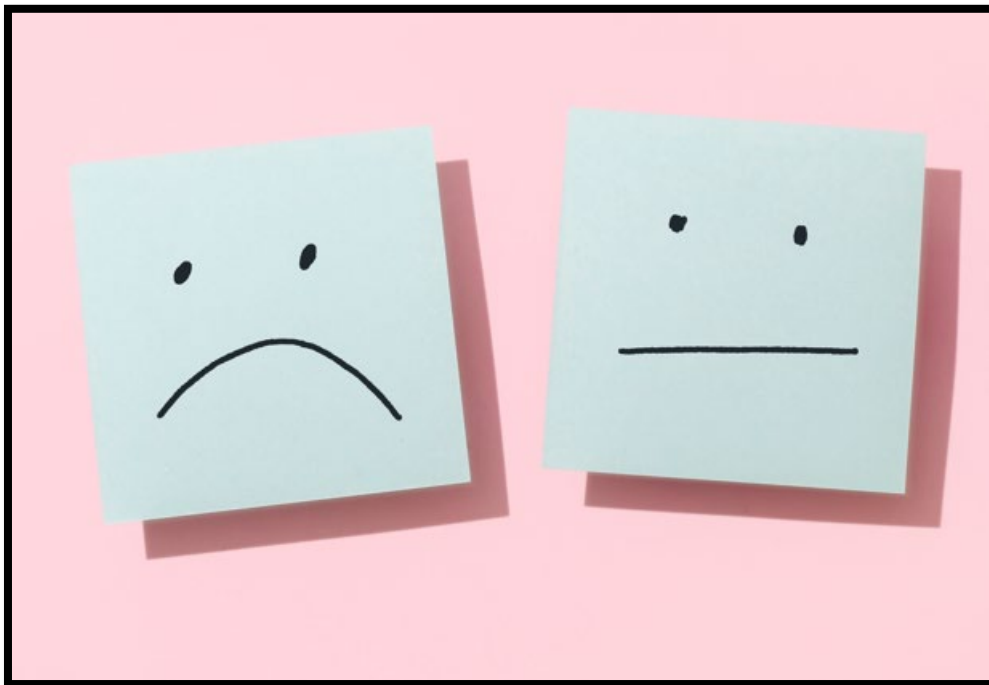
Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade. Whilst exam papers are written to the same level of difficulty, they do vary each year. Grade boundaries ensure that whenever the exam is sat, students receive the same grade for the same level of performance.

[Click the image above to find the latest Design and Technology Grade boundaries.](#)



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# Textbooks



Unfortunately, There are no textbooks available for WJEC AS and A Level qualifications. Due to the small number of entries, no publisher has produced any material that we can officially endorse.

We know this isn't ideal – (we're just as disappointed as you are!), but we'll make sure you have access to all the resources and support you need throughout the course.



Click on the image above for our Resources Guide

Can't find the information you need: contact [The Subject Team](#) and we'll be happy to point you in the right direction



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# Resources

Available from [Subject Webpage](#)

Our Resources Guide shows you where you can access all the key materials and resources that you will need to deliver the GCE AS/A Level Design and Technology specification.



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# Exam Structure

The exam paper is made up of both short-structured answers and extended writing questions.

Learners will be asked to use or complete diagrams to support answers their answers.



Please read our [Publication Policy](#) for more information on when question papers and mark schemes are available on our public website. If the modified format of past paper is not available, please refer to our policy on the [Availability of Assessment Materials in Modified Formats](#) for further information.

[Click on the image above to take you to the Past Papers and Mark Schemes on the Subject Webpage.](#)

Please note that the Question Paper that was last assessed will not be available on the public website until 12 months after the date it was sat. This is to allow schools and colleges to use them, for example as internal resources to support candidates' preparation for exams. The most recent past paper and mark scheme can be found on [Portal](#) (secure website).



# Non-Exam Assessment

Available from [Subject Webpage](#)

Click on the images below to download the relevant forms from the Subject Website (resources > Key Documents > Non-Exam Assessment)

AS  
Unit 2:  
Marksheet  
(DT2)

AO	Assessment Criteria	Max Mark	Mark Range	Centre Mark	Justification
A01	Identifying and investigating design possibilities	12	12-11 11-10 10-9 9-8 8-7 7-6 6-5 5-4 4-3		
A02	Developing a design brief and specification	12	12-11 11-10 10-9 9-8 8-7 7-6 6-5 5-4 4-3		
A03	Generating and developing design ideas	20	20-18 18-16 16-14 14-12 12-10 10-8 8-6 6-4 4-2		
A04	Manufacturing a prototype	20	20-18 18-16 16-14 14-12 12-10 10-8 8-6 6-4 4-2		
A05	Analyzing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes	16	16-14 14-12 12-10 10-8 8-6 6-4 4-2		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>80</b>			

AS  
Unit 2: GDPR  
Consent Form  
(DT2A)

**GDPR CONSENT (Completed forms should be kept securely by your centre)**

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATE**  
WJEC may select your audio visual work for use at teacher training events and subsequently upload it onto WJEC's secure website (accessible only to teachers via a secure login). Your name will be removed from your work before we use it. All materials are reviewed regularly and are removed when no longer relevant to our qualifications.

WJEC may select your audio visual work for use in teaching and learning resources published on the WJEC public website. Your name will be removed from your work before we use it. All materials are reviewed regularly and are removed when no longer relevant to our qualifications.

For further details about how we process your data please visit [WJEC's privacy policy](#).

**DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE**  
Please read and sign the declaration below (ticking the relevant statements to agree)

I have read and understood the **Notice to Candidate** (above). I have produced the attached work without assistance other than that which my teacher has explained to be acceptable within the specification.

I am 13 years old or above and give permission for my audio-visual work to be used at teacher training events and to be uploaded onto WJEC's secure website.

You must be over 13 to provide consent. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting WJEC on [design@wjec.org.uk](#). Please include the title of the work, the year of assessment, centre name and number, candidate name and the Component in the communication. The audio visual work will then be removed from the secure website.

I am 13 years old or above and give permission for my audio visual work to be used as part of a digital teaching and learning resource on the WJEC public website.

You must be over 13 to provide consent. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting WJEC on [design@wjec.org.uk](#). Please include the title of the work, the year of assessment, centre name and number, candidate name and the Unit in the communication. The audio-visual work will then be removed from the website.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

AO	Assessment Criteria	Max Mark	Mark Range	Centre Mark	Justification
A01	Identifying and investigating design possibilities	15	15-14 14-13 13-12 12-11 11-10 10-9 9-8 8-7 7-6 6-5 5-4 4-3		
A02	Developing a design brief and specification	15	15-14 14-13 13-12 12-11 11-10 10-9 9-8 8-7 7-6 6-5 5-4 4-3		
A03	Generating and developing design ideas	25	25-23 23-21 21-19 19-17 17-15 15-13 13-11 11-9 9-7 7-5 5-3		
A04	Manufacturing a prototype	25	25-23 23-21 21-19 19-17 17-15 15-13 13-11 11-9 9-7 7-5 5-3		
A05	Analyzing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes	20	20-18 18-16 16-14 14-12 12-10 10-8 8-6 6-4 4-2		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>			

A Level  
Unit 4:  
Marksheet  
(DT4)

**GDPR CONSENT (Completed forms should be kept securely by your centre)**

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATE**  
WJEC may select your audio visual work for use at teacher training events and subsequently upload it onto WJEC's secure website (accessible only to teachers via a secure login). Your name will be removed from your work before we use it. All materials are reviewed regularly and are removed when no longer relevant to our qualifications.

WJEC may select your audio visual work for use in teaching and learning resources published on the WJEC public website. Your name will be removed from your work before we use it. All materials are reviewed regularly and are removed when no longer relevant to our qualifications.

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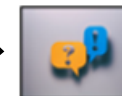
You must be over 13 to provide consent. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting WJEC on [design@wjec.org.uk](#). Please include the title of the work, the year of assessment, centre name and number, candidate name and the Component in the communication. The audio visual work will then be removed from the secure website.

I am 13 years old or above and give permission for my audio visual work to be used as part of a digital teaching and learning resource on the WJEC public website.

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

A Level  
Unit 4: GDPR  
Consent Form  
(DT4A)



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# Key Dates

Available from [Subject Webpage](#)



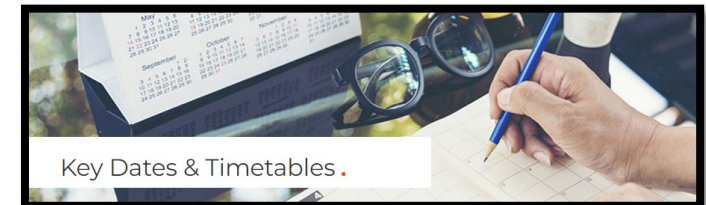
A List of key dates for WJEC GCE AS/A Level Design and Technology is available on the Subject Webpage under Resources > Key Documents > Key Information

Published at the start of each year, this document will give you all the important dates you need to plan for the year ahead.

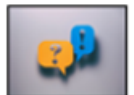
Static Dates:

**21<sup>st</sup> February** - [Entries](#) Deadline

**15<sup>th</sup> May** - Submissions of Marks Deadline for Unit 2 and Unit 4 NEA



For all WJEC Key Dates Click the image above



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# Internal Assessment

Available from [WJEC Website](#)

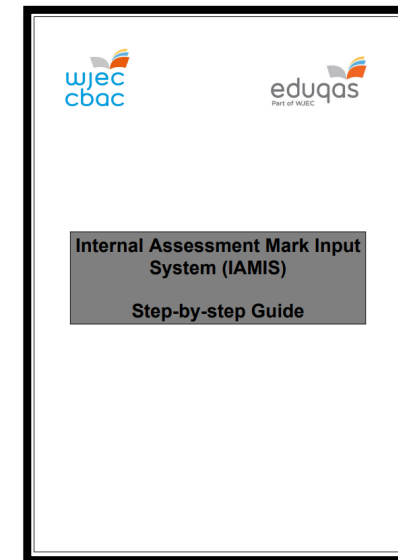
You will need to enter your marks for all your candidates on to the Internal Assessment Mark Input System (IAMIS) via [Portal](#)

Once you have submitted all your marks, the system will automatically generate the sample for you – depending on the size of your cohort, this is usually no more than 10 candidates.

**All candidate work needs to be available in case the moderator requires work outside the sample of 10.**



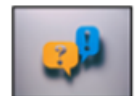
For information and guidance regarding WJEC internally conducted assessments and the submission of internally assessed work, including how to submit marks; how to carry forward marks and where to find moderator reports click on the image above



Take a look at the IAMIS Step-by-step Guide

Entering Candidates' marks – [Page 6](#)

Moderator's reports - [Page 16](#)



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# Sketchbook & Portfolio

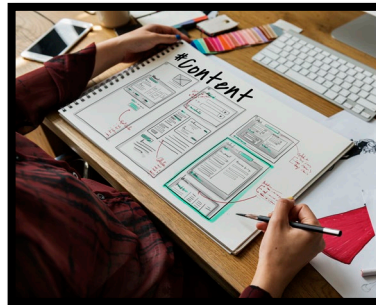
## Writing Frames

are **NOT** allowed – these would be classified as leading the learner.

**NO** prescribed workbook.

Students should use:

- an **informal** sketchbook
- a **formal** portfolio



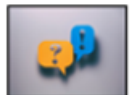
This will encourage an iterative approach to design and development of their work.

## Digital Portfolios

A portfolio **can be** entirely digital if this is appropriate for the work undertaken and enables the student to fully and successfully address all aspects of the Assessment Objectives. Drawing can be included, for example, using a stylus and graphics tablet or by simply scanning hand drawn sketches.

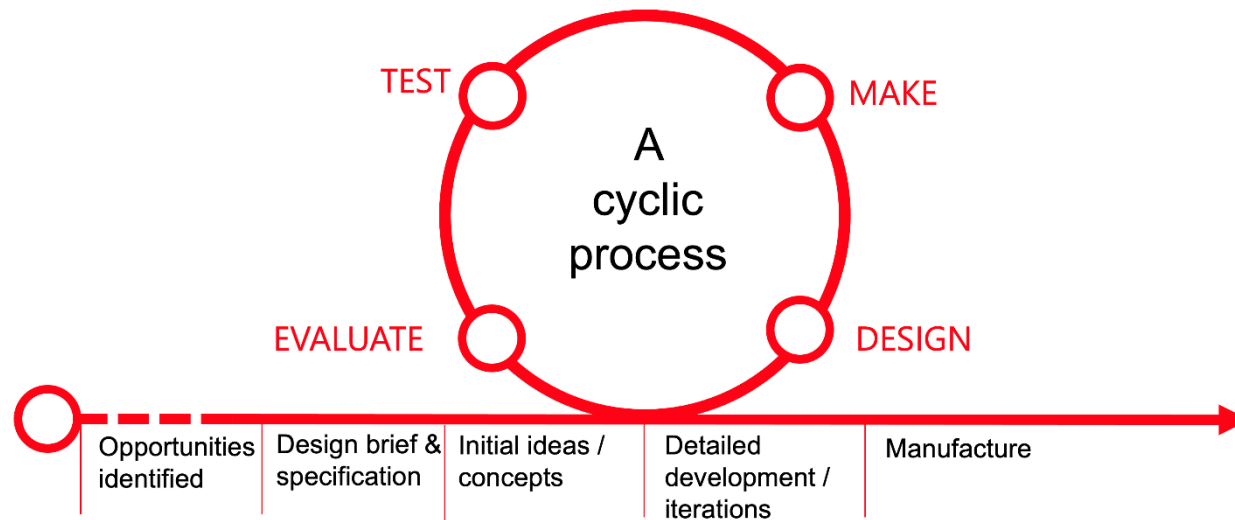
## Paper Size

We are suggesting to you that A4 or A3 paper size should be used. Our recommendation is no more than 20 x A3 (approximately).



# Evidence

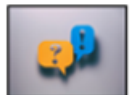
## An iterative design process



## The iterative process is essential.

It is anticipated that centres will be providing evidence on:

- Reviewing contextual challenges,
- reviewing primary/secondary research,
- suggested design briefs,
- final design brief,
- testing,
- initial design ideas,
- refine and development of ideas,
- prototyping,
- evaluative decision making,
- high quality 2D/3D images of proposals,
- planning/ timelines,
- modifications and evaluations,
- final prototype of finished product etc.



# Unit 2 and Unit 4 NEA Assessment

AS Unit 2 and A Level Unit 4 and is internally marked and externally moderated.

A visiting moderator will be assigned to your centre to look at the sample generated by the online mark input system.

A written report with details of the moderation finding will be made available on results day.

For more information about your Moderation visit click the image

AO	Assessment Criteria	AS Unit 2 Max. Mark	A Level Unit 4 Max. Mark
AO1	Identifying and investigating design possibilities	12	15
AO1	Developing a design brief and specification	12	15
AO2	Generating and developing design ideas	20	25
AO2	Manufacturing a prototype	20	25
AO3	Analysing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes	16	20



**MODERATION INFORMATION for Centres**

This leaflet outlines the key steps and expectations for centres preparing for **Design and Technology** moderation of NEA work

**Key Dates & Deadlines**  
**Finalise Entries:** All candidate entries must be finalised by **21st February**.

**Moderator Contact:** Your allocated moderator will contact you by **mid-April** to arrange a moderation visit.

**Confirmation of Visit:** Once a date is agreed, you will receive a confirmation email.

**Sample Generation Deadline:** Generate your sample by  
 ~5th May - GCSE  
 ~15th May - AS/A Level

**During the Visit**  
 Moderators **cannot confirm outcomes** or provide **verbal feedback** during or after the visit.  
 Feedback will be provided via the **Moderator Report**, available on **Results Day**.  
 In rare cases, moderators may need to **take work away** for standardisation.  
 Any removed work will be **returned by the end of the summer term**.

**Preparing for Moderation**  
**Sample Generation:** The moderation sample is **automatically generated** when marks are submitted via the Portal.  
**On the Day of Moderation:** Provide a **printed copy** of the sample list. Include the **full candidate entry in rank order**.  
 Ensure **all candidates**, including those **not in the sample**, have a completed **DT2 mark sheet**:  
 ~Signed by the **candidate**  
 ~Signed by the **teacher**  
 ~Includes **justification comments** referencing specific evidence

**Moderator Attendance**  
 You will be allocated either a **Morning** or **Afternoon** session for your visit.  
 In addition to your moderator, a **Team Leader** or **Principal Moderator** may attend.  
 This is part of **quality control** for our moderators – **not** additional scrutiny of your centre's NEA work.

**Post-Results Services**  
 Post-results services are available to all centres. Please refer to the relevant guidance for details.




# Marking the NEA



## Exemplar:

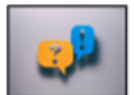
WJEC/Eduqas releases a variety of new and updated resources annually. There are a range of recent exemplar NEAs available via the Portal which will provide detailed support and guidance for teachers when assessing and standardising candidate NEA outcomes.

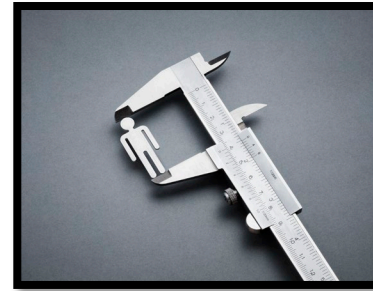
## Annotation:

Annotation through out the work is not necessary. However, there should be a detailed summative comment on the DT2 Marksheet to indicate how the mark has been awarded for each AO.

## Internal Moderation:

If there is more than one teacher teaching the cohort/assessing the NEA, it is pivotal that internal moderation takes place to ensure that the marking standards are the same across the entire group.





# Scale Models and Materials

The Final prototype must be:

- **full sized**
- **fully functioning**
- **high quality**

Scale Models are only allowed where a design proposal is unable to be full size i.e., an architectural style model of a series of affordable housing proposals for economically developing countries. In this instance a scale model would be the most effective means of presenting the outcome.

## Cost & Space

We appreciate cost of materials and the logistics of storing larger projects can be problematic for centres, However the use of scale models and substitute materials should not be used in order to alleviate these problems. Where necessary centres should encourage students to produce smaller products that allow them to produce a full sized, fully functioning, high quality prototype with appropriately selected materials.

Materials should:

- **be selected appropriately for the intended product**
- **not be substituted for alternatives**

Substituting materials can often prevent candidates from testing products effectively, and this can also have a negative impact on accessing assessment criteria. A substitute material should only be used if the original intended material is not available (or cannot be used in a school setting e.g., hazardous chemicals.)

Teaching D&T will inevitably involve sustainability, and the 6Rs. If an 'old' product (obsolete or broken) is disassembled and parts are used as 'donor' components for a 'new' product that the candidate is developing, this is fine. It should be noted that the new product **should not be made exclusively from existing parts**, the candidate should aim to manufacture the product as it is designed, and where appropriate use 'donor' parts or components instead of sourcing identically versions which are new and possibly costly.



# CAD

Candidates should design, develop, test, and refine CAD drawings specifically for NEA project work.

If a kit, CAD drawing or component list is bought-in and assembled, this will not deserve as many marks as a candidate producing their own.

Accessing the assessment criteria is critical, so teachers need to ensure that candidates do not limit the number of opportunities to design, model, test, refine and present their own solutions rather than find existing versions that cannot be credited to the candidate.

Electronic files can be examined by the moderator electronically. There is no need to print copies for the moderator.

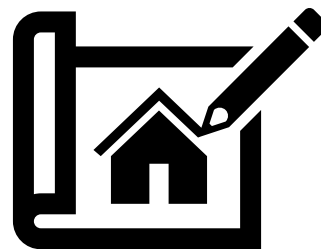
A PowerPoint or Word document showing a series of models can be viewed on screen.

Centres will need to provide the visiting moderator with a temporary account / password to access the work.

It is advised that any electronic work is saved onto a USB drive / memory stick in case moderators need to bring candidate work away from the centre.



# Supervision & Guidance



Design work should be completed under some controlled conditions in lessons in the school workshops, but there is some flexibility where e.g. the candidate could work on NEA at home but is supervised via a Teams, Zoom or similar meeting. This allows you to authenticate the work and sign the declaration to confirm that the work is that of the candidate. This approach can be useful if a learner is away from school as a result of an injury or illness e.g. is on crutches, and can't attend school, but can carry on working on NEAs at home. It would not be an extended approach where a candidate completes all the design work and prototype away from the centre without supervision.

Teacher Guidance is **essential** at the start of the NEA, to ensure that the student does not set a problem that is unachievable in the time limit. You may support the student through the process, but **the key word is 'guidance'**.

The design and make task and the design and make project must be appropriately supervised to ensure that assessors are able to confidently authenticate each learner's work.

Design and make activity should be carried out in the normal design and technology classroom/workshop environment. Learners are allowed supervised access to resources that may include information gathered outside of school/college. Each learner must produce their final prototype or prototypes under 'immediate guidance or supervision'. This means the prototype(s) have to be produced either:

- (i) with the simultaneous physical presence of the learner and the supervisor, **or**
- (ii) remotely by means of simultaneous electronic communication.

In most cases supervision will be of the form described in (i), but in some circumstances, for example if the learner is carrying out a specialist process away from the centre, (ii) may be more appropriate.

The supervising teacher may give learners limited guidance during the design and make project in order to clarify what is to be done and to ensure that safe working practices are followed. However, any guidance given must be taken into account when assessing the work.

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Students are permitted to take their design work home; however, the majority of the work should be done within the school to ensure that the assessor is able to authenticate the work as being the student's own. We suggest that you only allow the students to take home what they are working on and leave the rest of the work in a secure place within the school.

All practical work should be completed within the school or college under the guidance or supervision of the teacher.

**The final prototype should be completed within the school or college and not be allowed to be taken home at any point.**



# Moderation Feedback

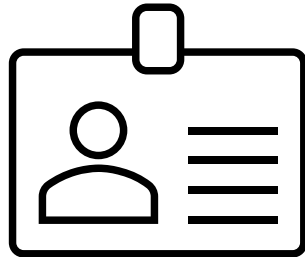
A visiting moderator cannot confirm the centre marks, or any changes to the marks, before the results are published in August.

Centres are provided with a detailed written centre report of the moderation of the NEA work on results day.

Your Moderator's report will be available to download from [Portal](#) – under the Internal Assessment Tab, **on results day**. Your report will only remain on the system until December, so it is important that you download and retain a copy before then.



# The Subject Team



**SUBJECT OFFICER:**

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# Useful Contacts

If you have a Design and Technology query that has not been answered in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact the [Subject Team](#).

Please click on the image below for other useful contacts, such as; [Entries](#) and [CPD](#).

