

Course:	Design Technology, Product design
Specification and code:	EDEXCEL
Exam Board website:	http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/design-technology-product-design-2017.html
Course outline:	<p>The course is made up of two parts which have an equal weighting.</p> <p>The first part is the NEA or coursework which makes up 50% of the course. For this part you will need to identify your own client and design brief and then work through designing and making a product which fore fills the clients requirements.</p> <p>The second part of the course is made up of an exam which makes up the other 50%. This requires students to be aware of different materials, their properties and working characteristic, processes and techniques, digital technologies, factors effecting development, impact of technology, hazards and risks, manufacturing industry, the environment, legislation and information handling and modelling.</p> <p>Recently the exam board has introduced a maths content which requires the students to be aware of percentages, percentiles, ratios, calculate area and volume, trigonometry, construction and use of graphs and data, coordinates and geometry and statistics and probability. 20% of questions in the exam will assess mathematical ability.</p>
Essential Reading:	<p>EDEXCEL A Level Design and Technology, Product design, Attwood, Lambert and Neal, ISBN: 978-0-435757-78-6. This book is extremely useful as it contains all the theory in small sections and has examples of the coursework standard with commentary.</p> <p>Reading through unit 1 will provide a very good grounding also recapping on GCSE knowledge will be helpful.</p> <p>Any higher tier GCSE maths text book, recap on GCSE maths to keep content fresh and understood.</p>
Background reading:	<p>Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology Student Book Or Edexcel GCSE Design and Technology Resistant Materials Student Book They will provide a good grounding in subject knowledge which is built upon at A-Level. NEA guide, https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Design%20and%20Technology%20-%20Product%20Design/2017/Teaching%20and%20learning%20materials/A_level_NEA_Delivery_Guide.pdf Exemplar NEA, https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/design-technology-product-design-2017.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials</p>
Year 2 reading	<p>From the same book, unit 3 includes additional knowledge needed for the exam at the end of the course.</p> <p>Unit 4 provides an example of the NEA (coursework) and is necessary reading to be aware of the standard and where marks area awarded.</p>
Summer Task:	<p>Purchase the book in essential reading, Look on Amazon now as these books will be sold by students competing the A-Level course.</p> <p>1, Start with unit 2, read through the different materials, some you will be familiar with from GCSE but others you won't as they are exclusive to A-Level. Make notes on each of the materials focusing on the properties of each material.</p> <p>2, Pick an existing produce and justify which materials would be most suitable to make this product out of (e.g. could choose a mobile phone, there are many different materials that could be used so you would have to read, understand the materials and then select the most appropriate).</p> <p>3, Start looking for a suitable client that could be used in you're a-Level project, it must be someone who is reliable and won't quit halfway through the project (a grandparent is often best).</p>