

OCR A-Level Design and Technology - Summer Induction Task

Welcome to OCR A-Level Design and Technology at Montsaye Academy!

This summer task is designed to help you start thinking like a designer and builds on your GCSE thinking. You'll explore real-world products, develop your creativity, and begin building technical knowledge in preparation for the course.

Part 1: Product Analysis (Critical Thinking)

Choose a product you use daily (e.g. headphones, reusable water bottle, mobile phone stand).

Task: Write a short report (approx. 500 words) or a presentation (6–8 slides) covering:

- - Product Name and Function
- - Materials Used: What are the main materials? Why were they chosen?
- - Manufacturing Processes: How do you think it was made?
- - Ergonomics and Aesthetics: Is it comfortable, attractive, functional?
- - Sustainability: Is it eco-friendly? How could it be improved?

Include photos or sketches of the product, highlighting key features.

Part 2: Design Challenge (Creative Thinking)

Design a new or improved product for a specific user group (e.g., children, elderly, cyclists, students).

Task:

- - Produce initial sketches of your idea (3+ different concepts)
- - Annotate your designs to explain:
 - • Who it's for
 - • What problem it solves
 - • Materials and sustainability
 - • How it's manufactured
- - Choose your best design and present a more detailed version (with notes on dimensions, materials, usability)

Part 3: Research Task (Material Knowledge)

Research two contrasting materials used in product design. Choose one natural and one synthetic (e.g. oak vs. acrylic).

For each material, include:

- - Properties and characteristics
- - Common uses in Design and Technology
- - Pros and cons (cost, workability, aesthetics, etc.)
- - Sustainability and recycling potential

Present as an A4 fact sheet or mini-poster.

Optional Bonus Task: Designer Case Study

Research a famous designer (e.g. Philippe Starke, Zara Hadid, Patricia Urquiola).

Write a short profile (300–500 words) including:

- - Key products or designs
- - Their design philosophy
- - How they've influenced the modern design world

Deadline:

First lesson back in September. Bring all work (printed or digital) to discuss and present.

Link to Specification: H406 is what we cover

2 exams -

Exam 1 - Principles of Design

Exam 2 - Problem Solving in Design and Technology

1 Non-Examined Assessment

[AS and A Level - Design and Technology - H004-H006, H404-H406](#)