

Product Design



About the Subject

Product Design at St Wilfrid's challenges students' knowledge and understanding of material and process through the examination and tests their creativity, flair and invention through a design and make portfolio.

AS Level covers a wide range of skills and techniques and students are challenged to design and manufacture original, innovative and distinctly diverse products. The examination will cover topics such as: the history of design, specific designers' work, a study of 20th and 21st century products and contemporary manufacturing systems.

A Level requires to students to produce a design portfolio for a brief of their choosing; it encompasses a plethora of skills, techniques and processes, as well as demonstrating a professional grasp of primary research, creative and well-communicated design work and evaluation which is both realistic, reflective and feasible.

Both aspects of the course allow students from all Design and Technology backgrounds to access the content and to share a wide range of different experiences from within the Learning Area.

Course Content

Unit 1 – PROD1 Materials, Components and Application

(50% of AS, 25% of A Level, 2 hour written paper, 80 marks)

Based primarily on Materials and Components and consisting of three sections: Section 1 contains compulsory limited response questions, Section 2 offers a choice of one question from two, Section 3 contains one compulsory design question.

Unit 2 – PROD2 Learning Through Designing and Making

(50% of AS, 25% of A Level, Coursework – approx. 50 hours, 80 marks)

Written (or electronic) design portfolio; Manufactured outcome(s); Coursework is a series of small tasks and a portfolio of work; June only; A2 Examinations.

Unit 3 – PROD3 Design and Manufacture

(25% of A Level, 2 hour written paper, 84 marks)

Based primarily on Design and Manufacture and consisting of two sections. Candidates answer three questions: one question from three in each section, plus a final question from either section. Includes synoptic assessment.

Unit 4 – PROD4 Design and Making Practice

(25% of A Level, Coursework – approximately 60 hours, 85 marks)

Written (or electronic) design folder; Manufactured outcome; Candidates submit evidence of a single, substantial 'designing and making' activity; Available June only.

Entry Requirements

5 A* - C GCSE grades which include a B in Product Design (or another Design Technology subject, or art) and ideally a B in English.

Career Paths

Opportunities in this career area are expanding, with employers increasingly looking for skills, not only in design and production management, but also business and technical skills, as well as a knowledge of international business.

Typical employers in this sector can include some of the major Engineering, Graphic Design and Architectural companies, small and medium-sized businesses, with self-employment and freelance work extremely popular. The larger companies may offer work placements or internships, as well as graduate schemes. Relevant work experience and the building up of contacts in the sector are essential.

Watch our Video

At vimeo.com/110886404 or scan this QR code:

