Key Stage 4.

**The Iterative Design Process**

We advocate the iterative design process developed by the Technology Research Unit at Goldsmiths College in the early 90s as a model for schools.

Iterative design is a design methodology based on a cyclic process of prototyping, testing, analyzing, and refining a product or process. Based on the results of testing the most recent iteration of a design, changes and refinements are made.

Pupils will use this approach to learning to build up skills and knowledge in preparation for GCSE examination and in submission of their NEA.

Current Specifications are still in draft proposal. Outlined below is the recommendation for assessment from AQA.

**What's assessed**

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

**How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

**Questions**

**Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)**

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

**Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)**

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

**Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)**
A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12 mark design question.

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<th>Non-exam assessment (NEA)</th>
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**What's assessed**

Practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

**How it's assessed**

- Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approximately
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

**Task(s)**

- Substantial design and make task
- Assessment criteria:
  - Investigating
  - Designing
  - Making
  - Analysing and Evaluating
- In the spirit of the iterative design process, the above should be awarded holistically where they take place and not in a linear manner
- Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA
- Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages)