Your notes

GCSE Design and Technology: revision notes

The NEA design and make task

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The NEA at a glance

- The non-exam assessment (NEA) is a design and make project worth 50% of the GCSE. The written exam is the other 50%.
- It takes about 30 to 35 hours. AQA releases **contexts** in June of the year before; you choose one and find a problem to solve.
- It is marked out of 100 across six areas: identifying and investigating design possibilities (10), producing a design brief and specification (10), generating design ideas (20), developing design ideas (20), realising design ideas (20), and analysing and evaluating (20).

Doing well in each stage

- Investigate: research the **context** and a real user; use primary research and analyse existing products.
- Brief and specification: write a clear brief and a specification of measurable points.
- Generate: sketch a wide range of different ideas, using different strategies, and get **client** feedback.
- Develop: model and test ideas, refine them with feedback, and produce accurate final drawings.
- Realise: make a high-quality prototype, using suitable tools and processes safely and accurately.
- Analyse and evaluate: test the prototype against the specification throughout, and suggest improvements.

Presenting the portfolio

- The **portfolio** is usually about 20 A3 pages (or digital equivalent). Keep it concise, with photos, sketches and annotation.

- Show your thinking and decisions at every stage, including why you rejected ideas.

Key terms

NEA	Non-exam assessment: the design and make project.
Context	The broad theme set by the exam board for the NEA.
Portfolio	The collection of work that shows the design process.
Realisation	Making the final prototype.
Client	The person the product is designed for.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. How much of AQA GCSE Design and Technology is the NEA worth?
2. About how long should the NEA take?
3. Who sets the contexts for the NEA?
4. How many marks are there for the whole NEA?
5. What should you do at the generating ideas stage?
6. What should specification points be?
7. When should you test your prototype against the specification?
8. About how many A3 pages is a typical portfolio?

Answers

1. 50%
2. 30 to 35 hours
3. The exam board
4. 100
5. Sketch a wide range of different ideas
6. Measurable
7. Throughout the project
8. About 20

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.

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