Your notes

GCSE Design and Technology: revision notes

Sources, origins and stock forms

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Where materials come from

- Paper and board: made from wood pulp from trees, or from recycled paper.
- Timber: hardwoods from deciduous forests, often in slow-growing tropical regions; softwoods from faster-growing coniferous forests, often managed and replanted.
- Metals: extracted from ores dug from the ground, then refined using heat and energy.
- Polymers: most are made from **crude oil**, a finite resource; some are made from plants (bioplastics).
- Textiles: natural fibres from plants (cotton, linen) and animals (wool, silk); synthetic fibres from **crude oil** (polyester, nylon).

Stock forms, types and sizes

- Paper and board are sold in standard sizes (A4, A3), by weight in grams per square metre (gsm) and board thickness in **microns**.
- Timber: planks, boards, strips, squares and **dowel** (round rods); sawn or planed.
- Metals: sheet, plate, bar, rod, tube and angle sections.
- Polymers: sheets, rods, tubes, granules and powders (for moulding).
- Textiles: fabric sold by the metre from rolls (bolts), in set widths.
- Standard components: screws, nuts and bolts, hinges, catches, zips and buttons in standard sizes.

Why stock forms matter

- Choosing a standard **stock form** reduces waste and cost, because it can be bought ready-sized.
- Designers should plan products around standard sizes where possible, such as a box that fits on an A3 sheet.

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Key terms

Stock form	The standard shape and size a material is sold in.
gsm	Grams per square metre: the weight of paper.
Micron	A thousandth of a millimetre: used for board thickness.
Dowel	A round rod of timber.
Ore	Rock containing a metal.
Crude oil	A finite fossil fuel from which most polymers are made.

Quick questions

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

1. What are most polymers made from?
2. What is paper made from?
3. What does gsm measure?
4. What is dowel?
5. How are metals obtained?
6. Why is using standard stock forms useful?
7. How is fabric usually sold?
8. Which stock form are polymers supplied in for moulding?

Answers

1. Crude oil
2. Wood pulp or recycled paper
3. The weight of paper
4. A round rod of timber
5. Extracted from ores and refined
6. It reduces waste and cost
7. By the metre from a roll
8. Granules and powders

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

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