AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design -

Three Dimensional Design

Why is the study of GCSE three dimensional design important?

The study of three-dimensional design is fundamentally important because it bridges the gap between abstract ideas and tangible reality. Unlike two-dimensional design, which focuses on flat surfaces, 3D design requires a deep understanding of form, space, and structure. It teaches students to think about how objects exist in the real world—how they are constructed, how they function, and how they interact with their environment and with people. This way of thinking is crucial for a wide range of fields, from product design and architecture to engineering and visual effects. By engaging with 3D design, students learn to visualize complex concepts and translate them into physical or digital models, gaining invaluable problem-solving skills along the way.

Furthermore, three-dimensional design is at the forefront of modern communication and technology. In a world increasingly reliant on digital media, the ability to create and manipulate 3D models is a highly sought-after skill. It enhances communication between designers, engineers, and clients by providing a realistic and detailed representation of a final product, making it easier to identify and resolve potential issues early in the development cycle. This not only saves time and money but also fosters greater collaboration and innovation.

Finally, 3D design is a powerful tool for creative expression and storytelling. It allows designers to add visual depth and realism to their work, creating immersive and engaging experiences for the viewer. Whether it's designing a product or visualizing an architectural space, 3D design provides a medium to convey a powerful narrative. It encourages students to experiment with different forms, textures, and materials, expanding their aesthetic vocabulary and pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Ultimately, the study of three-dimensional design is important because it equips students with the technical, conceptual, and creative skills needed to shape the world around them.

What skills will the study of GCSE three dimensional design teach you?

The skills you will learn through three dimensional design include:

- How to use and adjust equipment and machinery depending on the task.
- Investigating & researching the work of artists, linking to their own work and taking influence.
- Experiment with a wide range of ideas, sculptural techniques & processes.
- How to critically analyse other's & your own work effectively and understand or develop a personal meaning.
- To develop creative ideas and progress these into a personal outcome.

What will you know and understand from your study of GCSE three dimensional design?

- How to operate and utilise equipment and machinery
- How to research other artists and influences effectively.
- How to critically analyse your own & others work.
- How to respond creatively to other influences to develop your own processes & ideas.
- How to experiment with a wide range of materials and physical techniques to create your own responses (be it with wood, acrylic, clay etc).
- How to develop a creative, final response.
- How to evaluate your own creative journey.

How can you deepen your understanding of GCSE three dimensional design?

To deepen your understanding of GCSE Three-Dimensional Design, you must actively engage with the subject beyond the required coursework. This includes taking an interest in the wider world of art, design, and architecture that surrounds you every day. Seeking out opportunities for extra-curricular enrichment is a key way to do this. You can participate in after-school clubs and workshops that allow you to experiment with new materials and techniques. These sessions provide a chance to work on personal projects, share ideas with peers from other year groups, and receive constructive critique to refine your skills and creative vision.

Exhibiting your work is another crucial way to deepen your understanding of 3D design. Displaying your pieces within the academy gives you a chance to see your work in a professional context and consider how it is viewed by an audience.

How are you assessed in GCSE three dimensional design?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars©. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Photography curriculum.

Three dimensional design is assessed through a range of internal and external assessment. The coursework portfolio element is worth 60% of the final GCSE mark & must contain at least 2 units of work (projects). A final project, set by the Exam Board, is worth the remaining 40%. All work is finally assessed at the end of the course and externally moderated .

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key assessment objectives in three dimensional design are

AO1 – Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

AO2 – Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

How can three dimensional design support your future?

There are a wide range of creative, design and technology & art based courses offered post-GCSE students at colleges and sixth forms. Due to three dimensional design being a wide ranging curriculum this allows for many avenues to be explored into higher and further education. There are a vast range of courses offered at university that target design, construction & creative processes.

Study of three dimensional design can lead to a wide range of careers:

- Secondary School Teacher
- Jeweller
- Fashion designer
- Furniture maker
- Architect
- Set design (for theatre or film)
- Graphic designer
- Sculptor
- Interior designer
- Product designer
- Farrier
- Engineering model maker
- Game designer
- Design and draughting technician
- Plumber
- Carpenter
- Mechanic

GCSE Three dimensional design Course Overview		
Term	**Year 1**	**Year 2**
Autumn 1	Course introduction & safety. Using maquettes and small scale models to develop ideas	Finalising the Sustained Project
Autumn 2	Introduction of The Natural World (Project 1) 'Organic/Geometric' (Developing a Personal Response).	Portfolio Curation & 'Best of' Selection Preparation for the Externally Set Assignment
Spring 1	Project 2: 'The Portrait' in 3D (Introduction to Clay & Plaster)	External Exam paper. Unpacking the theme
Spring 2	**Project 3: 'Functional Object'**	External Exam paper. Investigation and Experimentation
Summer 1	**Sustained Project: Student Choice (Leading into Component 1 Portfolio)**	External Exam paper. Development & Refinement & planning for the 10 hour controlled assessment
Summer 2	**Portfolio Building & Review**	Internal assessment & External moderation. Students produce a response to a live brief or competition for personal pleasure & development.