

# Qualification Description

## T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design

T Levels are new qualifications that will follow GCSEs and are equivalent to three A Levels. The T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design will start in September 2024.

T Levels will combine classroom theory and practical learning, and are made up of the following:

- Technical Qualification: the substantial component of your course.
- Industry placement: of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days) with an employer to make sure you have authentic experience of the workplace.

The Technical Qualification (TQ) is the main classroom-based element of the T Level. During your two-year course, you will learn the core knowledge that underpins the sector, and you will also develop occupationally specific skills that will allow you to enter skilled employment within a specific occupation.

## What is the Craft and Design sector?

The Craft sector contributes approximately £3.4 billion to the UK economy providing goods and services relating to jewellery, textiles, furniture and ceramics. There are an estimated 11,620 UK crafts businesses, employing around 150,000 people. Approximately 88% of craft businesses in the UK are sole traders, and craft workers are employed by businesses both within and outside of the creative industries. The UK's craft sector supports trade and commerce around the world with over £5bn of exports annually. Craft services are essential to the UK's future as a global, outward-looking, free-trading nation.

The Design sector in the UK is responsible for an estimated £3.949 bn of Gross Value Added (GVA) with approximately 163,000 design and designer fashion jobs in the creative industries. Including all design roles both within and outside of creative industries, the design economy contributes approximately £71.7bn in GVA. According to the Design Council's report on 'The Design Economy' the contribution of design to the total export of goods and services from the UK is £34bn, equivalent to 7.3 per cent of total UK exports.

## Who is this Technical Qualification for?

This Technical Qualification can only be taken as part of a T Level course and is not available as a stand-alone qualification. It is for post-16 students and is ideal if you are intending to progress directly to an apprenticeship/employment within the Craft and Design sector in areas such as Craft Assistant (ceramic designer/maker), Bespoke Furniture Maker (designer/maker/restorer), Garment Maker (wardrobe assistant/fashion design assistant/dressmaker/tailor), Jewellery and Silversmithing (jewellery designer/maker), Textile/interior designer. Or wish to study further in higher education.

Employers vary within the profession; from small craft employers and individuals to larger design firms linked to manufacturing. All careers in Craft and Design require good communication skills, creative ideation and practical making skills, time management, attention to detail and the ability to collaborate to meet client needs.

## What does the Technical Qualification cover?

The content is split into a core component that has been created for this T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design and a choice of one of four occupational specialisms. The specialisms are:

- **Jewellery Maker**
- **Ceramics Maker**
- **Furniture Maker**
- **Textiles and Fashion Maker.**

The core component provides a broad understanding of the creative industry and covers the following topics:

- The creative economy
- The individual in the creative industries
- Cultural context and vocabulary
- Audience
- Legislation/regulations
- Professionalism and ethics
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Research skills

- Project methodology and administration
- Continued professional development.

The core component will be assessed by two exams and an employer set project.

Your choice of occupational specialism will allow you to develop the relevant skills in preparation for your career in the craft and design sector. The occupational specialism is assessed by a project that is created in conjunction with employers. The content covers topics specific to that aspect of the craft and design sector, as follows:

### **Jewellery Maker**

- Creative propositions and briefs
- Creative product development
- Design processes
- Materials, tools, processes, and techniques

### **Ceramics Maker**

- Creative propositions and briefs
- Creative product development
- Design processes
- Materials, tools, processes, and techniques

### **Furniture Maker**

- Creative propositions and briefs
- Creative product development
- Design processes
- Materials, tools, processes, and techniques

### **Textiles and Fashion Maker**

- Creative propositions and briefs
- Creative product development
- Design processes
- Materials, tools, processes, and techniques

As part of this Technical Qualification, you will also enhance your broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be valuable in supporting progression in other areas. In addition, you will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication, collaboration (working with colleagues), research and project work, providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your reflective learning and identifying improvements.

## What could this Technical Qualification lead to?

Achieving this Technical Qualification will provide several progression options. These could include:

### Skilled employment:

[Roles will be added after consultation with employers from the sector].

### Degree related programmes:

- BA in Ceramic Design
- BA in Pattern and Garment Technology
- BA in Product and Furniture Design
- BA in Jewellery and Silversmithing
- BA in Fashion Design
- BA in Fashion Textiles
- BA in Interior Design
- BA in Design Crafts
- BA in Textiles

Like many degree programmes, there are a spectrum of entry requirements for each of the above, so be prepared to show a portfolio or speak about your experience. When it comes to soft skills, you'll want to show curiosity, a natural flair, creativity, consistency, patience, and drive.

## Who supports this Technical Qualification?

This Technical Qualification has been developed in collaboration with several employers:

[Stakeholders to be added when finalised].

## Further information

Further information about this Technical Qualification can be accessed at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/t-levels.html>

The T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design will be approved and managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Pearson is currently authorised by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to design and deliver the Technical Qualification.

For further information on the other components please see the [DfE website](#).

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