



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Project 4 Preparation Booklet

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to guide your investigation into sustainable design and prepare you for your upcycling project. You will explore key concepts, analyse the work of designers, develop your own ideas, and plan creative, sustainable outcomes.

Use this booklet to document your research, observations, design thinking, and experimentation. Everything you record will support your GCSE assessment.

TOP TIP: Keep this booklet neat, creative, and well-annotated. Use colour, diagrams, and thoughtful presentation. Every part of this will contribute to your final grade.

SECTION 1: UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations

Task 1: What is Sustainable Design?

Define sustainable design in your own words. Include key themes such as:

- Environmental impact
- Use of recycled/upcycled materials
- Lifespan and functionality
- Ethical production



Task 1: What is Sustainable Design?

Sustainable design is...

Keywords

- Environmental impact
- Use of recycled/upcycled materials
- Lifespan and functionality
- Ethical production



Task 2: The 6 Rs of Sustainability

Research and explain the 6 Rs:

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Rethink

Refuse

Repair

For each, give an example from a product or designer.



Task 2: The 6 Rs of Sustainability

Reduce:

Reuse:

Recycle:



Task 2: The 6 Rs of Sustainability

Rethink:

Refuse:

Repair:



Task 3: Case Study - Designers and Artists

Research 2 or 3 designers or artists who use sustainable or upcycled materials in their work (e.g. Bethan Gray, Max Lamb, Stuart Haygarth).

- **Name and Background**
 - Full name of the designer/artist
 - Nationality, time period, and design discipline (e.g. furniture designer, sculptor, product designer)
 - Any key personal context (e.g. environmental focus, cultural influences)
- **Key Works**
 - Select 1 to 3 significant works
 - Include high-quality images
 - Title, date, materials used, size
- **Annotation and Analysis (for each key work, answer:)**
 - What materials have been used? Are they recycled, reused, or sustainably sourced?
 - What techniques or processes are involved?
 - What is the function or message? (E.g. social commentary, functional product, sculptural form)
 - How does it demonstrate sustainable thinking or upcycling?
 - How is it aesthetically designed? (form, colour, texture, contrast, etc.)
- **Links to the project**
 - What aspects do you find inspiring or useful?
 - How has this designer influenced your ideas?
 - Can you incorporate a similar material, technique, or design approach in your own upcycling project?
- **Personal Response**
 - Do you like the work? Why or why not?
 - Is it effective as a piece of sustainable design?
 - How would you improve or adapt it?
- Compare two designers to show contrast in their approach to sustainability
- Create a small 3D response or sketch based on one of the works



Task 3: Case Study 1



Task 3: Case Study 2



SECTION 2: COLLECTING PRIMARY & SECONDARY RESEARCH

AO1 / AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights

Task 4: Investigating Materials

Collect samples, photographs, or drawings of waste and discarded materials around you (home, school, local environment).

Label each with type, source, and potential use in design



Task 5: Sustainability in Everyday Objects

Choose 3 objects you use daily.

Photograph or sketch them

Evaluate how sustainable they are (materials, lifespan, disposal, alternatives)



Task 6: Upcycling Inspiration Board

Create an inspiration board of images, textures, colours and forms that inspire you to create something new from old materials.



