

A Level Art & Design: Three-Dimensional Design

Year 12 Bridging Task | AQA Specification

Submission: First lesson in September | Format: Physical or digital portfolio

Welcome to A Level Three-Dimensional Design

This bridging task is designed to help you arrive in September with a head start. Rather than just collecting images, we want you to explore, question, and respond. A Level 3D Design is about developing a personal design voice — and that begins now.

The task has three connected stages: Research → Investigation → Personal Response. Work through them in order.

SKILLS DEVELOPED	COMPULSORY TASK
Research & investigation Critical analysis Visual communication 3D model-making Personal design response Written evaluation Independent study habits	Investigate a Designer: Isamu Noguchi Explore the life and work of Japanese-American sculptor and designer Isamu Noguchi. Produce a research and personal response portfolio. Stage 1 – Research - Who is Isamu Noguchi? Key dates, background and influences. - Collect 6–10 images of his sculptures, furniture, and lighting design. - Identify recurring themes: organic form, negative space, balance, material contrast. - Research ONE specific piece in depth (e.g. Akari Light Sculptures or the Noguchi Table). Stage 2 – Investigation - Visit a gallery, sculpture park, or museum and sketch objects in 3D (photograph your sketches). - Find 2 contemporary designers inspired by Noguchi — who are they and what connects them? - Write 150–200 words analysing how Noguchi bridges art and functional design. Stage 3 – Personal Response Design and make a small-scale 3D model (card, wire, foam, clay) inspired by Noguchi's principles — not a copy of his work. Annotate your model: what decisions did you make and why? Write a 100-word personal statement: what does your piece say about you as a designer?
💡 Top Tips for Success - Keep everything — rough sketches, torn-out magazine images, printouts, written notes. Your process is as important as the outcome. - Photograph your model-making at every stage, not just when it is finished. - Quality over quantity: two thoughtful, annotated pages will impress far more than ten pages of unanalysed images. - Your personal statement should sound like YOU. Write honestly about what draws you to this subject and what kind of designer you want to become.	

Assessment & Submission

Outcome

Assessment

Submission Date

- Physical portfolio sketchbook OR neatly organised digital PDF portfolio
- Your 3D model (brought into your first lesson)

Your work will be assessed on:

- Depth and quality of research and annotation
- Evidence of genuine personal response and creative risk-taking
- Quality of 3D model-making and design thinking
- Written communication: your analysis and personal statement

Submission: First lesson in September to your class teacher.

Useful Starting Points

Designers & Artists to explore:

- Isamu Noguchi – noguchi.org (The Noguchi Museum website)
- Ron Arad, Marc Newson, Zaha Hadid Architects (furniture and product design)
- Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore (sculptural form and space)
- Studio Swine, Joris Laarman Lab (material innovation)

Places to visit (if possible):

- V&A Museum, London — Furniture and Design galleries
- Design Museum, London — permanent collection
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park — outdoor 3D works in landscape
- Any local museum with decorative art, ceramics, or sculpture collections

Useful search terms:

"organic modernism", "wabi-sabi design", "negative space sculpture", "biomorphic form", "material honesty design"

Remember: the purpose of this task is to spark curiosity and develop your personal design voice. There are no wrong answers — only unexplored ones.

Here are some alternatives to look at

Product & Furniture Designers

- **Zaha Hadid** — parametric form, flowing geometry, challenging conventional structure
- **Ron Arad** — experimental fabrication, steel and form, industrial meets artistic
- **Barbara Hepworth** — pierced forms, negative space, relationship between sculpture and landscape