

2026 GCSE Mini Non-Examined Assessment (NEA).

Throughout this NEA remember to use the DT Keywords (below), compare to your specification, highlight problems and ask for user feedback on each sheet.

ACCESS FM = Aesthetics, Cost, Customer (USER), Environment, Size, Safety, Function, Materials + Ergonomics

Section marks	Lesson no.	Sheet no.	Page title	What do I need to do?
5 marks	1	1	Inspiration board	Gather images of similar products currently used to solve the problem you are looking at. USER FEEDBACK
	HMK1	2	User Profile / User, wants, needs and values.	Facts about your users – include their Demographic, profession/job, likes, dislikes, hobbies. You must write a conclusion that states their wants, needs and values AND WHY THE CONTEXT FITS THEIR NEEDS.
			Research – Locations	This sheet needs to demonstrate you understand the context and the problem you are looking at. Show details of how the problem is currently dealt with. List problems you have found. User feedback would give you bonus marks. Does your user agree with the points you have made?
	2/3	3	Product Analysis	Look at a few products that are currently used to solve your problem. Using the DT keywords research an existing product and evaluate how successful the product is. Again, bonus marks for also looking at problems the product has and asking your users opinion. Look at real customer reviews.
5 Marks	HMK2	4	Photos and sizes of products	This sheet needs to demonstrate what products your user wants to store/organise and the overall sizes of each item . This will greatly help your decision making when designing your initial ideas.
	4/5	5	Design Brief & Specification with user feedback	Write the Design brief that you believe best fits what your user wants. Using all the DT keywords, ACCESSFM + E write a specification with testing. Once completed, you must show your user and gain feedback in purple.
15 Marks	6/7	6	Design Ideas	Quick sketches on one page. You need to add annotations to explain features. Against each design in red and green pen, rate to see if these first ideas match your specification. Add USER FEEDBACK and IMPROVEMENTS
	8/9	7	Idea Development	Using the views of your user, refine your idea to a final idea, annotate with possible materials, joining methods as well as dimensions. USER FEEDBACK
	10-13	8	Iteration 1 – Card model	A ‘rough and ready’ model, made to scale with annotations commenting on if the iteration matches your specification points, USER FEEDBACK and IMPROVEMENTS. Take testing photos.
	HMK3	9	Iteration 2 - AI	Using deepai, copilot and other AI design websites, upload photos of sketches or your model, along with a detailed prompt, to generate further modifications. Add annotations commenting on if the iteration matches your specification points, USER FEEDBACK and IMPROVEMENTS
	14-16	10	Sketch up	To scale create a SketchUp model - add features, materials and colours. Ensure you use groups and create the model like you would ‘manufacture it’. Take a screen shot of your final design label the views. Bonus marks come here for showing your product being used/in context. Items placed in the product to show it is the correct size. USER FEEDBACK and IMPROVEMENTS. Compare to specification.
	17	11	Exploded engineering view	Using SketchUp, explode your product to show its individual parts and how it will be manufactured. Add dimensions and an overview of Materials, Finishes and Manufacturing techniques.
15 Marks	HMK4	12	Sketch up step by step production plan	Step-by-step guide to making the actual product. Must include all tools, processes and equipment and estimated times for each stage as well as Health and safety information.
	18-27	13	Making	Make a high quality, accurate product that meets your users’ requirements.
10 Marks	28-30	14	Testing & User feedback	Take photos of your product being used, gain user feedback- refer back to spec points & have you met your design brief?
		15	Evaluation against spec points	Does it meet your specifications ? How do you know (testing) User feedback ? Is it the correct size? Does it do its job?
		16	Modification sheet	What would you change ? WHY ? Design a new product- either sketch or use sketch up