

### How to write a Design Specification

Analyse your research and summarise in a **bullet point list** below. Once you have analysed your research findings you will have a clearer idea about the product you want to design and make.

Use your research findings to write your design specification. Your Design Specification should give details of the products **form, function, user** and **costs**. Use the boxes and questions below to help describe your product.

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Research findings</b> | <b>Form</b><br>What will it look like?<br>What materials will you use?<br>What size will it be?<br>What are its special features?                                                       |  |
|                          | <b>Function</b><br>What is the type and purpose of the product?<br>What will it do?<br>How will it do this?                                                                             |  |
|                          | <b>User</b><br>Who is the product for?<br>What do they want this product to do?<br>Where/why will they use it?<br>What do they want the product to look like?                           |  |
|                          | <b>Costs</b><br>How much would the product cost to manufacture?<br>How much would it be sold for?<br>How much profit would be made on each product?<br>What is the scale of production? |  |

**TURN OVER TO SEE EXAMPLE**

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The example given below is for a textile product, but this format can be used for any product.

When analysing your research determine whether a point is a necessity or not by using words such as **must**, **could** and **should**.

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| <b>Research findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It <b>must</b> have a range of different sized pockets to carry a range of equipment</li> <li>It should help the student to organise the content of their bag and help them to select the correct equipment for their lessons</li> <li>It <b>should</b> be in a primary colour as this was a popular choice with the target market</li> <li>It <b>could</b> have two different length handles so that it can be held close to the shoulder or low at the waist</li> <li>It <b>should</b> be made using natural fibres and dyes so that it causes minimum damage to the environment</li> <li>It <b>must</b> be able to be used to carry school books and equipment to school</li> <li>It <b>could</b> be made using the school colours</li> <li>It <b>should</b> be easy to clean and maintain for at least one year</li> <li>It <b>should</b> be strong and durable and last for at least one year</li> <li>It <b>should</b> not cost more and £7 dollars to manufacture</li> <li>It <b>should</b> be sold for between £15 and £20</li> <li>It <b>must</b> be easily batch produced in batches of 500</li> <li>It <b>should</b> only use basic fastenings such as zips and clasps</li> <li>It <b>could</b> be embroidered with the students name</li> <li>It <b>should</b> have an identity tag attached or be clear to see who owns the bag</li> <li>It <b>should</b> be made using a heave/thick fabric to ensure that it keeps its appearance</li> <li>The fabric <b>must</b> be woven to add strength and minimise stretch</li> </ul> | <b>Form</b><br>What will it look like?<br>What materials will you use?<br>What size will it be?<br>What are its special features?                                                       | The bag will be made using a heavy woven natural fabric. The fabric will be in a range of colours, using the BIS colours of red, blue and white. The bag will be large enough to hold an A3 sketchbook or technology folder (300mm X 425mm) along with other text books and notebooks. It will have two separate compartments inside the main body to organise different books and have a range of pockets to hold wallet, calculator, mobile phone, i-pod, pencil case and other loose items. The bag strap will be adjustable to allow the wearer to change how it is held. The bag will be embroidered with the owner's initials. There will be a clear pocket on the front for the student timetable/equipment list to help students organise their bag. |
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