

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

By the end of this worksheet I can...

- ☐ explain the role of a specification in the design process
- ☐ write specific specification points from a brief and research
- ☐ describe the purpose and contents of a product design specification
- ☐ describe the purpose and contents of a performance specification
- ☐ describe the purpose and contents of a technical specification

I DO

Worked example Read how a full-mark answer is built

1 Describe the purpose of a product design specification and a technical specification, giving an example of the information found in each. (4 marks)

Full-mark answer each ✓ is one mark

A product design specification sets out the parameters the design must meet and is used to evaluate decisions during development ✓, for example the target market and maximum retail price ✓. A technical specification is written after the design is finalised and gives the detail needed to manufacture it ✓, for example the materials, tolerances and assembly methods ✓.

Why marks are not awarded

"A PDS is a list of what the product needs. A technical spec is the technical details."

1 mark: the purposes are vague and no examples are given.

WE DO

Guided practice Use the starters and word bank to help you

2 Describe the purpose of a performance specification and give two examples of what it contains. (3 marks)

Sentence starters

One ... is ..., which means ...

Another ... is ..., so ...

Also, ... because ...

Word bank

states · standards · without · legislation ·

perform · designed · requirements · saying

Tip: 3 marks = 3 separate, developed points.

YOU DO

On your own No notes. Check your answers afterwards.

3 Quick check: tick one box for each.

a) Which is the strongest specification point?

- ☐ It must be safe for everyone to use ☐ It should look attractive to the target market ☐ It must be durable enough to last a long time ☐ It must fit a 40 mm diameter water bottle

b) "Must comply with BS EN 71 toy safety standards" belongs mainly in which specification?

- ☐ Technical ☐ Brief ☐ Performance ☐ Cutting list

c) Which specification is produced AFTER the product has been designed and tested?

- ☐ Product design ☐ Technical ☐ Performance ☐ Design brief

d) Which is most likely in a technical specification?

- ☐ Target market profile of 13–16 year olds ☐ It must appeal strongly to teenagers ☐ A retail price of under £20 in the shops ☐ Wall thickness of 2.5 mm in ABS

4 Key terms: write the letter of the matching description next to each term.

1. Where does specification information come from?	_____	A The design brief and the results of research.
2. Why is a specification important to a designer?	_____	B It sets clear boundaries, gives direction, and is used to evaluate ideas against the client and user needs.
3. Performance specification	_____	C States the performance the product must meet without saying how: standards, legislation, sustainability, guarantees.

5 Explain what is meant by 'Product design specification'. (2 marks)

6 Explain what is meant by 'Technical specification'. (2 marks)

Check and reflect

Mark your answers with the answer sheet. Go back to the checklist on the site and re-rate each “I can” statement above. Which one still needs work?
