Designers evaluate their finished products or prototypes in order to test whether they work well and if the design can be corrected or improved. Whatever you have designed it is important to evaluate your work constantly during the project.

Evaluation can take a variety of forms:

 General discussion with other pupils, staff and others.

Questionnaires / surveys carried out at any time during the project.

Your personal views, what you think of existing designs.

Most important of all - what do you think of your designs, prototypes and finished products ?

Can you think of any other ways of evaluating your work ?

 CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHEN WRITING YOUR FINAL EVALUATION

 1. What do you think of the overall design ? What changes would you make ?

2. Are you happy with the materials you chose ? Would you make adjustments next time ?

3. Is the colour scheme exactly what you expected ? What alterations would you make ?

4. Did the project take too long to make ? Would this alter the cost of manufacture ?

5. Would it be easy to set up a production line for the manufacture of your solution ?

6. Is your solution safe ? Could it be made safer ?

7. Are the techniques you used to make your solution adequate or would you use a different range of manufacturing techniques ?

8. Is the solution the right size/shape ?

9. What are the views of other people regarding your design ?

10. Does it work ? What changes are required ?

The final evaluation is often neglected because it is the last part to any design and make project. Do not make the mistake of completing it quickly or not doing it at all. The final evaluation is usually quite easy to write and counts for a high proportion of the marks.

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| **KEY WORDS AND PHRASES EXPLAINED** |
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| POTENTIAL CUSTOMERA person who is likely to buy your product. Who do you think is likely to want your product?OVERALL QUALITYWe have all picked up a product in a shop and decided straightaway that it is cheap and nasty.WHAT IS OVERALL QUALITY?The product looks right.It is sold at what we think is the right price.If we can pick it up - it should have a quality feel.It should be safe.The colour is right.AESTHETICSThe product looks stylish and modern.The shape flows and looks well designed.The colours and shade complement each other.DOES IT WORK?What is the products function or functions?Does the product do what it is supposed to do?Does it work 100%?Could additional functions be added?FINISHThe materials are smooth and there are no rough edges. All scratches have been removed and the materials are polished. If paint or varnish has been applied they have been brushed or sprayed on with great care.If screws or nails/pins have been used they do not stand out of the material.The materials may have been deliberately left in a natural state.MATERIALSHave quality materials been used to make the product?Have cheap materials been used?Do the materials feel like quality materials?What are the names of the materials?Would you choose better materials?Is there any damage to the materials?SHAPE AND FORMThe various shapes should flow and follow smooth lines.The shape of the various parts should complement each other.The product should look balanced.The shape and form may reflect the function of the productCOSTHow much did the product cost to make?Which parts were the most expensive?Which parts were the cheapest to make?How much would you sell it for?Is it value for money?Would you buy it?SAFETYDoes the product look as if it is safe?Does it conform to Health and Safety Laws, for example the Trades Description Act?Are corners or edges sharp and dangerous?Could small parts be pulled off by a young child - choking threat?If the product includes a circuit - is the product electrically safe? |