

Consideration given to product management will help to support the completion of a design task within the available time frame. Planning of this nature may be divided into two main areas:

- [illegible]

Quality Control: -

The quality of a product is a measure of fitness for purpose and includes accuracy, finish, function, form, safety, strength and reliability. In order to ensure that your final product matches your design brief the quality needs to be checked during the production. Identifying your quality requirements will help to clarify inspection techniques which can be applied. Checks will have to be performed on individual components as well as on the final product.

Important features in quality control specifications include:

- dimensions
- finish
- function

Activity:

Write down the stages involved in making your circuit. List the quality control checks you think will be needed and when they should happen. Draw up a quality control chart and include space to fill in what happens when the test takes place.

Overall Quality: -

Overall quality is a combination of all the other factors listed. In order for a final product to be considered a quality object, all individual quality standards must be met. Relevant regulations and legislation together with consumer requirements will influence the degree of quality to be achieved. Although quality must be checked during the production the final evaluation will provide a sense of the overall quality. The overall quality of a product may be broken down into two main areas:

- quality of manufacture to include finish and function
- quality of design to include form, safety, ergonomics and aesthetics

Questions:

- Outline how you intend to monitor quality during the production of your task.*
- Explain two ways in which your final product could fail to meet agreed control standards.*
- Describe how the consumer influences quality control specifications.*
- Explain why quality control might sometimes fail.*
- What does a 'CE' marking signify?*

Further areas of study:

Investigate the following scales of production and detail how developments in new technology can help maintain the quality control standards within each area.

(i) Once off, (ii) Batch, (iii) Mass, (iv) Just in Time (JIT).