

ACCESS FM

ACCESS FM is a designer's tool used to make you think about products in a critical and analytical way. You need to think about each aspect and use the aspect to think about questions to ask yourself.

AESTHETICS

- Does the product look attractive? *THINK* shape, form, materials, size, beauty, ugliness
- Why does it look attractive or ugly?
- Does it make good use of colour and texture?
- Does it have a quality finish?
- Where did the designer get his or her inspiration for the design?

COST

- What is the estimated cost of production?
- What is the retail cost? Why does it cost this much?
- What is the relationship between the two?
- Is the product affordable?
- Does it seem good value for money?
- Does the price reflect any social or moral considerations (e.g. Fair Trade)?

CLIENT

- Who is the product designed for?
- How and where would they use it?
- What impact does it have on the customer's quality of life?
- Does it add value to the client's way of life?
- How is the product promoted to attract its customer?

ENVIRONMENT

- What is the product's impact on the environment? *THINK* batteries, rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, life cycle.
- *THINK* about its manufacture, general use, distribution and final disposal when it is no longer needed.

SAFETY

- How has the designer considered safety issues when designing the product?
- *THINK* about the way the product is used and how different parts have been joined together.
- Does the product meet recognised safety standards?

SIZE

- What size is it? *THINK* in millimetres and any thing else that can be measured e.g. volts, weight, area, volume, density etc.
- Is the product comfortable to use? *THINK* anthropometrics or ergonomics.
- Are its proportions appropriate for its use?
- If you increased or decreased the product's scale, would it work or look better?
- To what extent has the designer considered human factors (ergonomics) in the product's design?

FUNCTION

- How well does the product work?
- Why does it work this way?
- How could it be improved?
- How easy is it to use?

MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES

- What is the product made from?
- Would another type of material work better?
- What impact could the designer's choice of material have on the environment?
- How has the scale of production affected the designer's choice of material and manufacturing processes?