Paper and board types



It is essential to select the right kind of paper or board; this is so you can achieve the best quality finish for your work. Papers and boards come in different weights and sizes. Paper is measured in grams per metre squared (gsm), this refers to the weight per square metre. Anything over 200gsm is classed as board. Normal paper for exercise books and photocopiers is about 80gsm. Paper that is 160gsm is twice as heavy (Thicker). 500gsm is thick card.

Туре	Description	Uses	GSM	Image
Tracing paper	Transparent, hard and strong. It is good for tracing fine details as it is translucent. Tracing papers strength enables you to scrape off mistakes using a craft knife.	Used for working drawings.	60/90 gsm	
Layout paper	Thin transparent paper with a smooth surface. Used for sketching and developing ideas. It is translucent so ideas can be traced and altered. However layout paper is looked at as a cheaper medium.	It is often used in preparation of final ideas and is used for tracing usually.	50 gsm	
Cartridge paper	It is more expensive than copier paper. It is creamy white paper, slight texture usually .	General used for drawing but can be used with paint as it has a good quality surface for pens, pencils and markers. It can also be used with watercolours, pastels, crayons, inks and gouache.	120-150 gsm	
Photocopier paper	Fairly cheap when bought in bulk and is available in a range of colours. It is also used for photocopying and inkjet printing usually.	General used for drawing but can be used with paint as it has a good quality surface for pens, pencils and markers. It can also be used with watercolours, pastels, crayons, inks and gouache.	80 gsm	
Corrugated card	Contains two or more layers of card with interlacing fluted inner section. The fluted inner section adds strength to the card without a huge increase within its weight.	It is mainly used for packing items that need protecting during shipping.	250+ gsm	
Bleed proof paper	Bleed proof paper is similar to cartridge paper but it is particularly good at separating water based paints and pens so they don't run into areas where you don't want them.	It is mainly used in for important presentations where quality is needed.	120-150 gsm	
Sugar paper	Sugar paper is coloured paper which comes in contrasting colours it is mainly used for tonal drawings. Various weights and textures are available for different tasks.	It is mainly used for display work and mounting drawings, however it will fade in sunlight over time.	100 gsm	

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White board	White board is a strong medium it is bleached so it provides a good surface for printing.	It is mainly used for good quality packaging and book covers.	200 - 400 gsm	
Duplex board	Duplex board is a cheaper version of white board; it also provides different textures for printing.	It is mainly used in food packaging as recycled materials cannot be used for this purpose.	230 - 420 gsm	
Ink jet card	Ink jet card is treated so that it can go through all types of inkjet printers.	It is used for high quality print finishes on inkjet printers only.	120 - 280 gsm	
Cardboard	Cardboard is a cheap, recyclable, stiff board which has a good surface to print onto.	It is mainly used for packaging, boxes and cartons.	125 - 300 gsm	
Isometric paper	Isometric paper is a ready made printed sheet with isometric lines printed on it. These lines are drawn at 30 / 60 and 90 degrees.	It is mainly used as an aid for isometric drawings.	80 - 100 gsm	
Grid paper	A ready printed grid sheet with vertical and horizontal lines on it. These lines help working drawings such as orthographic projection. These grids are measured in millimetres.	Mainly used for working drawings.	80 - 100 gsm	



Mr DT says 'Read the text above and then answer these questions below'. Write your answers on a sheet of paper, don't forget to write your name on the sheet!:-

- 1). What IS GSM?
- 2.) What is the difference between tracing paper and layout paper?
- 3.) What is cartridge paper used for?
- 4.) How does corrugated card get its strength?
- 5.) What is special about bleed proof paper?
- 6.) What is sugar paper used for?
- 7.) What is duplex board used for?
- 8.) What GSM is cardboard?
- 9.) What is isometric paper used for?
- 10.) What is ink jet card used for?