

Why study A Level: Fashion and Textiles

Are you interested in fashion? Do you want to find out how clothing and textiles are made? Do you like designing your own clothes and being creative? Does using a range of fabrics with different textures and properties appeal to you? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, this could be the course for you.

You will see from below that a wide range of areas are covered all of which will widen your knowledge of textiles and further your practical skills. You will be taught how to be flexible in your approach to problem solving and learn to justify choices you make. In fact any of the areas below will contribute a wide range of skills, which will be of use to you in the future. You will be expected to keep up with current fashion issues through the media and your own getting out and about (i.e. shopping!).

What will you be learning?

You will be learning all about Fashion and Textiles – core technical principles and skills; core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge. For example, you will look at designers, the history of fashion and product life cycles.

What are the lessons like?

Well you can see from the above that there are lots of different areas to cover, and therefore the lessons are very varied. You will find that there are lots of opportunities for discussion. You'll be asked to work in small groups, and to prepare and present short talks to your peers. You'll be expected to do a fair bit of investigation and research as well as designing products. A lot of your lessons will be practical where you will be making products and learning how to carry out processes. Non-exam assessment will mean you will be working one to one with your teacher and expected to produce plans and textile products. You'll need to use ICT skills to present non-exam assessment and other tasks you are given to complete.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Assessed by a 2 hour written exam which is worth **25%** of the A-level. It will be a mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.

Paper 2: Assessed by a 2 hour written exam which is also worth **25%**. It will have a Section A on Product analysis based on a visual stimulus of fashion and/ or textiles products and Section B will be based on Commercial fashion manufacture.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

It will be assessed by a substantial design and make task which is worth **50%** of the A-level. This is where you will design and make your own textiles products (and be wacky if you want). You can be as creative as you like and choose your own area. There are many themes you could use – past ones have included: taking a fashion designer such as Chanel or Stella McCartney, and producing an outfit based on their style; a carnival costume; the corset; fashion accessories; taking a fashion era (such as the 1960s) and wall hangings etc. The possibilities really are endless.

What can it lead to?

It can lead to a range of textiles based courses at university such as fashion design, fashion marketing, fashion retail, accessory design, costume etc. All the courses lead to a variety of jobs in the fashion and textiles industry, where there is a strong demand as the industry is so vast. You could work for one of the huge retailers like Next or Top Shop, or you may work for a smaller outlet. You could be ambitious for the future and aim to work for a fashion house as some ex-students do (e.g. Burberrys, Bute Fabrics)

Of course you may just want to take A2 Fashion and Textiles because it interests you, but want to do something totally different when you leave school. Fashion and Textiles will train you in a variety of skills from decision making to problem solving – all of which are important whatever area you choose to follow in the future.

Want to know more?

Please see Mrs. Kershaw, J.Kershaw@qes.org.uk to find out more about the course and to discuss your suitability for it.