Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles

Fashion & Textiles A Level examines the social, economic, and technological elements which influence the textiles industry. Through studying this course you will gain an understanding of how market forces have driven consumer choices relating to fashion and the functional use of fibres and fabrics. You will develop a wide variety of pattern drafting skills alongside many new techniques and skills to ensure you are knowledgeable and prepared for any further education courses within the Fashion and Textiles industry.

You will benefit most from a GCE in Fashion and Textiles Technology if you have already studied a textile subject at GCSE and achieved a Grade 9 to 6. Through your studies you will have the opportunity to develop new and complex skills, working with a wide range of textile materials and equipment. You will be encouraged, with the support of your teachers who you will find approachable and willing to offer help and advice, to take responsibility for your own work. Coursework is a large part of this course and there is significant use of ICT for research and presentation purposes.

A Levels have moved to a linear approach meaning that all examinations and assessments are taken at the end of the 2 year course.

Paper 1: Technical Principles (30% of final grade)
Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles (20% of final grade)

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA 50% of final grade)
This will be a substantial design-and-make project consisting of a written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of your final piece. An A Level in Design Technology: Fashion and Textiles will compliment subjects such as Product Design, Science, Mathematics, Business Studies, ICT and Art.

Future Study and Career Opportunities
An A Level in Fashion & Textiles can lead to Higher Education and career opportunities in courses such as Textiles, Fashion and Interior Design. Textile Technology can lead to careers in Management, Marketing and Sales, Advertising, Administration, Retailing, Design, Technical Manufacture, Fashion, Textile Design, Textile Conservation, Theatre, TV and Film Production and Fashion Journalism.

Design & Technology: Product Design

Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This course will encourage you to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs. You will design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

You would benefit most from this course if you have already studied Design & Technology at GCSE and achieved a Grade 5, or an equivalent Level 2 vocational qualification to merit standard.

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology
For the first course component you will study the "Principles of Design and Technology" which will be assessed through a 2.5 hour examination, contributing 50% to your final grade. The first component will cover the following elements:

- Materials
- Performance characteristics of materials
- Processes and techniques
- Digital technologies
- Factors influencing the development of products
- Effects of technological developments
- Potential hazards and risk assessment
- Features of manufacturing industries
- Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- Current legislation
- Information handling, modelling and forward planning
- Further processes and techniques

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Product
Component two will be your "Independent Design and Make Product". This will be a non-examined assessment (NEA) which will contribute 50% to your final grade. For this element you will produce a substantial design, make and evaluate project which will consist of a portfolio of evidence and a final prototype product.

There will be four parts to the assessment, covering the identification of a design problem, developing the design, making the prototype and evaluating both the design and the final prototype.

Future Study and Career Opportunities
An A Level in Design & Technology: Product Design can lead to courses in Design, Mechanical Engineering and Product Design.

Product Design can lead to careers in most areas of engineering including Mechanical, Electrical and Systems Engineering, as well as Product Design, Industrial Design, Production Management and Manufacturing.