

# Fashion

## A Level

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**Exam Board:** OCR



### **What is the course about?**

Fashion and Textiles is seen as "Art on the Body". The course is designed to introduce students to the many different aspects of fashion and textiles. It is taught creatively against a background of contextual studies, historical developments in fashion, art and design movements and key figures within the fashion and textiles industry. This is a predominately practical course, however there is an element of assessed written work.

### **For the AS level you will study:**

For the coursework in the AS year, you will learn how fabric and fibres can be used in both a decorative or functional way, producing designs for both a textile design and a fashion garment. Working in a sketchbook from first and second hand observation you will develop your drawing and mark making skills, studying line, shape, form, colour and texture. You will learn a variety of techniques that can be used to produce a fashion textile which you will develop. For the garment you will study the history of fashion and apply this in your own design development. Technically you will learn to illustrate your ideas, draft a personal pattern, learn construction techniques, and make a toile. Finally you will construct a garment from your own designs as a calico toile. The controlled test will follow 6 weeks preparation, building on skills learnt throughout the year leading to a 5 hour practical exam.

### **For the A2 level you will study:**

In the second year you will submit one major project that has a personal significance. This will include a personally related study between 1000 and 3000 words, and you will be building, extending and developing skills learnt during the first year. Students will produce at least 2 garments but may choose to specialise in textile and surface decoration. For the controlled test you will select one starting point from a question paper, for which you are allowed 6 weeks preparation, and then given 15 hours of controlled time to realise your final outcome.

### **What skills will I need and develop in this course?**

An art or textile background is a helpful base to develop your skills. You will be encouraged to make independent visits to exhibitions, art galleries and museums and keep up to date with current fashion issues. You will develop your observational and analytical skills and acquire practical and technical skills to be transferred into creative work that is appropriate to your intentions.

### **How is the course assessed?**

For both AS and A2 the practical coursework is worth 60% and a controlled assignment worth 40%.

**Subject combination advice:**

Fashion can be combined with Fine Art, 3D Design or the Applied Art and Design Double or Single Award, however you should be aware that there will be continual coursework throughout the year and you will need to manage your time accordingly. This combination will give you a strong portfolio for applications for Art Foundations or Fashion related degrees. This course also combines well with Media and Business Studies for those wishing to progress to Fashion Marketing or Business. There are no restrictions with other choices.

**What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?**

Students progress to Art Foundation courses, or directly into Higher Education on menswear, womenswear, marketing, business, management and other design based subjects. Other students choose to go directly into employment.

**What are the formal entry requirements for this course?**

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need to achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language, a GCSE at grade C or above in Art, Design or Textiles is also required. Students with no previous experience in these areas may be considered, but, must see the Head of Department.

**What extra support / enrichment activities are on offer?**

In the first year the department offers visits to galleries and exhibitions to support coursework. In the second year we may offer a European trip to support coursework or the controlled assignment. At the end of the year there is a celebration of work with an exhibition and students organise and run their own fashion show. During wider skills week you will be offered a choice of fashion related courses run at a local University or you may organise work experience.

**Will I be repeating myself if I do Fashion and Double award art and design?**

These two subjects complement each other well; there maybe a cross over with the subjects and skills but you will not repeat yourself. If you choose this combination it will restrict you in your choice of higher education because you will have three art based subjects, therefore you may not be able to apply for certain more academic courses.



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