

# **Subject specific vocabulary**

The following subject specific vocabulary provides definitions of key textile terms used in our A-level Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles 7562 specification.

Your students should be familiar with, and gain understanding from all these terms.

## **Aesthetics**

The beauty or tastefulness of a product and how attractive it is to the consumer.

## **Anthropometrics**

The standard measurements of the size and shape of the human body.

## **Art Deco**

1920's and 1930's: modern technology influenced the bold style, with colourful, geometric and streamlined shapes and exotic/oriental influences.

## **Art Nouveau**

1890-1910: designs inspired by natural forms featuring the flowing organic curves of plants and flowers.

## **Batch**

A specified number of identical products often made in one production run.

## **Bespoke/one-off/customised**

Products made for an individual client, to their unique measurements and requirements.

## **Biodegradable**

Decays and is broken down naturally by bacteria or other living organisms without causing pollution.

## **Block pattern**

Basic shaped templates used as a basis for developing a garment pattern.

## Brand identity

The unique distinctive and memorable style, ethos and values of a business.

## BSI (British Standards Institution)

The BSI is the UK's national standards body providing guidelines and certification to industry.

## Care label

A label that contains internationally recognised symbols that tell the consumer how to clean, dry and iron textile products.

## Circular economy

Materials never become waste but are kept in a continuous product life cycle through repair, recycling and reclaiming materials to make new products.

## Continuous filament fibre

A fibre that is spun as a very long continuous length.

## Copyright

The exclusive legally secured right to copy, distribute, adapt and display designs for a specified length of time.

## Core-spinning

Fibres or filaments are twisted around a central filament core to produce a sheath around the core.

## Corporate identity

The qualities and visual representation of the business.

## Critical path analysis

A project planning method to work out how to complete a task efficiently and meet deadlines.

## Dart

A folded and stitched triangular area of fabric that allows flat fabric to form 3D shapes.

## Design movement

A group of artists and designers who share the same style and philosophy for a defined period.

## Disassembly

To analyse a product by taking it apart step-by-step, examining each part at every stage.

## Dye fastness

The ability of a fibre or fabric to retain dye during manufacturing processes and in use.

## Dyeing

Permanent colour is absorbed from the dye liquid into the fibre changing the colour of the textile material.

## Elastomeric fibre

A type of synthetic fibre which stretches and returns to its original state.

## Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

A system that allows computers to exchange information electronically in a standard format between business partners.

## Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS)

A shop till system that processes transactions, records and reports on sales data, facilitates marketing and informs stock control, ordering and manufacturing new stock.

## Ergonomics

The relationship between people and the products which they use.

## E-components and E-textiles

Textile products with electronic circuits embedded into them to add decorative and/or functional effects.

## Fabric finish

A mechanical process or chemical treatment applied to fabric to improve the appearance, performance or handle of a fabric.

## Fairtrade

Ethical trade between companies in developed countries and producers in developing countries with fair prices paid to the producers and good working conditions for employees.

## Fancy yarn

Decorative yarn with a structure created for aesthetics, also known as novelty yarn.

## Fashion cycle

The life span of a fashion product from its first launch onto the market, to its peak of popularity, its decline and obsolescence.

## Fibre

A fine thread that can be spun with others to make a yarn.

## Focus group

A one-off discussion group made up from members of the target market who rate new products before they are launched.

## Fully fashioned panels

Sections of the garment are knitted to the exact shape and size required eliminating waste.

## Inclusive design

Design for a wide range of users including people with disabilities, children, elderly people, transgender people and gender nonconformists.

## Intellectual property

Ideas, creations, inventions or artistic work owned by the creator.

## Iterative design

A cycle of prototyping, testing, analysing and refining the design is repeated until the final design is created.

## Knit

To make interlocking loops of yarn that build together in rows to make fabric.

## Laminating

Combinations of fabrics, film and membrane are glued together with adhesive or by heat setting thermoplastic fibres to form fabric with two or more layers.

## Lay plan

A diagram showing the arrangement and orientation of the pattern pieces on fabric ready for cutting out.

## Logo

A graphic symbol or design that is used to promote a business.

## Melt spinning

The melted fibre solution is extruded through the spinneret into a stream of cold air to solidify the filaments.

## Microencapsulated fibres and fabric

Liquid or solid substances, contained in very small capsules within the textile material, are released slowly as the capsules break down during use of the textile product.

## Microfibres

Very fine synthetic fibres, finer than a single human hair.

## Minimalism

1960's: a monochrome style with simple and pared down abstract shapes and forms in black, white or neutral colours.

## Mood boards

A display board of images, colour swatches, drawings, photographs and fabrics to inspire the designer and communicate a feeling of the context for design.

## Nano-fibres

Fibres with extremely small dimensions of less than 100 nanometres, on the scale of atoms and molecules.

## Nap

The surface texture of fabric that can look and feel different depending on which way up the fabric is held.

## Natural fibre

A fibre that comes directly from plant natural cellulose or animal protein.

## New generation lyocells

Regenerated fibres that are produced more sustainably than previous versions.

## Non-woven

A sheet of fibres bonded or interlocked together to make fabric without using yarns, knitting or weaving.

## Notches or balance marks

Marks on a pattern that match up to those on adjoining pattern pieces. They help to position and correctly line up each piece of fabric when constructing the garment.

## Offshore production

Manufacturing is carried out in another country and imported to the home market.

## Pattern grading

Adjusting the pattern's proportions to give a range of different sizes for the same pattern.

## Pop Art

1950's and 1960's: inspired by commercial and popular culture featuring bold bright colours and images from food packaging, comics, adverts, pop music and Hollywood movies.

## Primary data

Information collected from first hand research activities.

## Product life cycle

The sequence of stages from raw material, through the useful lifetime of the product, to reused, recycled or discarded materials.

## Prototype

The first version of a design made to test the design to see if it works as intended and to find out if further developments are necessary.

## Punk

Mid 1970s-1980s: loud aggressive rock music which was rebellious, political and anti-establishment. Homemade customised punk fashions featured chains, studs and safety pins, ripped, distressed denim, tartan, black leather and loose knit oversized sweaters.

## Quality assurance

Quality management in every area of the business to guarantee customer satisfaction and that manufactured products are of the correct standard.

## Quality control checks

Systematic inspections during manufacturing to check if samples of the product meet the required standard and match the specification.

## Quick response manufacturing (QRM)

A strategy to promote efficiency across all areas of a company to reduce the time taken from placing an order to delivery of the merchandise.

## Quilting

Stitches are used to join layers of fabric together. Usually, a layer of padding is sandwiched between the top fabric and the lining fabric, with the stitches forming decorative designs.

## Regenerated fibre

A fibre made from modifying natural cellulose which is then spun into filaments.

## Rendering

Adding colour, texture and tone to an image or drawing.

## Risk assessment

A process used to identify possible hazards and dangers in the workplace.

## Seam allowance

When two pieces of fabric are sewn together, the distance between the edge of the fabric and the stitching line eg 1 cm.

## Secondary data

Information gathered from existing sources researched by someone else.

## Smart materials

Materials that react to changes in their environment.

## Socio-economic influences

The factors that impact on people's behaviour, life experiences and financial situation.

## Specification

A document detailing the requirements for a specific design, fabric, product or manufacturing.

## Staple fibre

A short fibre.

## Sub-assembly

Parts of the product assembled on a separate line before going to the main production line.

## Surface decoration

Colour, pattern and/or texture added to the fabric surface using any decorative technique.

## Sustainable

Products designed and manufactured in such a way that a negative impact on the environment or people's lives is avoided, and natural resources are conserved for future generations.

## Synthetic fibre

A fibre made from chemicals derived from fossil fuels.

## Technical textiles

Textiles designed and manufactured to have specific performance characteristics with function rather than aesthetics prioritised.

## Tex and denier

Are both units of measurement. A specific length of yarn is weighed, 9000 m for denier and 1000 m for tex. The greater the weight, the higher the value of tex or denier and the thicker the yarn.

## Thermoplastic fibre

A fibre that becomes soft when heated so it can be heat set into shapes, pleats or creases as it cools.

## Third party opinion

Feedback from people who are not involved in designing, manufacturing or marketing the product that is being tested.

## Toile

An early version of a garment made during design development from inexpensive fabric to test the design before committing to the final choice of fabric.

## Tolerance

The acceptable variation in the size of a product or part of a product, usually given as an upper and a lower limit.

## Trademark

A distinctive sign legally registered or established by use to identify and promote a brand, product or organisation.

## Upcycle

To create something new from an unwanted product.



## User centred design (UCD)

Designing and developing a new product based on what the consumer/client needs or wants.

## Vertical in-house production

All stages of production are controlled by a company from raw material to finished product.

## Virtual modelling

A prototype modelled on a computer.

## Warp

Vertical threads on a weaving loom, parallel to the selvedge in the woven fabric.

## Weave

To interlace the weft under and over the warp threads to form a fabric.

## Weft

Horizontal threads that pass through the warp threads.

## Wet spinning

The fibre solution is extruded through the spinneret into a bath of chemicals to solidify the filaments.

## Working drawings

A set of detailed technical drawings to show different viewpoints of a product including dimensions, position of pockets, fastenings, stitching, trims etc.

## Yarn

Fibres and/or filaments are twisted together to form a long continuous length of yarn.

## 6Rs

Six sustainable ways to lessen our impact on the environment: reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, rethink, repair. The list can also include replace.

These terms are not in the specification but are useful for students to understand

## Adaptive clothing

Garments designed to meet the needs of people with limited mobility and dexterity to make getting dressed easier and improve fit.

## Androgynous fashion

Genderless fashion.

## Biomimetic

Copying nature to get inspiration for innovative designs.

## Closed-loop system

The solvent used in fibre production is recycled back into the start of the process to eliminate waste.

## Code of practice

A voluntary set of rules and guidance provided by a professional association to direct a company's way of working.

## Consumer panels

A group made up from members of the target market who are regularly consulted on their opinions at different stages of a new product's development.

## Counterfeit

A fake replica of an item made to look like the original but often of inferior quality, for illegal sale.

## Cradle to cradle clothing

Sustainably produced clothing that is recycled into new fibre and new clothing at the end of its useful life.

## Demand activated manufacture

Using digital technology to produce fashion products on demand as they are ordered by customers and in the specified quantities.

## Fast fashion

Fashionable low quality affordable clothing made rapidly in response to quick changes in fashion trends.

## Grainline

The line parallel to the warp threads and selvedge of woven fabric.

## Greige cloth

Fabric straight from the loom or knitting machine before any further processing or finishing has been applied.

## Haute Couture

High-end exclusive, expensive, customised fashion.

## Just in time (JIT)

A stock control management system that ensures that fabrics and components arrive at the factory just as they are needed to go onto the production line.

## Moulage

A technique to develop fashion designs by moulding fabric around a manikin to work out pattern pieces.

## ‘New Look’ fashion

A feminine fashion silhouette of 1947 that featured a nipped in waist and long full skirt.

## Organic fibre

Grown without the use of toxic chemicals.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Protective clothing or equipment used when conducting hazardous tasks.

## Qualitative interviews

Conversations with indirect or open questions based on a topic guide, to get the interviewee to fully explain their point of view.

## Quantitative interviews

Conversations with pre-scripted questions to collect facts and brief answers from the target market.

## Selvedge

The finished edge of a woven fabric parallel to the warp threads.

## Slow fashion

Durable fashionable garments that have a long product life cycle.

## Spinneret

The 'shower head' of the spinning machine from which molten fibres are extruded.

## SWOT analysis

A framework for evaluating the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of a business venture, project or product.

## Trend forecasts

Predictions for future fashions produced by forecasting businesses to help fashion designers develop popular products.

## A-LEVEL FASHION AND TEXTILES – 7562 – SUBJECT SPECIFIC VOCABULARY