

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Design and Technology:
Product Design (Textiles)
Key Features



KEY FEATURES

AS Units

Unit 1: Materials, Components and Application

Written Paper	50% of the total AS marks
2 hours	25% of the total A Level marks

This paper is based primarily on Materials and Components.

- Consisting of three sections
- Section 1 contains compulsory limited response questions
- Section 2 offers a choice of one question from two
- Section 3 contains one compulsory question
- There are 80 marks for Unit 1

Questions in Section 1 will test knowledge of the specification content through short answer questions.

- 20 marks are available for this section of the paper.

In Section 2, candidates will be expected to write more detailed responses, and may be provided with photographs of textile products to use when answering questions.

Questions in this section will test ability to analyse, explain and evaluate issues relating to the use and manufacture of textile products. In addition, candidates will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of the properties of textile materials to the products specified in the questions.

- 20 marks are available for this section of the paper.

Section 3 will have one compulsory question based on the design and manufacture of a textile product, and candidates will be required to write extended answers.

Source material may be provided as a starting point for the questions.

The questions will test the ability to critically analyse and evaluate design and manufacturing practices involved in the production of textile products to meet consumer expectations. Candidates will be expected to apply knowledge and understanding of textile materials, design and manufacturing processes within the context given.

- 40 marks are available for this section of the paper.

Unit 2: Learning Through Designing and Making

Coursework	50% of the total AS marks
Approx 50 hours	25% of the total A Level marks

- Written (or electronic) design portfolio
- Manufactured outcome(s)
- A revised Candidate Record Form
- Coursework may take a number of forms; a single design-and-make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work
- There are 80 marks for Unit 2

Candidates are expected to apply their knowledge and understanding of the specification content to their own projects, which should involve approximately 50 hours of work. Centres may choose to submit one single project or a number of smaller projects which address all of the assessment objectives. The coursework should take the form of a written portfolio and one or more manufactured outcomes as appropriate to the work undertaken. The portfolio can be presented in a written or electronic format.

Candidates should be provided with opportunities to work with a variety of textile materials in order to extend their knowledge and understanding of their properties, and apply them to a range of applications for fashion and spaces.

Candidates should be encouraged to study existing designs, including ways of improving them, in order to develop their understanding of the basic principles of design. They should develop a range of 2-D and 3-D communication skills to enable them to present their own ideas appropriately to different audiences.

The designing of original textile products, suited to their intended use, is an essential part of the coursework. The writing of specifications, and the testing and evaluating of design ideas and made outcomes against those specifications will therefore be important aspects of the work undertaken by candidates. Core issues – industrial awareness, health and safety, human needs, ergonomics, anthropometrics, social, moral and environmental considerations – should be given due consideration throughout the coursework and embedded in the work as appropriate.

The manufactured outcomes should show a range of decorative and construction skills, including ones which are complex and challenging, and have a high standard of finish.

The candidate record form is a significant document for candidates to complete, indicating where they have addressed the various assessment criteria in their work. The statements should act as prompts to help candidates ensure that they have provided evidence of work for all of the assessment criteria, and to assist assessors identify where the criteria have been met.

The 80 marks allowed for coursework have been broken down into the five assessment criteria as described in the specification.

A2 Units

Unit 3: Design and Manufacture

Written paper

2 hours

25% of the total A Level marks

This paper is based primarily on Design and Manufacture.

- Consisting of two sections (with three questions in each section) with a choice of three questions from six.
- Candidates are required to answer one question from each section and also a final question from either section.
- This written paper will include sufficient synoptic assessment to test the candidates' understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject and their holistic understanding of the subject.
- There are 84 marks for Unit 3

At A2 the specification offers candidates the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and practical skills from AS. Candidates will continue to design and manufacture exciting textile products alongside an understanding of the processes and procedures of commercial textile manufacture.

Candidates will cover a number of areas:

- testing and comparing the relative merits of fabrics in relation to their intended use
- manipulating and combining fabrics
- major developments in textiles technology
- product life cycles and fashion cycles
- design in the human context
- industrial and commercial practice, fabric manufacture and product manufacture

Unit 4: Design and Making Practice

Coursework

Approx 60 hours

25% of the total A Level marks

- Written (or electronic) design folder
- Manufactured outcome
- A revised Candidate Record Form
- Candidates submit evidence of a single, substantial designing and making activity
- There are 85 marks for Unit 4

Candidates are to select a problem/situation before setting their own objectives related to the design issues and manufacture of a product. Candidates will be expected to research and investigate the problem and a total of approximately 60 hours should be allocated to the complete design and make activity.

The coursework task is synoptic in nature and should consider all aspects of the specification. The final design folder and manufactured outcome is assessed against six assessment criteria and submitted, with a revised Candidate Record Form, indicating where the various assessment criteria have been addressed, for moderation.