



AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design - Textiles

Why is the study of GCSE Textiles important?

The study of textiles merges creativity with core practical skills and holds significant cultural and economic values. It is a subject which is deeply embedded in the history and culture of societies worldwide, serving as a powerful form of cultural expression, telling stories, representing traditions and conveying messages.

The study of GCSE Textiles is important because it offers a vital blend of artistic expression, technical skill, and critical thinking. The course moves beyond simple craft to encourage students to become innovative designers who understand the full creative process. Students learn to develop ideas through extensive investigation, exploring both traditional and contemporary sources. This involves refining their work by experimenting with a diverse range of media, materials, and techniques, from traditional stitching to modern digital textiles. This hands-on approach not only builds practical proficiency but also nurtures a student's ability to solve problems creatively, make independent decisions, and develop a unique artistic voice.

Furthermore, GCSE Textiles provides students with a crucial understanding of the wider world of design. The curriculum requires them to research and analyse the work of past and present artists and designers, which helps them grasp the cultural, social, and historical contexts of textile art. This knowledge allows students to create work that is not only visually compelling but also meaningful and personal. By documenting their creative journey and ultimately presenting a final piece, students also learn key skills in project management and professional presentation. These abilities, combined with the discipline and resilience developed through the course, create a strong foundation for further study and a variety of careers in the creative industries, including fashion, interior design, and visual art.

What skills will the study of GCSE Textiles teach you?

The skills you will learn through Textiles include:

- **Creative and innovative thinking:** The course teaches students to develop original ideas from initial research through to a final outcome, encouraging them to think like a designer.
- **Practical and technical proficiency:** Students will learn a wide range of hands-on skills, including sewing machine operation, various stitching and embellishment techniques, fabric manipulation, and textile printing.
- **Research and analysis:** Students will develop the ability to investigate the work of artists, designers, and different cultures, and use this research to inform and inspire their own creative projects.

• **Project management and problem-solving:** Students will learn to manage a long-term creative project from start to finish, including planning, time management, and overcoming challenges that arise during the design process.

• **Critical evaluation and refinement:** The course teaches students how to evaluate their own work and the work of others, allowing them to continually refine their ideas and improve the quality of their designs.

What will you know and understand from your study of GCSE Textiles?

- How to use a sewing machine effectively, using it to create 3D forms as well as surface detail techniques.
- How to research other designers, artists and influences effectively.
- How to critically analyse your own & others work.
- How to respond creatively to other influences to develop your own processes & ideas.
- How to experiment and combine a range of techniques to develop your own work.
- How to develop a creative, final response.
- How to evaluate your own creative journey.

How can you deepen your understanding of GCSE Textiles?

Students can deepen their understanding of Textiles through a variety of extra-curricular activities. After-school enrichments offer a fantastic opportunity to develop creative ideas and work on specific projects outside of class time. These sessions also allow students to connect with other textile enthusiasts from different year groups, fostering a collaborative environment where they can share ideas, critique each other's work, and refine their techniques. Additionally, participating in trips and workshops, such as a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, can expose students to a wider range of artistic practices and inspire new approaches to their own textile work.

Students can also deepen their understanding through the process of exhibiting their work. By displaying their creations within the academy, students gain valuable experience in presenting their art to an audience. Furthermore, selected work will be submitted to the annual Art Showcase, a celebration evening to which parents and carers are invited. This event provides a significant opportunity for students to share their personal textiles practice with a wider community, offering a deeper understanding of how to curate and present their work for others to view and appreciate. This experience is crucial for developing confidence.



How are you assessed in GCSE Textiles?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars®. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Textiles curriculum.

Textiles is assessed through a range of internal and external assessments. The coursework portfolio element is worth 60% of the final GCSE mark & must contain at least 2 units of work (projects). A final project, set by the Exam Board, is worth the remaining 40%. All work is finally assessed at the end of the course and externally moderated.

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key assessment objectives in Textiles are

AO1 – Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

AO2 – Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

How can Textiles support your future?

There are a wide range of creative textiles, fashion & art based courses offered post-GCSE students at colleges and sixth forms. Due to textiles being a wide ranging curriculum this allows for many avenues to be explored into higher and further education. There are a vast range of courses offered at university that target textiles, fashion & creative processes.

Study of Textiles can lead to a wide range of careers:

- Textile designer
- Costume designer
- Fashion designer
- Interior designer
- Surface pattern designer
- Product developer
- Garment technologist
- Textile technologist
- Fashion buyer
- Visual merchandiser
- Trend forecaster
- Fashion illustrator
- Journalist and media
- Pattern cutter
- Graphic designer
- Art director
- Brand manager
- Event manager

GCSE Textiles Course Overview

Term	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn 1	Introduction to Natural forms (Project 1) - students begin the course with covering necessary health and safety in the studio before being re-inducted onto the sewing machines. They then are introduced to their first project and experience a series of workshops to develop their practical skills.	Narrative (Project 3) - producing a final response to project 3.
Autumn 2	Natural forms (Project 1) - students learn how to research and analyse other artists' work and begin to develop their own practise through combining learnt techniques and creating final samples in response.	Narrative (Project 3) - producing a final response to project 3.
Spring 1	Transform (Project 2) - students experience a new range of workshops which focus on 3d textile techniques (such as smocking, pleating, pattern cutting) and learning how to transform materials into a 3d structure.	External Exam paper.
Spring 2	Transform (Project 2) - producing a final response to project 2.	External Exam paper.
Summer 1	Narrative (Project 3) - introduction to the main sustained project of their coursework. Students repeat the structure of investigating new artists, extensive research and providing in-depth analysis.	External Exam paper.
Summer 2	Narrative (Project 3) - drawing upon learned skills and knowledge of a range of techniques from previous projects to develop practical outcomes.	Internal assessment & External moderation.