Analytical understanding of the work of Textile/Fashion Designers

This is about looking, analysing and evaluating the work of others. Use the information gained to help you when designing and developing your own ideas, as well as answering exam questions.

This may help to inspire your own products style and shape. You might gain understanding of construction, techniques and processes that have been used successfully before, as well as appreciating the impact that the designer has had upon the fashion industry.

### Cultural Understanding
- How does it link to other garments/textiles of the period? E.g those in literature, film or fashion
- How does it link to the social, cultural or political history of the time?
- Does it reflect the ideas or values of that time?
- How does it link to other disciplines such as science, religion or technology?
- When do you think it was made? Is the date significant?
- Could the work have a symbolic or moral meaning?

### Sensory/Emotional
- Does the piece appeal to other senses apart from sight? E.g is there a sense of sound or touch in the work?
- Does it make you feel in a particular way?
- Can you describe why or how it makes you feel or think like that?

### Colour/Space/Scale
- Can you describe how the designer uses colour? E.g descriptively or emotionally?
- What effects do they create with colour?
- Is there a sense of space in the work?
- Is it real or an illusion?
- How big is the work? Is this important?
- What effect does scale have on the artwork?
- How would it be different if it was bigger/smaller?

### Title
- Does the work have a title?
- Does this affect the way you see it?
- How does the title relate to the art piece

### Theme/Meaning/Influences
- Do you think the work has a theme?
- What could be the origins to this theme?

### Content and ideas
- Is the work about a subject?
- What do you think the artist might be trying to say or represent?

### Narrative
- Has the piece got a narrative? (Is there a story behind it or a message being communicated?)

### By whom?
- Who made the garment/fabric?
- Do you think the background of the designer can inform us about why or how it was created, or what it might be about?

### For whom?
- For whom was the piece made? E.g patron/friend/the designer themselves?
- Does it involve the viewer?
- In what way?

### Environmental issues
- Has the designer used any recycled materials?
- Does this affect the garment and in what way?
- Can the piece itself be recycled or has it been?

### Opinion/Personal Response
- Do you like or dislike it? Why?
- How does it link to your own ideas or work?
- Does it remind you of anything? Why?
- Does it inspire you? How?

### Materials, Techniques and Processes
- How has it been made?
- What material has it been made out of?
- What skills, techniques and processes do you think are involved?
- What tools were used to achieve these processes?
- Why do you think the designer chose to use these materials and processes?

### Surface/Texture
- What is the surface of the piece like?
- Is the texture made by the material of the artwork itself or by an illusion created by the pattern?

### Composition
- How is the work organised?
- Do you think it is random or designed?

### What garment/textile process is it?
- Skirt/dress/batik/machine embroidery etc.

### Patterns
- Can you find shapes or patterns in the work?
- Do they create movement or rhythm?
- Can you describe them?

### Historical or contemporary aspect
- What do you think is happening in wider society at the time that impacts upon the style of this garment?
- Where and when is created?
- How does this relate to techniques and processes or the era?

### Visual
- What is your first reaction to the work?
- What is the first word that came into your head when you first saw it?
- What did you notice first?
- Do some parts draw attention more than others?

### Cultural Understanding
- How does it link to other garments/textiles of the period? E.g those in literature, film or fashion
- How does it link to the social, cultural or political history of the time?
- Does it reflect the ideas or values of that time?
- How does it link to other disciplines such as science, religion or technology?
- When do you think it was made? Is the date significant?
- Could the work have a symbolic or moral meaning?

### Environmental issues
- Has the designer used any recycled materials?
- Does this affect the garment and in what way?
- Can the piece itself be recycled or has it been?

### By whom?
- Who made the garment/fabric?
- Do you think the background of the designer can inform us about why or how it was created, or what it might be about?

### For whom?
- For whom was the piece made? E.g patron/friend/the designer themselves?
- Does it involve the viewer?
- In what way?

### Opinion/Personal Response
- Do you like or dislike it? Why?
- How does it link to your own ideas or work?
- Does it remind you of anything? Why?
- Does it inspire you? How?

### Materials, Techniques and Processes
- How has it been made?
- What material has it been made out of?
- What skills, techniques and processes do you think are involved?
- What tools were used to achieve these processes?
- Why do you think the designer chose to use these materials and processes?

### Surface/Texture
- What is the surface of the piece like?
- Is the texture made by the material of the artwork itself or by an illusion created by the pattern?

### Composition
- How is the work organised?
- Do you think it is random or designed?