

Art and Design (Textiles) AS/A2 (AQA)

This is an exciting course aimed at students who are interested in all areas of Textile Design. Candidates will have the opportunity of working in a variety of textiles media that will include fashion design, interior design and creative textiles. Candidates will also be made aware of techniques and processes, including traditional and new technologies. They will also gain an understanding of a variety of embellishing techniques, such as fabric printing, tie-dye, batik, transfer and fabric manipulation and construction – including felt making, weaving, patchwork, quilting and embroidery. Candidates will explore drawing media using sketchbooks to underpin their work where appropriate, translating these designs into fabric samples.

Students choose to study Textile design at A-level for many reasons. They may have a particular career path they wish to follow, such as Fashion Designer, Fashion Buyer, Textile Designer, Interior Designer, Fashion Magazine Editor, Stylist, or any aspect of the creative industries. Many students choose A-level Textile Design because they enjoy the subject and it offers a welcome balance with their other A-level subjects.

Main features of the course:

Students produce a body of work for all units, following the art process from initial research and starting points, through development and experimentation towards a final response in the form of a finished piece. Alongside their development work, students research a range of relevant artists and designers to gain inspiration for their own creative ideas and themes. Students will also analyse existing designs, extracting techniques and methods of working, which can be mapped onto practical experimentations.

Students' classroom based practice is contextualised with visits to exhibitions of contemporary art, exhibitions and a trip to Europe. They are encouraged to become independent learners visiting galleries and exhibitions both locally and nationally, to enhance their learning and understanding of the subject.

The Textiles programme provides students with the opportunity to express themselves imaginatively and creatively using a range of media. It is a demanding course but very enjoyable and rewarding.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1

Portfolio coursework:

50% of total AS level marks/25% of total A level marks

Unit 2

Externally set assignment

50% of total AS marks/25% of total A level marks

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade A*-C (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics, and grade B in Art and Design or a similar course.

Progression

Having an A Level in a creative subject is an essential starting point if students want to pursue Art and Design. After completing their A Levels, students can either go directly to Degree level or apply to do a one year Art and Design Diploma in Foundation Studies course. Having this qualification enables students to progress to a more specialist area within Art and Design such as Animation, Advertising, Fashion Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Special Effects for Cinema, Photography, 3D Product Design, Sculpture, Textiles and more. The Foundation course helps students determine the most appropriate Art and Design degree specialism for them.