



# Questions & Answers

## Changes to assessment in Higher Fashion and Textile Technology

### 1 General

#### **What is the scaling applied to the Higher Fashion and Textile Technology course assessment?**

Unlike National 5, there is no scaling at Higher. The marks for the question paper (45 marks), the assignment (60 marks) and the practical activity (40 marks) will be added together to give a mark out of 145, which will then be converted to a percentage for awarding purposes.

### 2 Assignment

#### **When will the assignment briefs and the proforma be published?**

The assignment briefs will be published on the Fashion and Textile Technology page on the secure website at the end of September. The proforma will also be available on the website at the end of September.

#### **What is the time allocation for completion of the assignment and practical activity?**

There is no time allocation specified for either of these. However, teachers should refer to the information given in the Assessment Conditions section of the Fashion and Textile Technology course specification (page 11). This gives details of the level of supervision required, the resources the candidate may have access to, and the level of assistance that may be offered to the candidate, while they are carrying out the assignment and practical activity.

#### **Why is a Fashion and Textile Technology teacher not considered to be an appropriate expert in current fashion trends?**

The skills, knowledge and understanding in the course specification requires candidates to have knowledge of the origin of fashion trends and the influences on fashion design. These are defined areas of the fashion design process in which a Fashion and Textile Technology Teacher will have expertise. Support for teaching and learning in this area is available in

page 25–27 of the course support notes. However, a Fashion and Textile Technology teacher is unlikely to have insight into what is currently fashionable, styles/items that are likely to be popular, or will be liked by, for example teenagers, beyond a general level. Candidates who wish to gather this information should consider interviewing a manager of a fashion retail store, looking at collections in fashion magazines or the fashion sections of magazines appropriate to the target group, or surveying London and other catwalk trends.

### **Stage 1(c) Justification of the solution: Can a candidate choose to provide up to six points in any one area?**

Yes. For their item, a candidate must justify at least four design features, at least four properties/characteristics of the textiles used and at least four construction techniques. The candidate can then choose to provide a further two points of justification in any one of these areas, or one point in two of these areas, so will be able to access all 14 marks.

Details of how these marks are awarded is on page 6 of the Higher Fashion and Textile Technology assignment and practical activity task document. Instructions for candidates are provided in the assignment pro-forma.

### **Stage 3(c) Improving or adapting the item: Do these have to be linked to the results of the testing carried out in 3(a)?**

Not necessarily, though any suggested improvements are most likely to come out of the results of testing. However, it might be that the item has scored highly in the results of testing and no relevant improvements can be based on this. In this case, the candidate might go back to the investigations and, for example, look at the ‘second best’ results in a questionnaire and could then suggest an appropriate adaptation to their item based on this information. What is important is that the evidence for the suggested improvement/adaptation must come from evidence gathered in the assignment and must be justified appropriately for the candidate to be awarded the mark.

## **3 Question paper**

### **Why is ‘discuss’ a command word in Higher Fashion and Textile Technology?**

All question papers use command words to allow candidates to provide subject-specific information in an appropriate way. The ‘discuss’ question allows Fashion and Textile Technology candidates to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and application of influences on fashion design by using creative design skills.

The command words used in Higher Fashion and Textile Technology are listed in the course assessment structure section of the Fashion and Textile Technology course specification (page 8). Details and examples of how marks are awarded for each command word are given in the marking principles section of the specimen question paper, and there is further guidance in the additional guidance column of the marking instructions.