



GCE A LEVEL MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2025

**A LEVEL
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
FASHION AND TEXTILES
1602U30-1**

About this marking scheme

The purpose of this marking scheme is to provide teachers, learners, and other interested parties, with an understanding of the assessment criteria used to assess this specific assessment.

This marking scheme reflects the criteria by which this assessment was marked in a live series and was finalised following detailed discussion at an examiners' conference. A team of qualified examiners were trained specifically in the application of this marking scheme. The aim of the conference was to ensure that the marking scheme was interpreted and applied in the same way by all examiners. It may not be possible, or appropriate, to capture every variation that a candidate may present in their responses within this marking scheme. However, during the training conference, examiners were guided in using their professional judgement to credit alternative valid responses as instructed by the document, and through reviewing exemplar responses.

Without the benefit of participation in the examiners' conference, teachers, learners and other users, may have different views on certain matters of detail or interpretation. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that this marking scheme is used alongside other guidance, such as published exemplar materials or Guidance for Teaching. This marking scheme is final and will not be changed, unless in the event that a clear error is identified, as it reflects the criteria used to assess candidate responses during the live series.

GCE A LEVEL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

FASHION AND TEXTILES

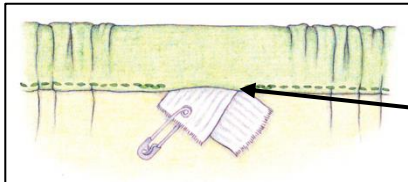
SUMMER 2025 MARK SCHEME

Question 1		A03	A04	Mark
Fashion trends originate from different sectors of society.				
(a)	The pictures below show street style fashion. Explain what is meant by street style fashion and where it originates from.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of street style should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Individual styling that does not reflect current trends that have filtered down from catwalk/runway • Originated from the streets - sub cultures, as name suggests • Street fashion is associated with youth culture - mostly from urban centres • Influenced by social media, marketing and TV • Individual styling, mix of styles that converge, vary from mainstream fashion • Unusual combinations of fabrics, bright colours, and non-standard solutions in the formation of the image • Purely based on individualism • Vintage mixed with contemporary - elements of customizing clothing • Does not follow or use current trends • Most urban sub cultures associate with street fashion • Street fashion differs around the world • Adopted by those who seek an alternative lifestyle and readily abandon conventional fashion • Some believe street style originated in Japan - rebellious youth who adopted western style clothing resisting traditional values • Often associated with political and social movements emerging in the youth environment • Street fashion gives any person a free choice of mood, social position, and aesthetic attitudes				
Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>				
<i>Brief description for example:</i> Street fashion refers to clothing worn by young people that reflects their individual style.				
<i>Some detail in explanation for example:</i> Street fashion refers to clothing worn by young people that reflects their individual style but does not reflect current contemporary trends as seen on the cat walks.				
<i>A detailed response with understanding for example:</i> Street fashion reflects individual styling that does not reflect current trends and did not trickle down from runway shows. It originates on the streets particularly in urban areas and is often associated with youth culture. Street fashion reflects a mix of styles and unusual combinations of fabrics and colours.				
<i>Clear and detailed understanding for example:</i> Street fashion reflects a mix of styles, with unusual combinations of fabrics and colours that reflect each individual's personality and style. Those who adopt street style fashion have abandoned conventional styling in favour of something different. It is often associated with youth subcultures in urban areas - worn by individuals on the street which is what the name suggests. Some believe street style originated in Japan by rebellious youth who adopted western style clothing resisting traditional values.				

(b)	Explain the importance of fashion predictions in the commercial development of contemporary fashion products.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of fashion predictions should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Vital for fashion industries to stay ahead of the market • Need to stay on top of the latest trends to be or remain competitive - stay ahead of competition • Fashion predictions directly affect the process of design and creating pieces that form a collection • Fashion predictions open up new opportunities for commercial success • Brand designers, fashion retailers and manufacturers must give consumers what they want - following predictions helps keep brands alive and, for businesses to stay in business • Brands get insights into future trends that strengthen their range of products, helps create resilience in a challenging market place • Predictions focus on future purchasing trends and involves recognising patterns in trends, tracing the origins and evolution of trends • Trend analysts give brands a broader perspective of their target market • Designers use the data to develop products that will appeal to their customers now and in the future • Predictions help brands plan marketing and promotional campaigns • Being able to predict what's next keeps brands fresh, up-to-date and relevant • Failure to plan ahead by not considering future trends can negatively impact a business - not giving consumers what they want Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect/no answer.</i>				0
<i>Brief description, very little understanding for example:</i> Referring to fashion predictions ensures designers and manufacturers develop products that are in keeping with the trends at any given time.				1
<i>Some detail with some understanding for example:</i> Referring to fashion predictions ensures designers and manufacturers develop products that are in keeping with the trends at any given time. This is vitally important for businesses to remain competitive by developing products that are fashionable and will meet consumer's needs.				2
<i>A more detailed explanation with understanding for example:</i> Referring to fashion predictions ensures designers and manufacturers develop products that are in keeping with the trends at any given time. This is vitally important for businesses to remain competitive by developing products that are fashionable and will meet consumers' needs. Being able to predict what's next keeps brands fresh, up-to-date and relevant.				3
<i>A detailed explanation with clear understanding for example:</i> Referring to fashion predictions ensures designers and manufacturers develop products that are in keeping with the trends at any given time. This is vitally important for businesses to remain competitive by developing products that are fashionable and will meet consumers' needs. Being able to predict what's next keeps brands fresh, up-to-date and relevant. Failure to plan ahead, by not referring to upcoming predictions may mean loss of business as consumers may go elsewhere if brands aren't giving them the fashionable products they desire.				4
Total				8

Question 2

Different techniques and processes are used in garment construction.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	On the bodice diagram below, draw where stay stitching would need to be applied and explain the importance of applying this process.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of stay stitching and apply it to designing and making principles should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Stay stitching is a long stitch used to stabilise fabric usually around a curve such as the neckline • The stitch holds the fabric and prevents the shape distorting • A curved edge will cut across the bias, consequently it will easily distort if not held in place • This is important if further process are applied to the area such as a collar or facing to finish the edge Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>				0
<i>Correct placement of stay stitching:</i> Follows the curve of the round neckline.				1
<i>Brief description, a simple statement for example:</i> Stay stitching holds the fabric firmly in place.				1
<i>Some detail in explanation, basic understanding for example:</i> Stay stitching holds the fabric firmly in place preventing it from distorting when further processes are applied.				2
<i>A clear and more detailed explanation with understanding for example:</i> This is important on curved areas where the neckline shape cuts across the bias on the fabric. Stay stitching holds the fabric firmly preventing it from distorting when further processes such as a collar are attached.				3

(b)	Draw cords are used to add shape to clothing. Using notes and sketches, explain how a draw cord closure is constructed and how it would add shape to a waistline.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of the construction of a draw cord closure and apply it to designing and making principles should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> A casing needs to be constructed - variations exist: • <u>Edge casing</u> - fold the edge of the fabric over approximately 5mm then fold again the depth required for the closure • Stitch in place on the end of the fold • Leave a small section unstitched to allow the cord to be threaded through the casing • Stitch the gap left for the draw cord - if appropriate • Shape is created by drawing up the draw cords which pulls in the width of fabric - takes the fullness out - creates shape • NOTE: Variation of this method could suggest a separate folded band is stitched on to take the cord.  <i>Accept responses that reflect this diagram with a cord being inserted into channel where the elastic is shown here</i> • <u>Mid way casing</u> - cut a strip of fabric which will form the casing • Turn the long edges over by 5mm, press • Place the strip in the position and stitch down along the sides • Leave a gap for draw cord as shown below • Shape is created by drawing up the draw cords which pulls in the width of fabric - takes the fullness out - creates shape • NOTE: Variation could imply the cord is fully concealed  <i>Accept responses that reflect this diagram with a cord being inserted into channel where the ribbon is shown here</i>				
Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>				0
<i>A very basic sketch, limited understanding, lacks annotation.</i>				1
<i>A reasonable sketch, some annotation, shows some understanding.</i>				2
<i>More detailed sketches, good annotation showing understanding.</i>				3
<i>Detailed sketches, annotation clearly demonstrates a high level of understanding.</i>				4
Total				8

Question 3

The rucksack-style bag pictured below is aimed at the eco-conscious individual.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	Explain why this bag would appeal to an eco-conscious individual.		✓	3
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of the bag's appeal to eco-conscious individuals should be awarded up to 3 marks based on:</i> • Made from recycled nylon • Nylon created by recycling plastic bottles • No new materials needed • Considered more environmentally friendly • Advertised as vegan means no animal-based materials - eco-conscious Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>				0
<i>Brief description, very little understanding for example:</i> Individuals who are eco conscious would appreciate a bag made from recycled materials as they care about the environment.				1
<i>Some detail with some understanding for example:</i> Individuals who are eco conscious would appreciate a bag made from recycled plastic bottles as they care about the environment. Using recycled nylon keeps the plastic out of landfill.				2
<i>A detailed explanation with clear understanding for example:</i> Individuals who are eco conscious would appreciate a bag made from recycled materials - plastic bottles - as they care about the environment. Using recycled nylon keeps the fabric in the cycle and out of landfill as well as the plastic bottles it was originally made from. This would be important to them.				3

(b)	Explain how the fabric, components and the quality of construction contribute to the rucksack-style bag being considered sustainable.		✓	5
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of the sustainable aspects of the rucksack-style bag should be awarded up to 5 marks based on:</i> • Nylon fabric derived from plastic bottles • Plastic not sustainable - finite - but recycling is • Plastic not going to landfill but staying in supply chain - circular economy • Cotton webbing - cotton aspect is sustainable - in theory this could be organic which is more environmentally friendly • Nylon and cotton webbing are strong durable materials - long lasting • Strong construction - reinforced handle attachment; rivets holding shoulder straps in place • Strong construction will allow the bag to function over a long period of time • Products built to last are considered more sustainable as they will not need to be replaced as often - will last the test of time Guidance to markers				
Incorrect/no answer				0
Candidate has simplistic knowledge. The use of terminology and technical language is basic. Brief description of how the fabric/components and /or construction add to the bag being considered sustainable.				1-2
The candidate has some understanding of the issues associated with the question. The use of terminology and technical language is reasonably accurate. More detailed description of how the fabric/components <u>and</u> construction add to the bag being considered sustainable.				3-4
The candidate demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues associated with the question. Uses correct terminology and technical language. Detailed and very clear understanding of how the fabric, components <u>and</u> construction all add to the bag being considered sustainable.				5

(c)	During development, the prototype rucksack-style bag would have been subjected to testing. Describe how the rucksack style bag would have been tested to ensure the manufactured product would function as intended and fully meet the needs and expectations of the user.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of testing prototype products should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Tests would have been applied to the fabrics - abrasion resistance, durability; water resistance - strong fabrics last • Ergonomics - size and adjustable nature of straps tested in use, loaded and unloaded • Dimensions - capacity for laptop and other contents • Strength of bag overall loaded • Can the handles withstand a heavy load - reinforced stitching to attach them • Cotton webbing strength tested • Seams - tested for wear and tear - best processes selected for strength • Zips tested for strength and durability • Padded back panel to protect contents ie laptop • Construction - stitch length, thread strength • Components D rings, sliders - tested for strength Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect/no answer.</i>				0
<i>Brief description, very little understanding for example:</i> The size and shape would have been tested to ensure it is a suitable size for potential contents.				1
<i>Some detail with some understanding for example:</i> The fabrics would have been tested with an abrasion test to ensure the fabric used for the bag would withstand a good level of wear and tear. Seams would also have been tested for strength ensuring the best method of construction is used.				2
<i>A more detailed explanation with understanding for example:</i> The fabrics would have been tested with an abrasion test to ensure the fabric used for the bag would withstand a good level of wear and tear. The seams would also have been tested for strength ensuring the best method of construction is used. The bag overall would also have been tested fully loaded to ensure it would carry the potential weight of contents and that the straps would hold this weight.				3
<i>A detailed explanation with clear understanding for example:</i> The fabrics would have been tested with an abrasion test and resistance to water to ensure the fabric used for the bag would withstand a good level of wear and tear and keep the contents dry at all times. The seams would also have been tested for strength ensuring the best method of construction is used. The bag overall would also have been tested fully loaded to ensure it would carry the potential weight of contents and that the straps would hold this weight.				4
Total				12

Question 4

Study the pictures of the body warmer with heated panels and product information shown below.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	Explain why the sizing of the body warmer would meet the needs of a diverse range of users.		✓	3
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of the sizing of the body warmer should be awarded up to 3 marks based on:</i> • Unisex sizing means the shape will not be too fitted, a looser style - the design is straighter not to the female form • Unisex means not gender specific - marketed as universal • Human shapes vary considerably - this should fit most • Functional product rather than fashionable Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>				0
<i>Brief description, very little understanding for example:</i> It is designed as unisex so anyone can wear it.				1
<i>Some detail in explanation with some understanding for example:</i> As its unisex anyone can wear it and it is not shaped to suit specific body shapes.				2
<i>Detailed explanation with clear understanding for example:</i> The body warmer has universal appeal as it is not designed for a specific gender or body shape. It is straighter and would suit most people regardless of body shape.				3

(b)	Discuss how the heated body warmer meets the functional requirements of users.		✓	4
	<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of how the body warmer meets functional requirements should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • The main requirement is to keep warm - the heated element enhances the product's main function • Heated elements will warm the user more quickly than just the garment on its own • The product has 4 heat zones for different parts of the body - warmth is spread around - maximum comfort and warmth • Padded nature of body warmer will also trap heat from heating element as well as body heat, keeping user warm - heat cannot escape • Different temperatures levels - mean it can be adjusted to suit varying conditions - convenient - outdoors, conditions can change quickly • 16 hours of battery life - can maintain heat over an extended time useful if outdoors/in cold conditions for several hours • Rechargeable via USB - convenient, no separate batteries Guidance to markers			
	<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>			0
	<i>Brief description, little understanding for example:</i> The heated element of the body warmer will ensure the user keeps warm in all conditions.			1
	<i>Some detail with some understanding, for example:</i> The body warmer will keep the user warm but the heated element that has different temperatures will enhance the function of the body warmer and will maintain the same temperature in all conditions.			2
	<i>A more detailed discussion with understanding, for example:</i> The body warmer will keep the user warm but the heated element that has different temperatures will enhance the function of the body warmer and will maintain the same temperature in all conditions. It also has 4 different heat zones to suit different conditions.			3
	<i>Clear and detailed discussion with a good level of understanding for example:</i> The main function of the body warmer is to keep the user warm, but the heated element will enhance the function of the body warmer and will maintain a comfortable temperature in any condition. It has a long battery life which will benefit the user so that they can be outdoors/in a cold environment for an extended period of time and still keep warm. The body warmer on its own might not do that. It also has variable heat settings to suit different conditions which the user might encounter. Note: Do not credit repetition of stated product information alone.			4

(c)	Explain how specific advances in material technology have made the development of the heated body warmer possible.		✓	5
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of material technology should be awarded up to 5 marks based on:</i> • Development of conductive threads to conduct electric charges • Conductive threads can be seamlessly woven/knitted into fabric • Conductive fibres that are knitted or woven into fabrics are hardly visible as hidden in the construction of the fabric • Conductive fibres are flexible and flex with compliant fabrics • Conductive fibres can also be used in stitching • Nano or micro technology is now sufficiently developed to be fully integrated into clothing • Technologies such as electronics - heating, can be embedded into fabric • Nano technology is small and discreet • Micro or Nano technology opens up endless opportunities for innovative new products such as the heated body warmer – reinvention of products • Conductive fibres can now also be washed in a standard washing cycle making them suitable for integration into clothing • Technology allows for the heating elements to be washed without damage or loss of function Guidance to markers				
Incorrect/no answer				0
Candidate has simplistic knowledge. The use of terminology and technical language is basic. Brief description of the advances in material technology that has made the development of the heated body warmer possible.				1-2
The candidate has some understanding of the issues associated with the question. The use of terminology and technical language is reasonably accurate. More detailed description of the advances in material technology that has made the development of the heated body warmer possible.				3-4
The candidate demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues associated with the question. Uses correct terminology and technical language. Detailed and very clear understanding of the advances in material technology that has made the development of the heated body warmer possible.				5
Total				12

Question 5

Market research is important in the development of fashion and textile products.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	Explain the importance of market research in innovation and design.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of market research in innovation and design should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Market research - carried out to identify opportunities to develop new products that meet the needs of potential consumers and be attractive to buy • Analysis of retail data directs product development - builds on past successes but supports in developing the best possible solution • Market research helps determine market potential and economic trends • Market research is a key tool in tailoring innovation to the needs of a particular target audience • If done well, market research bridges the knowledge gap between what design teams think they know and understand about a market and the actual needs, wants and desires of potential users • Effective market research can highlight product questions, concerns or issues to help establish a basis for the development of a new product and how it might be received • Market research helps inform the design of an improved product, and helps develop a better sales and marketing plan that is more likely to resonate with potential users • A competitive market creates a better incentive to develop new and innovative products • Designers must consider the constraints identified through market research • Attracting customers is key - firms have to work very hard to attract customers through innovation and developing better products offering more variety and choice • Innovation is important in a competitive market - lack of innovation could mean loss of business Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>		0		
<i>Brief description, little understanding for example:</i> Market research helps identify opportunities for new and innovative products.		1		
<i>Some detail with some understanding, for example:</i> Market research helps identify opportunities to develop new and innovative products that meet the needs of potential consumers but also retain existing customers.		2		
<i>A more detailed description with understanding, for example:</i> Market research helps identify opportunities to develop new and innovative products that meet the needs of potential consumers but also retain existing customers. In a competitive market, which market research would establish, it is essential to be innovative to extend your market share.		3		
<i>Clear and detailed description with a good level of understanding for example:</i> Market research helps identify opportunities to develop new and innovative products that meet the needs of potential consumers but also retain existing customers. In a competitive market, which market research would establish, it is essential to be innovative to extend your market share. Lack of innovation could mean your business will not expand or even lose existing market share.		4		

(b)	Discuss the advantages of using digital media to market fashion and textile products.		✓	4
	<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of digital marketing should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • The 4Ps or marketing: product, price, place, promotion provide a strong foundation for digital marketing - super-connectivity, online consumerism and multiple devices • Users now go to the internet to search for new items, can look for things globally instead of relying on local businesses – choice has widened/ is far greater - more competitive for businesses but has greater potential • Businesses need to get noticed but also provide users with consistent invaluable information to convince them of their products worth - targeted marketing • Online consumers visit many websites to find the best deal, there is a massive stock of information at their disposal also available to manufacturers • Online consumers leave behind their digital footprints in the shape of cookies, downloads, and click-throughs. Organisations can use all this information to devise a detailed buyer profile and can identify an ideal target market - what they need, how they would achieve it, the incentives they would be responding to, and how all of it influences the product plan • Data provided via the internet means companies can detect the future of the market, the mode of communication and how each can be used effectively; social media interaction; type of devices used; use of algorithms to look for relevance; importance of being visible in the online market • Sharing the right type of message across platforms - how your product is viewed; content has to look good and be persuasive across multiple devices • Content in online marketing can to be tailored - web pages, blogs, social media and email to encourage the engagement with the right people at the appropriate time • Fashion collections/ catwalk collections through VR (virtual reality) – 3D imaging; use of avatars to launch collections			

	Guidance to markers	
	<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>	0
	<i>Brief description, little understanding for example:</i> Information related to the introduction of new products can be shared across multiple different platforms.	1
	<i>Some detail with some understanding, for example:</i> Information related to the introduction of new products can be shared across multiple different platforms. This provides retailers/ manufacturers with far more opportunities to market their products and to a much wider potential target market.	2
	<i>A more detailed discussion with understanding, for example:</i> Information related to the introduction of new products can be shared across multiple different platforms. This provides retailers/manufacturers with far more opportunities to market their products and to a much wider potential target market. Another advantage is that data provided via the internet means companies can detect the future of the market.	3
	<i>Clear and detailed discussion with a good level of understanding for example:</i> Information related to the introduction of new products can be shared across multiple different platforms. This provides retailers/manufacturers with far more opportunities to market their products and to a much wider potential target market. Another advantage is that data provided via the internet means companies can detect the future of the market and use this information in the development of new products. As online consumers leave a digital footprint, retailers can use this information for more targeted advertising which will ultimately benefit their business.	4
Total		8

Question 6

Computer technology is used throughout the fashion and textile manufacturing industry.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	Explain how Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) supports manufacturers in the fashion and textile industry.		✓	3
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of CIM should be awarded up to 3 marks based on:</i> • CIM links all aspects of the fashion and textile manufacturing together in one central computer system • At any given time, manufacturers have access through CIM to see any stage in the entire process • CIM uses computers to control the entire production process that involves production, marketing and all the support functions of a manufacturing enterprise • CIM streamlines the process of manufacturing by integrating it with other business functions such as financing and accounting • CIM allows factories to automate functions such as analysis, cost accounting, design, distribution, inventory control, planning and purchasing • CIM provides direct control and monitoring of all process operations • A developed CIM system provides a way to change a production process dynamically • To be successful, competitive and achieve excellence in manufacturing, the fashion and textile industry must successfully use the most advanced concepts and methods, including computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM) Guidance to markers				
Incorrect/no answer.		0		
<i>Brief description of CIM, very little detail for example:</i> CIM links all aspects of the fashion and textile manufacturing together in one central computer system.		1		
<i>A more detailed level of understanding related to CIM for example:</i> CIM links all aspects of the fashion and textile manufacturing enterprise together in one central computer system including areas such as design, purchasing, finance, distribution.		2		
<i>Full and detailed knowledge and understanding related to CIM for example:</i> CIM links all aspects of the fashion and textile manufacturing enterprise together in one central computer system including areas such as design, purchasing, finance, distribution. At any given time in the manufacturing process the manufacturer has access through CIM to see all stages in the entire process which means any issues can be addressed immediately.		3		

(b) (i)	Explain how technology is used to help manufacturers minimise fabric waste.		✓	2
	<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of minimising waste should be awarded up to 2 marks based on:</i> • In lay planning, templates are tessellated prior to pieces being cut • Fabric cutting involves several plies of fabric being layered up • Computers programmes used to plan a lay plan are far more accurate than man power (old traditional style) • Computer programmes can tessellate templates with pin point accuracy to reduce the natural waste formed between templates pieces • Computer programmes optimise fabric usage and reduce waste. Guidance to markers			
	<i>Incorrect/no answer.</i>			0
	<i>Brief description, very little detail for example:</i> Computer programmes that set out lay plans are able to tessellate templates pieces more effectively than a human doing same by hand.			1
	<i>More detail with understanding for example:</i> Computer programmes that set out lay plans are able to tessellate templates pieces more effectively, which cuts down on the waste created between pieces. Computers are significantly better at this than a human doing same by eye and hand.			2

(ii)	Discuss the advantages to the manufacturer of using automated machinery for cutting fabric.		✓	3
	<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of automated cutting machines should be awarded up to 3 marks based on:</i> • Fabrics are layered up in several plies for product pieces to be cut • Lay plans formed and controlled by computers are linked directly to cutting tables • Band knives which cut the fabric are automated, computers control the process - no man power/ less people employed, ultimately saving costs • Set up costs might initially be high but over time this will be cost effective in speeding up the process • The band knives move according to the computer-generated lay plan - no man power needed for cutting just supervision • Safety aspect - no injury from contact with cutting knives - takes away consequences of accidents/claims • The process is efficient and cost effective - financially better • Increased accuracy over hand worker cutting material • Effective for producing identical items in volume / mass production/ continuous flow Guidance to markers			
	<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>			0
	<i>Brief description, little understanding for example:</i> Computers control the cutting of fabric according to the lay plan with only supervision by a worker, less employees needed.			1
	<i>Some detail with some understanding, for example:</i> Computers control the cutting of fabric according to the lay plan with only supervision by a worker. Less employees needed cuts costs for the manufacturer.			2
	<i>A more detailed explanation with understanding, for example:</i> Computers control the cutting of fabric according to the lay plan with only supervision by a worker is a more efficient, cost-effective system. Less employees are needed so the cost in wages is reduced for the manufacturer.			3
			Total	8

Question 7

Textile fibres are blended together for different reasons.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	Evaluate the benefits of using fabrics made from blended fibres to make contemporary clothing. Include specific named examples in your response.	✓		8
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of the benefits of using blended fibres in clothing and shows evidence of appraisal should be awarded up to 8 marks based on:</i> • Blending fibres combine the properties of all/both fibres - outcome is a superior fabric as it contains the properties of all/both fibres • Blending can improve the characteristics that are poor in one fibre but are excellent in another • Reasons for fibre blends include for example: aesthetic, performance, maintenance, functionality, durability, shape retention • Blending could be for texture, handle or feel - Viscose for example, when blended with cotton, improves its lustre and softness enhancing its appearance • Costs can be reduced by blending an expensive fibre with a cheaper one • Blending fibres during the spinning process can compensate for weaknesses between them, such as shape retention, moisture absorbency, texture or lustre • The benefits vary depending on what fibres are blended together • Cotton/wool: cotton absorbent, wool excellent warmth • Polyester/cotton: polyester fast drying/non-absorbent; cotton absorbent - easier to care for than cotton alone • Cotton/linen blend: Cotton is cheaper than linen; breathable, comfortable and easy to care for • Wool/acrylic: acrylic fibres are cheaper than wool fibres • Any blends with synthetics are generally cheaper than natural fibres • Any blends with synthetic fibres are difficult to recycle, as it is difficult to separate the fibres - impact on disposal as synthetics do not decompose <i>NOTE: Named examples - must fully explain the benefits the blend brings to contemporary clothing</i> <i>Accept other appropriate blends not listed above</i>				

	Guidance to markers	
	Incorrect/no answer	0
	Candidate has a simplistic knowledge; basic. The use of terminology and technical language is basic. Brief description of the benefits of using blended fibres in the manufacture of contemporary clothing. May include a named example. Little evidence of appraisal in the response	1-2
	Candidate has some basic understanding of the issues associated with the question. The use of terminology and technical language is variable. Some detail in the description related to the use of blended fibres in the manufacture of contemporary clothing. Includes one or two appropriate examples. Some evidence of appraisal in the response.	3-4
	The candidate has clear understanding of the issues associated with the question. The use of terminology and technical language is mostly accurate. More detailed description related to the use of blended fibres in the manufacture of contemporary clothing. Includes at least two appropriate examples. Clear evidence of appraisal in the response.	5-6
	The candidate demonstrates very clear understanding of the issues associated with the question. Uses correct terminology and technical language. Full and detailed description and understanding related to the use of blended fibres in the manufacture of contemporary clothing. Includes a number of highly appropriate examples. Detailed evidence of appraisal in the response.	7-8

(b)	Explain the importance of labelling on new fashion and textile products.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of labelling should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Provides essential information - could mean the difference between an item being purchased or returned to the rack • Indicates product size • Indicates fibre and fabric content - as percentages • Consumers can make ethical decisions about what products to buy based on fibre content • Product care information - washing instructions/correct temperatures; ironing - hot/cool temperatures; may require dry cleaning • Caring for products as per instructions can lead to an extended life cycle • Clothing labelling on all fashion and textile products is required by law and includes what it is made from, how to care for it, and where it was manufactured • States where products were made - carbon footprint - informed choices • Labels also promote brands Guidance to markers				
<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>				0
<i>Brief description, little understanding for example:</i> Labels will indicate how to care for the product by providing washing instructions.				1
<i>Some detail with some understanding, for example:</i> Labels will indicate how to care for the product by providing specific washing instructions that must be followed to ensure the product retains its appearance and functionality.				2
<i>A more detailed discussion with understanding, for example:</i> The fibre content will be listed on a product label which will also indicate how to care for the product by providing specific washing instructions based on the fibre content. Instructions must be followed to ensure the product retains its appearance and functionality.				3
<i>Clear and detailed discussion with a good level of understanding for example:</i> The fibre content will be listed according to the percentages used on a product label which will also indicate how to care for the product by providing specific washing instructions based on the fibre content. Instructions must be followed to ensure the product retains its appearance and functionality. Product information listed on a label allows consumers to make informed decisions about the products care or whether to buy it or not in the first instance.				4
Total				12

Question 8

Fashion and textile products are manufactured using different types of production.		AO3	AO4	Mark
(a)	Explain why some manufacturers might use subcontractors in the production of fashion and textile products.		✓	4
<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of using subcontractors should be awarded up to 4 marks based on:</i> • Subcontracting can be defined as either doing partial work of a contract that is originally received by another • It could relate to manufacturing parts of products for example embroidery work, then it is finished in main factory • It may be financially beneficial if a relatively small number of products are needed • Work can be subcontracted out to complete specialist work when it is not financially viable to set up the production in-house ie buy in or rent specialist machinery • In the clothing industry, a subcontracting unit is often a factory that mainly does garment stitching work • Subcontractors might do cutting work or packing • By getting production done from outside by subcontractors, manufacturers can save on overheads costs - no need to invest in building and machines that might not be utilised throughout the year • Some subcontractors get work from Brands who do not have their own manufacturing capability • Using subcontractors offers more flexibility - no need to hire new, permanent employees • Subcontractors can be hired to work on a few short-term projects and then part ways • Subcontractors do not get benefits, office space or equipment from the main manufacturer • Hiring subcontractors also relieves manufacturers of having to pay employee taxes and a full-time salary • Subcontractors may offer a superior service and provide expertise that you cannot get from in-house employees • Increasing productivity is a big benefit of working with a subcontractor, manufacturers can out-source the simple more mundane tasks to a third party				

	Guidance to markers	
	<i>Incorrect / no answer.</i>	0
	<i>Brief description, basic level of understanding for example:</i> If a manufacturer cannot fulfil an entire order in-house, some of the order may be sent to a subcontractor to help complete the order on time.	1
	<i>Some detail in explanation, limited understanding for example:</i> If a manufacturer cannot fulfil an entire order or specialist processes are needed for parts of the product that are not available in-house, the order may be sent to a subcontractor to help complete the order on time.	2
	<i>A more detailed level of understanding of subcontracting for example:</i> If a manufacturer cannot fulfil an entire order or specialist processes are needed for parts of the product that are not available in-house, the order may be sent to a subcontractor to help complete on their behalf. Using subcontractors for part of an order means manufacturers don't have to employ additional staff to complete the order.	3
	<i>Full and detailed explanation of subcontracting for example:</i> If a manufacturer cannot fulfil an entire order, then part of it may be sent to a subcontractor to help complete on their behalf. Also, using subcontractors for part of an order means manufacturers don't have to employ additional staff to complete the order. Subcontractors could be used for specialist processes such as embroidery that cannot be done in-house unless specialist machinery is bought which might not be cost effective unless the equipment was going to be used continuously as a long-term investment.	4

(b)	Discuss the importance of producing a final prototype before a fashion garment is mass produced.		✓	8
	<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of final prototyping before mass production should be awarded up to 8 marks based on:</i> • A final prototype of a wearable style sets the bar for additional garments to be created • A final clothing prototype allows manufacturers to visualise the final design in 3D - it looks the way it's meant to • It ensures the style, form and aesthetics are as intended • It confirms the product functions as intended • The final prototype is sewn in the way the manufacturers want all mass-produced units to be constructed • It uses the fabrics and trims that all further products must have • Final prototypes allows manufacturers to check the garment fits different body types as intended to ensure maximum comfort for the wearer - it fits the way it is meant to • All critical dimensions of a final prototype are the benchmark for further mass-produced products • Construction processes are examined to work out the most effective sequence for manufacture • Fabrics can be closely examined to see how they might perform in a production line and at scale • Wearer trials - test all aspects of the product • It includes the specific hardware, fabric, and specifications of the final design, all the way down to the types of stitching used on every seam for example • Graded sizes will be produced from the final prototype's template patterns • Fabric/component orders are generated once the final prototype has been approved ready for mass production of the same item Accept other factually correct points Guidance to markers			
	Incorrect/no answer.			0
	Brief discussion with little detail in the response: brief knowledge of effective prototyping before a fashion product is mass produced. Basic level of understanding.			1-2
	Basic discussion with some detail in the response: some knowledge of effective prototyping before a fashion product is mass produced. Some evidence of knowledge and understanding.			3-4
	More detailed discussion, with clear evidence of knowledge and understanding relating to effective prototyping before a fashion product is mass produced.			5-6
	Full and detailed discussion, with clear and detailed evidence of knowledge and understanding in the response relating to effective prototyping before a fashion product is mass produced.			7-8
Total				12

Question 9		AO3	AO4	Mark
	Explain how a critical analysis of existing products can inspire fashion and textile designers to be more innovative and creative with their own ideas.		✓	8
	<i>Answers that indicate an understanding of conducting a critical analysis of existing products can be awarded up to 8 marks based on:</i> - Existing products are analysed to get information about the design of a product - Designers could look at fabrics used, construction processes, embellishments - The appeal of a product could be important in identifying strengths and weaknesses, overall performance and function - Opinions can be formed about the products - Products could be contemporary, historical, different cultures - Weaker aspects can be improved upon - By understanding design decisions made by others, designers can be inspired by successful features or strive to create something better - more innovative and creative - Creativity can relate to function and construction as well as appearance - Details can be scrutinised - critical analysis - to inspire designers' own designs - A critical analysis can be virtual as well as physical deconstruction - Fashion shows by leading designers can be viewed as controversial and extreme but are a good source of inspiration for others - Designers may seek inspiration from historical and cultural collections in museums which can lead to fresh interpretations of past designs - Being inspired by others can push designers to experiment and think 'outside the box' being experimental - Fashion designers often take inspiration from painting, sculpture, architecture, furniture, flowers, animals or any possible object that fascinates them - does not have to be another fashion or textile product - Finding inspiration, regardless of source is probably the most important part of designing clothes particularly if innovation and creativity are to be realised Guidance to markers			
	Incorrect/no answer.			0
	Limited knowledge and understanding of how a critical analysis of existing products can inspire fashion and textile designers to be more innovative and creative with their own ideas The use of terminology and technical language is basic.			1-2
	Generally, a good understanding and application of knowledge of how a critical analysis of existing products can inspire fashion and textile designers to be more innovative and creative with their own ideas The use of terminology and technical language is variable.			3-4
	Very good understanding and application of knowledge related to how a critical analysis of existing products can inspire fashion and textile designers to be more innovative and creative with their own ideas The use of terminology and technical language is mostly accurate.			5-6
	Excellent understanding and application of knowledge and understanding of how a critical analysis of existing products can inspire fashion and textile designers to be more innovative and creative with their own ideas Uses correct terminology and technical language is accurate.			7-8
		Total		8

Question 10

Environmental concerns related to the fashion industry are well documented, with interest in more sustainable fashion continuing to grow.		AO3	AO4	Mark
	Analyse whether synthetic fibres have a place in sustainable fashion. Marks will be awarded for the content of the answer and the quality of written communication.	✓		12
	Candidates that demonstrate knowledge and understanding and apply it to <i>designing and making principles</i> as well as showing evidence of logical lines of reasoning can be awarded up to 12 marks based on: • Synthetic fibres derive from a finite resource - non renewable • Synthetic fibres are not sustainable • Synthetic fibres can be recycled and kept in supply chain - circular economy - could be considered sustainable • Synthetic materials tend to be stronger and can be engineered to withstand wear and tear to ensure they last but are still from a finite resource that is not sustainable • Sustainable fashion regardless of fibre source must address all aspects of a products life cycle: cradle to grave included energy used in manufacture - its carbon and ecological footprint • Products must be well-made from good quality materials both natural and synthetic - if they are to last - moving towards sustainability • Synthetic fibres will ultimately end up as landfill, environmental issues • Recycled synthetics are still from a finite resource and do not bio degrade • Sustainable fashion is a balance between fibre source, cleaner greener energy, environmentally friendly processes, reducing the overall impact, if addressed then synthetics do have a place in sustainable fashion <i>Accept other factually correct persuasive reasons for and/or against synthetic fibres place in sustainable fashion</i>			

Guidance to markers		
Incorrect / no answer.		0
A limited description of the environmental and sustainability issues related to the use of synthetic fibres in fashion. Limited understanding and application of knowledge and understanding of designing and making principles within the fashion industry. Little evidence of logical lines of reasoning or relevant examples. Quality of Written Communication is limited, presenting material with limited coherence, many errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.		1-3
Some detail in the description of the environmental and sustainability issues related to the use of synthetic fibres in fashion. Generally good understanding and application of knowledge and understanding of designing and making principles within the fashion industry. Some evidence of logical lines of reasoning which are generally coherent and relevant. Quality of Written Communication is basic, presenting occasional appropriate material with some coherence, some errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.		4-6
More detailed description of the environmental and sustainability issues related to the use of synthetic fibres in fashion. Very good understanding and application of knowledge and understanding of fashion designing and making principles within the fashion industry. There is evidence of logical lines of reasoning, which are generally coherent, relevant and substantiated. Quality of Written Communication is good, presenting mainly appropriate material in a coherent manner, few errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.		7-9
Full and detailed description and understanding of the environmental and sustainability issues related to the use of synthetic fibres in fashion. Excellent understanding and application of knowledge and understanding of designing and making principles within the fashion industry. There are sustained lines of reasoning which are coherent, relevant and substantiated. Quality of Written Communication is excellent, presenting wholly appropriate material in a coherent and logical manner, hardly any errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.		10-12
Total		12