



Historical Design developments of APPAREL.

Question 14 - Design.

Focus area: Apparel.

(a) There are many significant historical design developments in relation to the focus area of apparel.

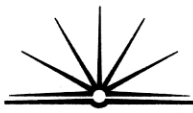
Cotton was first used in 3000 B.C. in India and it is still used today, as is silk, which was first discovered and used in China in 2846 B.C. Lingerie was made

out of these fibres ~~primarily~~ ^{primarily}, in the past. In 1589, William Lee invented the first weft-knitting machine for sewing hosiery, and hosiery is still popular today.

In 1846 the sewing machine was invented, thus signalling the ~~beginning~~ beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

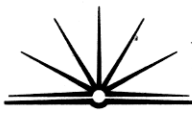
In the ^{early} 1900's, the structured look of the previous century was still popular, but in the 1920's the look was ~~more~~ more free signalled by the popularity of

~~fringing~~ fringing and boyish silhouettes. Rayon was used for hosiery for the first time as it was a substitute for silk. In the 1930's, fabrics were cut



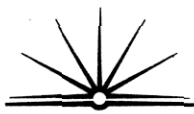
on the bias for the first time. In 1958, lycra was discovered and manufactured by DuPont. The fifties was the birth of the teenage culture, ~~the~~ thus the wearing of hats and gloves soon ceased. In the 60's, designers made use of the wide range of synthetics^{now} available, and were more adventurous. Looks were popular, including hippies and mods. This has carried on through the 1980's, 1990's and the 2000's with looks coming and going, for example: sporty, power-dressing, punk, grunge and streetw^{ise}~~ise~~. Microfibres are^{now} threatening the silk market.

(b) The previous historical design developments have had significant impact on contemporary textiles in apparel. For example, in the area of lingerie, silk is now rarely used as it was in the past as new fibres have been discovered, for example, microfibre is now used particularly in hosiery, or blended with other fibres to be used for underpants and bras. Due to the invention of the knitting



machine, lingerie is no longer made from woven fabrics, but knitted fabrics are used extensively. The invention of lycra (an elastomeric fibre) in 1958 has impacted very significantly on contemporary apparel with stretch-blend knitted and woven fabrics available not only in lingerie but in traditionally plain cotton shirts, in jeans (traditionally made from stiff cotton) and in synthetic fabrics too. Lycra has had the greatest impact in the area of swimwear as it can be made resistant to chlorine and blended with other fibres such as polyamide to provide swimwear that is body-hugging and durable, unlike the inferior knitted-wool swimsuits of the 1930's.

When the sewing machine was invented in the 1800's, who would have ~~that~~ thought that today it would be connected with CAD programs and incorporate CAM which allow designers endless possibilities to design new apparel using the latest technology.



The synthetics of the 60s have been developed into high-tech fabrics suitable for many decorative and functional end-use applications in apparel today, for example polyester microfibre sports fabrics. The looks of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s are all being recycled in the fashion world in 2000, showing significant impact of these design developments on the apparel ~~to~~ today. For example, peasant tops from the 1970s are now found in the stores around ~~to~~ Australia as part of their Spring 2002 collections.