

Task 1 – Long Reading: The History of Modern Fashion

At a glance

Level: ISE I

Focus: Task 1 – Long Reading

Aims: Understanding information about the history of modern fashion

Objectives: To select the most suitable heading for paragraphs, to identify whether statements are true or false and select the most suitable word from the text to complete sentences

Skill: Skimming and scanning for key information about the history of fashion and understanding specific information about origins and developments in the industry

Topic: Fashion

Language functions: Processing and comprehending a straightforward factual text and selecting appropriate language to identify key details.

Lexis: Parts of the world, countries in Asia and Europe, historical names, fashion capitals of the world and adjectives

Materials needed: One student worksheet per student and dictionaries

Timing: 50 minutes

Procedure

Preparation

1. Insert images, as required, into the student worksheet.
2. Print one student worksheet per student.

In class

1. Introduce the topic of fashion. Ask the students to write down two words about their favourite kind of clothes. Then elicit their choices and ask them why they like them. Next ask students about their favourite perfumes, cosmetics and jewellery.

Examples of questions could include:

Why do you like it?

Why do you prefer this designer brand to other brands?

2. Tell the students that in today's class they will be working on Task 1 – Long reading in the ISE I Reading & Writing exam and they will be reading for basic meaning (gist), specific meaning and specific detail.
3. Put students into pairs and ask them to give a list of five designer names and world fashion capitals. Ask for answers in open-class and write them on the board.
4. Give out one student worksheet per student. Tell the students that on the worksheet they can find a practice Task 1 reading exercise which they are going to do in lesson in exam conditions.
5. Before the students begin, explain to them how to read for basic meaning, read for specific meaning and read for specific detail.
6. Go through the different questions with the students and explain what is required from each question and demonstrate how to select the correct information.
7. Now give the students 20 minutes to complete the practice Task 1.
8. When the students have finished, ask the students to exchange answer papers. Ask students to give the answers in open-class and write the correct answers on the board. If necessary, show the students where the correct answers are in the text.
9. Once you have gone through the answers, ask the students to discuss how they found the task and what they think they can do in the future to prepare for Task 1 – Long reading of the ISE I Reading & Writing exam.

Extension activities

Task A - explain that students need to match key words to the definitions. Check answers and note correct answers on board.

Task B - explain that students need to complete the paragraph using the correct word from the box. Check answers and note correct answers on board.

Task C - explain that students need to find the word from the text which matches the synonym. Check answers and note correct answers on board.

Further support activities

Task A - explain to students that they need to choose the correct word from the box and write it under the picture.

Task B - explain to students that they need to read the opening paragraph and put the sentences in the order that they appear in the text.

Task C - explain to students that they need to complete the sentences using the correct words from the box.

After class

Ask students to find pictures of their favourite designer fashion labels and make a poster saying why they chose them and when they wear these clothes.

Student Worksheet

Task 1 – Long Reading:
The History of Modern Fashion

Reading Comprehension

Read the text about fashion and answer the questions below.

Fashion – the World Over	
1	Today, dedicated followers of fashion look to cities such as New York City, London, Paris and Milan for their inspiration and to buy the latest trends. The fashion scene changes with every season and in many countries, this means that there are four collections – one each for spring, summer, autumn and winter. The concept of fashion trends developed in the 14 th century in Europe, but what about fashion in the rest of the world?
2	Early Western travellers going to the East noted that fashion styles did not change rapidly in countries such as Persia, India, China and Japan. However, this was not always the case as there was also evidence uncovered during the dynasty of Ming China of rapidly changing fashions in Chinese clothing . History shows us that changes in costume often took place at times of economic or social change, which occurred in ancient Rome and the medieval Arabian Peninsula. Then a long period without major changes would follow.
3	At this time, most weaving, embroidery, cutting and stitching was hand-crafted by skilled craftsmen and seamstresses. Many textiles originated in countries such as China, where exquisite silks were produced and Turkey with its rich history of embroidery and clothing styles influenced by Central Asia and the Far East. Until the mid-nineteenth century, in Europe and America most clothing was therefore custom-made by skilled dressmakers and tailors. This meant that following fashion trends was clearly an expensive past-time.
4	In the twentieth century, mechanised production of textiles and the introduction of the sewing machine dramatically changed the way fashionable garments were produced. It led the development of <i>haute couture</i> and, much later, affordable branded clothing which was the offshoot of <i>haute couture</i> . Mass production meant that clothing became much cheaper and more widely available, yet at the same time was easily adapted to meet the designers' demands. As economies grew and people became more affluent, more people could afford to buy designer clothing across the world.
5	To sum up, fashion is closely interlinked with the history of the world. Periods of rapid change and movement of people influenced the textiles and styles that people chose to wear. Nowadays, people are still extremely conscious about the way they dress for various occasions. Adolescents and young adults feel very strongly about the brands they wear, whether it is for college, partying or sportswear. Their parents feel the same about their own designer labels. There are designer or boutique brands all over the world. In many Asian countries, local designers can charge a small fortune for exclusive bridal wear, wedding attire and other formal wear.

Questions 1-5 (1 mark per question)

The text on 'Fashion – the World Over' has 5 paragraphs (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter in the numbered box. There is one more title than you need.

- A. Origins of textiles
- B. Industrialisation
- C. Designer companies
- D. Modern approach to fashion
- E. General information about fashion in Europe.
- F. History of clothing in the Orient

Example	
10	z
Paragraph	Letter
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Questions 6-10 (1 mark per question)

Choose the **5 statements** from A-H below that are **TRUE** according to the information given in the text opposite. Write the letters of the **TRUE** statements in the boxes provided (in any order).

A	Fashion designers can be found almost everywhere in the world.	True statement
B	Many people wear expensive sports gear.	6.
C	Mass production has not made designer brands accessible to more people.	7.
D	Bridal wear is more often than not exclusively designed.	8.
E	Changes in clothing did not coincide with economic and social movement.	9.
F	Following fashion trends has not always been easy.	10.
G	There were generally few fashion trends in China.	
H	Many processes were done by machine during the early 20 th century	

Questions 11-15 (1 mark per question)

Complete sentences 11-15 with a word, phrase or number from the text (maximum 3 words). Write the word, phrase or number in the space provided.

11. Early travellers to the Far East believed that fashion changed

_____.

12. Dressmakers and tailors had to be very

_____.

13. *Haute couture* was very

_____.

14. Designer clothing became more

_____.

15. People are still particularly _____ about
the way they dress.

Extension Activities**Task A: Vocabulary**

Match the key words to the definition.

Key Word	Answers	Definition
1. Weaving	1-k	a) A lot of clothes made at the same time
2. Embroidery		b) Something constructed by hand
3. Cutting		c) People who made suits for men
4. Stitching		d) A machine used at home or in industry to make clothes
5. Dressmakers		e) Sewing designs using needle and thread
6. Tailors		f) Using scissors on fabric
7. Wool		g) Women who made dresses for women
8. Hand-made		h) The process of joining fabric pieces with needle and thread
9. Mechanised		i) A fabric made from sheep
10. Sewing machine		j) Processes using machines.
11. Mass production		k) Making fabric from yarn

Task B: Grammar

Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the verb. There is one verb you do not need.

begin - mean - alter - purchase - look - run

Followers of fashion **1.** _____ to cities such as New York City, London, Paris and Milan for their inspiration and to **2.** _____ the latest trends. The fashion scene **3.** _____ with every season and this **4.** _____ that there are four collections – one each for spring, summer, autumn and winter. Fashion trends **5.** _____ in the 14th century in Europe.

Task C

Using a dictionary, find suitable words used in the text to match the synonyms.

Synonym		Word used in text
1. costly		a) expensive
2. related to		b)
3. changed		c)
4. wealthy		d)
5. a lot of money		e)
6. fast; quick		f)
7. specially made		g)

Further Support Activities

Task A

Match the words to the correct picture.

mechanised sewing – factory-production- dressmaker – weaving-
cutting - sewing machines - embroidery – tailor – hand-stitching

1 Insert image of dressmaker	2 Insert image of sewing machine	3 Insert image of hand-stitching
4 Insert image of mechanised sewing	5 Insert image of weaving	6 Insert image of embroidery
7 Insert image of cutting	8 Insert image of tailor	9 Insert image of factory production of clothes

Task B

Read paragraph 1 and put these sentences in the correct order.

1.	But what happens in fashion across the rest of the world?	
2.	The concept of fashion trends developed in the 14 th century in Europe,	
3.	This means that there are four collections – one each for spring, summer, autumn and winter.	
4.	The fashion scene changes with every season and in many countries,	
5.	Today, dedicated followers of fashion look to fashion capitals to buy the latest trends.	1

Task C

Complete the sentences with the correct word. There is one word that you do not need.

labels - interlinked – influenced – rapid
brands -clothes –boutique

1.	Fashion is closely _____ with the history of the world.
2.	Periods of _____ change and movement of people _____ the clothes that people chose to wear.
3.	Adolescents and young adults feel very strongly about the _____ they wear.
4.	Their parents feel the same about their own designer _____.
5.	There are designer or _____ brands all over the world.

Answer Key

Fashion – the World Over

1. E
2. F
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. F
10. H
11. Slowly (or suitable alternative)
12. Skilled
13. Exclusive or expensive
14. Affordable
15. Conscious

Answer Key – Extension Activities

Task A

1.	K
2.	E
3.	F
4.	H
5.	G
6.	C
7.	I
8.	B
9.	J
10.	D
11.	A

Task B

1)	look
2)	purchase
3)	alters
4)	means
5)	began
The verb form and tense should be correct.	

Task C

a)	expensive
b)	interlinked to
c)	adapted
d)	affluent
e)	a small fortune
f)	rapid
g)	custom-made

Answer Key - Further Support Activities

Task A

1.	dressmaker
2.	sewing machines
3.	hand-stitching
4.	Mechanised sewing
5.	weaving
6.	embroidery
7.	cutting
8.	tailor
9.	factory-production

Task B

1.	but what happens in fashion across the rest of the world?	5
2.	The concept of fashion trends developed in the 14 th century in Europe,	4
3.	This means that there are four collections – one each for spring, summer, autumn and winter.	2
4.	The fashion scene changes with every season and in many countries,	3
5.	Today, dedicated followers of fashion look to fashion capitals to buy the latest trends.	1

Task C

1.	Fashion is closely interlinked with the history of the world.
2.	Periods of rapid change and movement of people influenced the clothes that people chose to wear.
3.	Adolescents and young adults feel very strongly about the brands they wear.
4.	Their parents feel the same about their own designer labels .
5.	There are designer or boutique brands all over the world.

Original Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ming_Dynasty

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanfu>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome