CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Cambridge International A Level Design and Textiles (9631)

What is the course book?

No one book is prescribed. There are a number of suggested textbooks given in the resources list.

The books contain material that is suitable for use with this syllabus. The content of the books does not necessarily cove whole of the Cambridge syllabus and teachers may wish to select more than one book in order to cover the entire conter syllabus. You could also look at the following:

Giles R. – Needlework – Methuen
Ladbury – Fabrics – Sidgewick and Jackson Taylor M.A. Technology of Textile properties

Websites can also provide useful information. A list of websites is given in the resources list.

I am having problems getting hold of the recommended books. Can you help?

Most of the texts can be obtained over the Internet. The following web-sites may be of interest:
www.amazon.co.uk

What support materials are available?

Syllabus – details of the content and how to plan for and assess the Practical Test and Coursework are given in the sylla is essential that Centres refer to the syllabus. Copies of the working documents needed for the Practical Test and Cours are available in the printed syllabus or in the online version on the Teacher Support Site.
Specimen Question Papers and Mark Schemes
All of the above are available on the Teacher Support Site and from Cambridge Publications

What is the scheme of assessment for AS and A Level?

There are four parts to the scheme of assessment for the full Design and Textiles A Level. Candidates may apply for an award at the end of one year and then add the A Level
paper and coursework before applying for an A Level award the following year. Alternatively,
candidates may take all papers at the end of their course.

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) forms 50% of the assessment weighting of the full A Level. The AS can be taken as a sta alone syllabus or as the first part of the full A Level course.

The A Level candidates must take, in addition to the AS paper and Practical, the A Level paper and coursework. For full of the course outline, please refer to the syllabus.

When are the examinations?

This syllabus is available for examination in November only. Coursework submissions should be sent to CIE in October of the year of examination.
When should I plan the Practical Test and how is it administered?

Full details and suggestions are given in the syllabus. An extract is given below – Preparation of Practical Test Task.

The Practical test will be a teacher-set task based on the making-up of a garment which allows candidates to demonstrate planning and practical techniques and skills. Centres must supply Candidates with a copy of the task sheet and a paper pattern on which the tasks are based. A new set of tasks should be set each year.

Instructions for the preparation of the Practical Test Task Sheet and for the conduct of the Practical examination session are given in the syllabus. Please ensure these instructions are followed. An interval has to be allowed between the planning session and the practical test to permit ordering of test materials, but schools should not

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organise any practice which has a bearing on the examination between the planning session and the practical test.

Instructions for Candidates – A blank copy of the Practical Test Task Sheet for Candidates is provided in the Appendix of the syllabus. Centres should use this as a template for their candidates.

What should I consider when designing the practical test?

The following points should be kept in mind when finalising the tasks:

There are 5 main tasks/assessment points in the main task. There should be similar levels of ease or difficulty for each 10 mark task. Consider whether the alteration should be allocated marks – is it difficult? Is it assessed separately? Does it involve any further processes?

Consider the difficulty of the task when allocating marks – is more than one process involved?

Small or simple tasks could be grouped together to make them up to 10 marks e.g. sewing on a button, with a buttonhole could be grouped together for 10 marks

Group similar tasks/processes together to make up 10 marks e.g. all seams for 10 marks rather than just side seams etc. This makes it easier to mark.

Choose a variety of processes and avoid repetition between tests / within tests.

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