

Textiles A Level

Preparation work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

Welcome to the A-Level Textiles pre-course guide. Pre-reading and research will help you to become more familiar with the topics you are going to study on your A Level Textiles course, preparing you for the start of the course.

Specification :

A good place to start is to look at the A level specification and familiarise yourself with what you will be studying on the course:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/subject-content/textile-design

Task 1:

Follow us on Instagram!

To gain a good idea of the wide range of exciting techniques you will be learning on the Textile course at Godalming College we recommend you browse through our recent posts on Instagram. We document our workshops, past and current students' work and the end of year exhibitions on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/godalmingcollegetextiles> #godalmingcollegetextiles

Task 2:

Pin inspiration to your Pinterest Board

We have a Godalming College Pinterest page where we pin inspiring technique examples.

1. Create your own Pinterest Account (if you don't already have one) by signing up here: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk>
2. Create a new board e.g. 'Godalming College Textiles Inspiration.'
3. Browse our Boards <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/arttextilesgc> and pin at least 10 inspiring images to your own Board.

Websites for Further Research and Reading:

Natural dyeing: <http://www.botanicalinks.com>

Textiles at the V&A: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/make-and-do#knit-crochet-embroider>

Macramé tutorials: <https://www.woolandthegang.com/t/how-to/macrame>

Books to Read:

Here are just a few of our favourites:

- **Sketchbook Explorations: Mixed media approaches for textile artists** by Shelley Rhodes.
- **Slow Stitch – Mindful and Contemplative Textile Art** by Clare Wellesley-Smith
- **Natural Processes in Textile Art: From Rust Dyeing to Found Objects** by Alice Fox
- **Alexander McQueen** by Clare Wilcox, V&A publication

Podcasts:

The Design edit includes a fascinating selection of interviews with artist and craftspeople talking about their work. Check out 'Celia Pym on Darning': <https://thedesignedit.com/news/material-matters-podcast>

Task 3:

Make your own bag! (Optional)

The Victoria & Albert museum in London has an excellent range of creative projects on their website. This Japanese Boro bag can be made by upcycling fabric, (a sewing machine is optional.) Please click the link below, download the instructions and have a go!

V&A <https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/make-your-own-japanese-boro-bag>

Progression Opportunities

Why choose Textiles A Level:

Students progress to a wide range of design-led disciplines following the Textiles A-Level including Textile & Fashion Design, Costume Design, Ceramics, Graphics and Illustration. Students may also progress to Events Management and Business Studies related to the creative industries.

View this link for more information on the Creative Industries in the UK:

- <https://www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk/industries/fashion>

You may also be interested to read this on Prospects.ac.uk:

- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/textile-designer>

We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.

