

A-Level Textiles Summer Task:

Below are a list of tasks that you should complete before the start of your A-Level Textiles course. These tasks do not require prior knowledge of GCSE Textiles, however, if you have studied GCSE Art, Photography or Textiles you will be able to demonstrate your drawing and/or practical skills.

There is a variety of tasks which are designed to stretch your creative, practical and research skills. This work can be completed on loose paper and/or by digital means and stuck in a sketchbook when you are able to get one.

1. Photography challenge:

Respond to the theme of 'ENVIRONMENT' using each of the key words below. Your photos should be focused on a different word each day. The challenge lasts for 30 days and you should aim to shoot at least 5 photos per day. **Print a contact sheet** of all images taken and your best **8 images** (different keywords), add annotations to explain what inspired your shots and why you think they are successful.

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Macro/close-up | 11. Black and white | 21. Natural |
| 2. Far away/from a distance | 12. From the hip | 22. Pattern |
| 3. Look up | 13. Rule of thirds | 23. Destroy/destroyed |
| 4. Look down | 14. Decay | 24. Behind |
| 5. Surfaces | 15. Structure | 25. Water |
| 6. Texture | 16. Reflection/mirror | 26. Unknowns |
| 7. Obscured | 17. Low light/at night | 27. Panoramic |
| 8. Through | 18. At ground level | 28. Angles |
| 9. From above | 19. Shadows | 29. Chaos |
| 10. From below | 20. Urban | 30. Colour |

2. Research:

We are used to existing in lots of different environments. Being surrounded by different places, people, objects, sights, sounds and smells. At the moment we find ourselves restricted to one or two environments. Remember environment can be anything from natural to man made, human, animal or objects.

Make a source collage about your ideas for the theme – think about how the word might link to your interests, hobbies, and creative inspirations.

Gather a range of your favourite examples and paste into a PowerPoint page which can be printed and glued into your sketchbook.

3. Drawing

During your A-Level you will explore drawing for textiles and surface pattern and the journey between drawing and design work. If you are unconfident or frightened about drawing, we will be developing this skill by using lots of different techniques.

You will develop a body of experimental drawings (applicable to textiles and surface pattern design) exploring texture, line, mark-making, scale, layering, surface and mixed media.

Complete the tasks below across a double page or more,:

Part 1: Make a collection of objects that are important to you – arrange them in a still life set up.

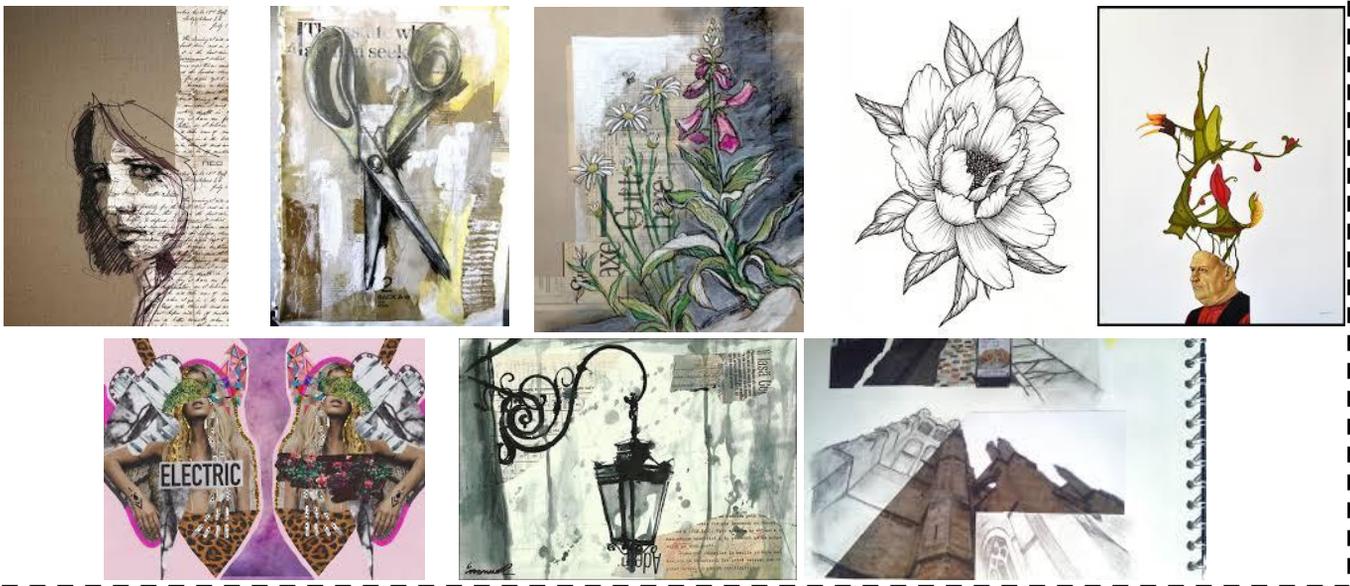
Make either a series of drawings of parts of the set up or a detailed drawing of the whole set up. You could draw with pencil, pen, paint, etc.

Use the work of Audrey Flack as inspiration.



Part 2:

Alongside the 30 day photography challenge we would like you develop drawings based on your ideas for the theme. Try to make a drawing each day, use as many different material as you have access to. Think about combining and layering materials and techniques.



4. Textiles responses:

- Below I have included some ideas of techniques you can experiment with to explore abstracting your ideas. If you don't have access to ink to complete the task, try drawing onto different papers with ideas from your theme. Use these to cut up and weave together.

AN EXPLORATORY EXERCISE

This exercise is designed to explore and exploit the potential of your drawing tools and to discover the wide range of marks that they can make. In this case using ink. It is interesting to weave the results to produce a rich abstract of lines and marks.

Remember that lines can be:

- Fuzzy
- Crisp
- Heavy
- Light
- Soft
- Hard
- Fat
- Thin
- Varied
- Straight
- Curved
- Wiggly
- Smooth
- Spiky
- Dotted
- Dashed
- Continuous
- Broken

MATERIALS

- Brushes
- Sheets of A4 white cartridge paper, both plain or altered (eg with newspaper bonded onto it)
- A variety of drawing tools
- Black China ink
- Scissors
- Ruler and pencil

METHOD

Choose some of the drawing actions from above and make sure that the tools you use will provide you with a range of marks, from delicate thin lines to fat chunky ones. A dotted line made with a cocktail stick, for example, will be different to that made with a cotton wool bud.

There is no right or wrong way to do this, no rules or regulations.

Steps 2-4 below are suggestions only in this case, actions from the right-hand column above were used.

1. Iron Bondobond to the wrong side of the paper. Leave the backing paper on.
2. Dip a cotton bud into the ink, and roll it along to make a short, wide, curved line. Repeat this twice more, so that you have three lines.
3. Take a fine tool, such as a sharpened kebab stick, and draw some dotted lines at an angle to those you have already drawn. Let them touch the previous lines.
4. Continue in this way, building patches of line, using the line descriptions above. Make sure that you have a variety of line weights on your page. You might like to fill in some small areas with tiny lines.
5. When you have filled your paper with marks, cut it in half, ready for weaving. For accuracy, use a ruler. You could cut it lengthways or widthways, according to preference. See page 19 for weaving techniques.



If you are pleased with your results and would like to develop the abstract design further, you might like to try these possibilities:

- Photocopy – enlarge, reduce, make multiple copies and arrange them as a repeat print. Consider large-scale design, using computer transfer paper.
- Photocopy and transfer the design to cloth, using transfer solution (see page 46) and stitch the marks, by hand or machine.
- Copy onto JetFX transfer paper, using a toner-based photocopier, and transfer the result to fabric: (see page 47).

• The woven paper piece was colour photocopied and adhered to a strip of silk from one side, and the silk transferred to create cotton using transfer solution (see page 46). This was then hand-stitched using open ends and wetpup running (see p. 10), to make a border pattern of lines, with the rest of one edge freely extended. Both the lines and the background spaces were stretched.

• Another section was further stylized and transferred as a piece of patterned cloth. This time, only the marks were stretched, leaving the continuous cloth visible.

• The completed weaving.



- If you have access to any textiles equipment start looking for artists who relate to your ideas for the theme and make responses to their work.

Use the PowerPoint and pdf file or pinterest to look for inspiration/ideas.

Textiles responses can come from a variety mediums including weaving/ collage/ hand embroidery/knitting as well as batik, applique, free machine embroidery etc.

When possible we will try to get materials to you, however you are still able to purchase equipment/fabric etc from Ebay. You can get interesting bundles if you search fabric scraps or remnants.

You can buy bundles like the image below, or dig around your house for odds and ends. See what you can make with these.



<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Hand-Dyed-Fabric-Fibre-Creative-Textile-Art-Craft-Bundle-Mixed-Media-Embellish/283018763278?hash=item41e53b9c0e:g:kBkAAOSwE51aiIBX>