

A Level Textiles Key Designers

Your transition project is to create research pages on each of the following 8 key Textiles designer. I've included a bit about each of them, but you will create a 2 page spread on each of them on paper, in a sketchbook, or digitally.

You must include the following:

- A title
- Information about the designer (history background)
- Why they are influential, what your opinion is of their work.
- Key images (4-8) from each designer (pick ones you like)
- Drawings from their work including both a close up or detail from one of their garments, and a full size fashion illustration.
- a fashion illustration that is your own creation inspired by their work

- Paul Poiret
- Coco Chanel
- Christian Dior
- Mary Quant
- Yves Saint Laurent
- Pierre Cardin
- Vivienne Westwood
- Alexander McQueen

Paul Poiret (prolific 1900-1920)

- Liberated women from corsets and petticoats – draped fabric instead
- Inspired by exotic and oriental kaftans and kimonos
- Influenced by the Ballet Russe (Russian ballet) stage costumes
- Used dramatic and bright colours – some considered outrageous
- Used marketing and photography (considered very modern for the time) to promote his fashions



Draping



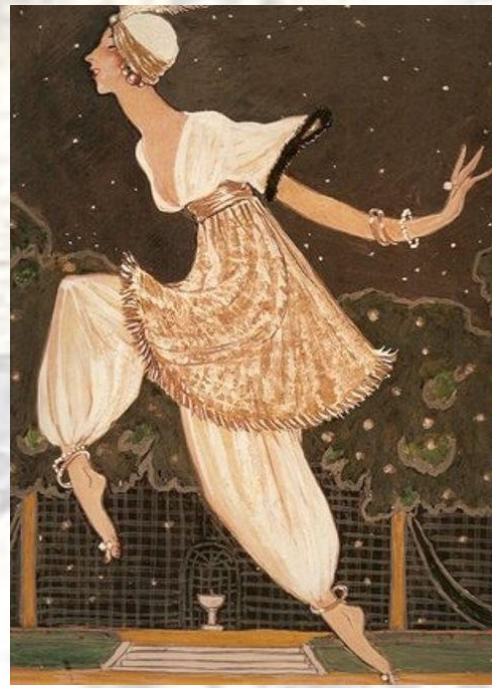
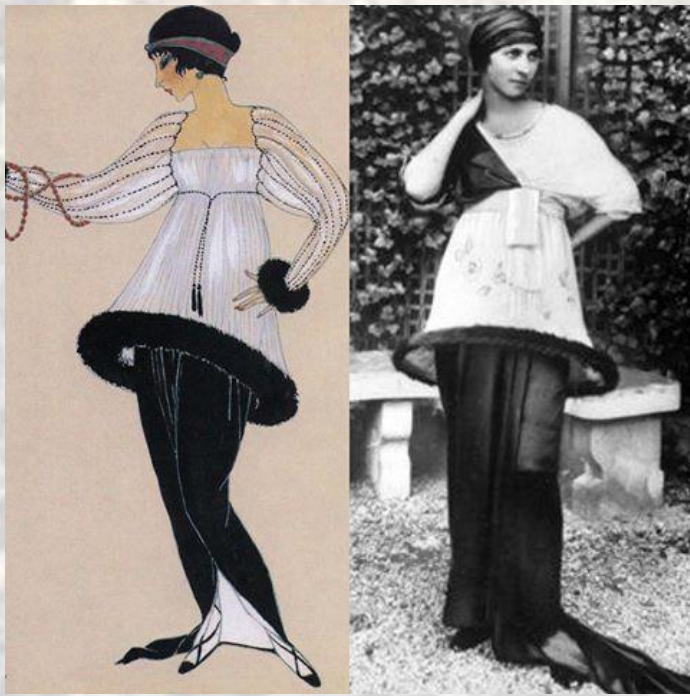
Hobble skirt and
lampshade tunic

Key iconic products

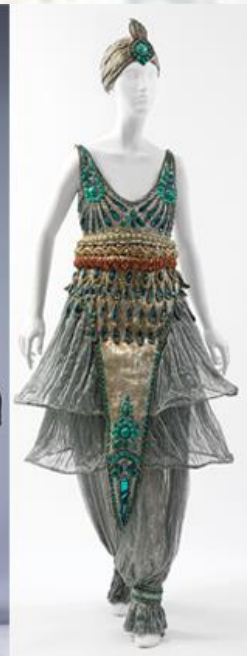
- Harem pants 1909 – full Turkish style trousers with narrow ankles
- Hobble skirt 1913 – narrow hem made it difficult to walk in
- Lampshade tunics – held out in full circle at hem using boning, worn over hobble skirts
- Oriental style turban hats with feathers at front



Harem pants



Paul Poiret
Fashions





LBD
1926



Classic skirt
suit
1960s

Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel – Creator of Garçonne boy look (flappers look)

- Casual elegance with a sporty influence – reflective of women's more active lifestyles since WW1
- Higher hemlines and pleated skirts to ease movement
- Easier to wear clothing that did not require servants to help dress
- Innovative use of **JERSEY FABRIC**, and **TWEED FABRIC**
- She was the creator of the boy look, starting as a hat designer she took the fashion scene in Paris by storm and created new unseen looks for women.
- Chanel introduced the "little black dress" in 1926, the new uniform for women for afternoon and evening wear. She used traditional elegant materials like lace, tulle, and soft weightless silks in a newly tailored way
- Her first LBD was a slash-necked, short silk dress with only diagonal pin-tucks as decoration



2.55 Chanel
Handbag 1955

CHANEL

Key Iconic products:

- LBD – 1926
- Classic skirt suit 1960s
- Sporty, casual elegance
- The colour black
- 2.55 quilted leather handbag



CHANEL



1960s Chanel



Christian Dior - The New Look 1947

Dior



Waspie



- The 'New Look' was launched by the Parisian couturier Christian Dior in 1947 as a reaction to the austerity of wartime clothing. It was based on the tiny waists and full skirts of the pre-war era and required constricting undergarments to achieve the required shape. Going against feminist ideals.
- With Longer lengths and drastically fuller skirts. Woman's fashion now changed to a soft, feminine and decidedly romantic image.
- Introduced the Waspie – a boned corselette to lift the breasts and minimise the waist
- Needed petticoats to hold the full skirt shape



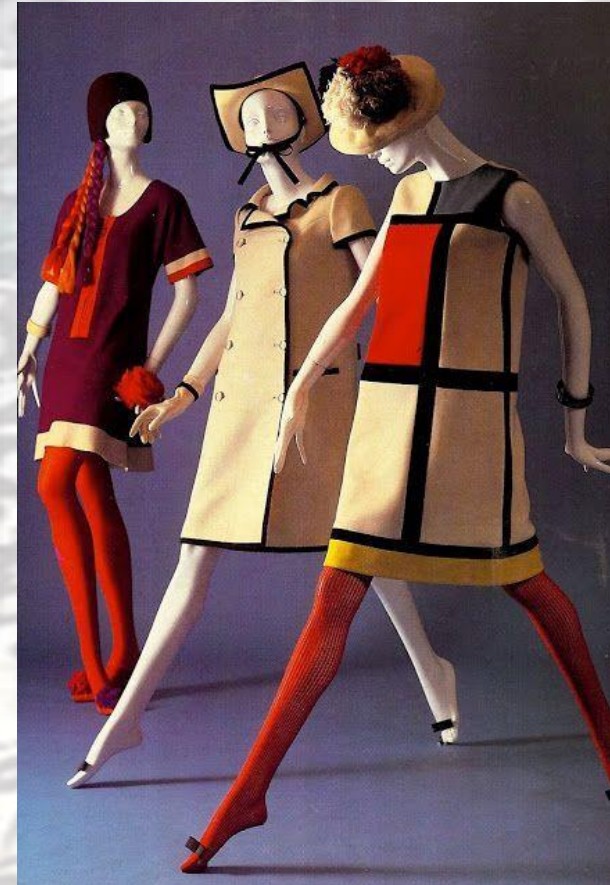
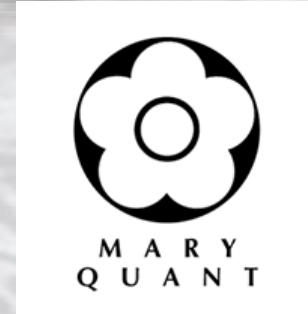
Dior

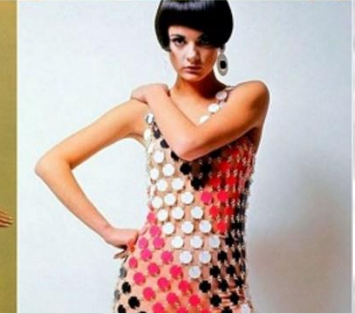
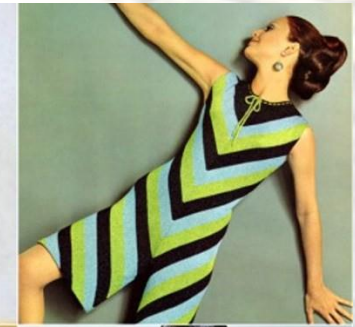
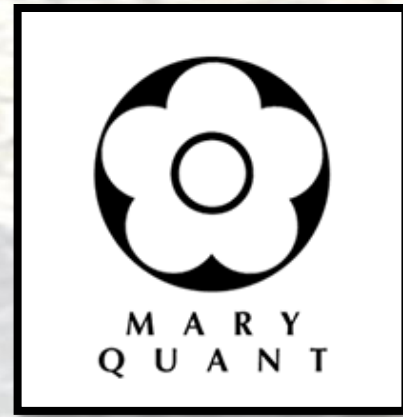




Mary Quant - The Swinging 60s

- Mary Quant is associated with the 1960s, in particular 'mini skirts' and 'daisy' decorations
- Convinced that fashion needed to be affordable to be accessible to the young, she opened her own retail boutique, "Bazaar", on the Kings Road in 1955, introducing the 'mod' era and the 'Chelsea Look
- By 1966 Mary Quant produced the short waist skimming mini dresses and skirts that were set 6 or 7 inches above the knee.
- It would not be right to suggest she invented the fashion mini skirt. In 1965 she took the idea from the 1964 designs by Courrèges and liking the shorter styles she made them even shorter.
- Fun fashion for young people
- Used the latest inexpensive synthetic fabrics
- Bright block colours, simple tubular or A line shift dresses







Yves St. Laurent

- Created a shift dress made of blocks of coloured fabric pieced together, in the style of Mondrian's geometric paintings
- 'YSL' is perhaps most famous for "Le Smoking" tuxedo jacket 1966, see-through blouses, peasant blouses, bolero jackets, pantsuits and smocks. By feminising the basic shapes of the male wardrobe, YSL set new standards for world fashion. He not only adapted the male tuxedo for women, but also safari jackets, pea jackets and flying suits.
- Other influential pieces included the pants or slack suit for women, created in 1967. The elegance and practicality did not only speak for the comfort of the garment, it was also a big step concerning the emancipation of women
- Sometimes called '**street chic**' as he used everyday styles into elegant classics – e.g. trench coat and parka



Le Smoking- 1966



Pierre Cardin - 50s/60s space age

Pierre Cardin®
PARIS

- Used modern materials such as knitted and heat moulded synthetics and metallics
- Influenced by space travel and science fiction
- Block colours and bold designs 3D forms
- One of first designers to launch 'pret-a-porter' (ready to wear) clothing line
- Key design – Bubble dress 1954



Bubble dress 1954





Vivienne Westwood

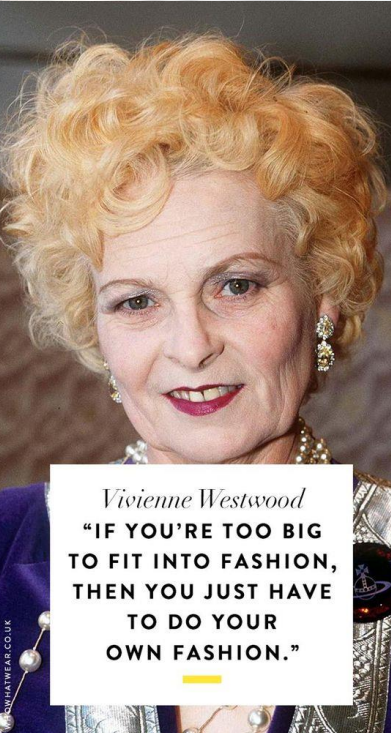
- 1970s - VW and her partner Malcolm McLaren (manager of Sex Pistols) set up shop in Kings Road, London selling punk fashion
- In 1980s was inspired by historical costume - she introduced "underwear as outerwear," reviving the corset, and inventing the "mini-crini" and her Pirate Collection - influencing the New Romantic movement
- Self-taught tailoring - didn't use patterns, had own innovative cutting techniques.
- Used British fabrics - Harris tweed and tartan
- Vivienne introduced the 'faux cul' - a lightweight bustle focusing on the bottom
- Sexually liberating, empowering feminine designs
- T-shirts with political slogans

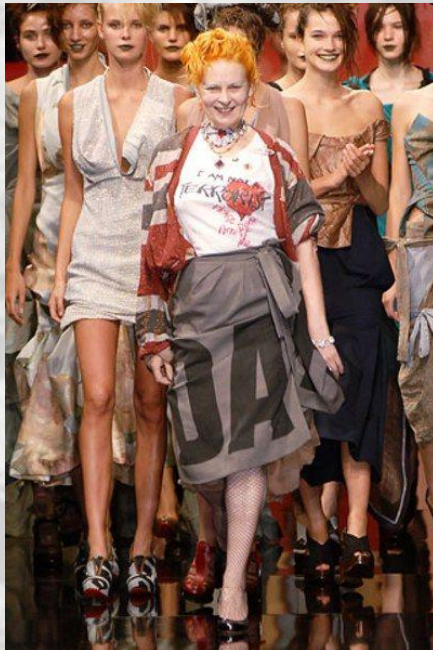


Pirate collection



Faux cul

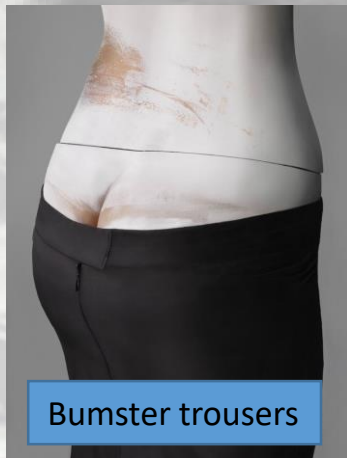




Alexander McQueen

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

- Alexander McQueen became known for his adventurous colourful prints and pushing things to the edge. Using vibrant emerald greens, golds and sky blue.
- Extremely creative and highly original, impeccable tailoring (trained at Saville Row)
- reputation for controversy and shock tactics (earning the title "enfant terrible" and "the hooligan of English fashion"), with trousers aptly named "bumsters" and a collection entitled "Highland Rape".
- McQueen was known for his lavish, unconventional, runway shows. -1999 robots spraying model, 1998 drenched models in rain
- McQueen's "bumsters" spawned a trend in low rise jeans;. McQueen also became known for using skulls in his designs.



Bumster trousers

This picture is from his 2009 collection and was named one of the 100 best dresses of the decade.

The structure of the print expresses the time that we live in with access to high quality machines which can produce amazing graphic results.



