



Reading

- 1 You are going to read an introduction to a book about clothes and fashion. For questions 1–10, choose from the sections (A–D).

Which section

- explains why non-mainstream fashion risks the possibility of social disapproval? 1
- makes the point that fashion cannot be taken out of its historical context? 2
- suggests a temporal link between wearing clothes and painting the body? 3
- explains that certain clothes eventually become recognised as merely of historical interest? 4
- suggests that someone might dress in a particular way in order not to attract attention? 5
- suggests that clothes could be used to assert social standing? 6
- mentions a fashion item which reflects a trend in society? 7
- mentions clothes being put on in a very elaborate manner? 8
- mentions satisfying one's own curiosity as a possible motive for dressing in unusual ways? 9
- offers an explanation for the way in which dress codes originate? 10

THE SOCIAL PHENOMENON THAT IS FASHION

A Each day as we prepare to meet our world we perform a very popular ritual: getting dressed. This may mean only adding a daub of war paint or freshening a grass girdle. Or it may be the painstaking ceremonious robing of a monarch. For most of us, however, it means the exchange of nightwear for day clothes. Although nakedness does still exist in some isolated communities, there appears to be no society that is entirely composed of totally unadorned human beings. The desire to alter or to add to the original natural state is so prevalent in the human species that we must assume it has become an inborn human trait. When did it begin? It certainly precedes recorded history. Bodily covering was probably the first man-made shelter and the human skin the earliest canvas. Standing erect with his arms and hands free to function creatively, man must have soon discovered that his anatomical frame could accommodate a wide variety of physical self-improvements. His shoulders could support a mantle to

protect him from the elements. To stand out above his peers and indicate his superior position, he found his head could be an excellent foundation for adding stature and importance. Intertwined with these motivating factors and building on them was the human instinct for creative expression, an outlet for the aesthetic spirit.

- B** Changes in needs and outlooks often blur the purposes that originally gave articles of human raiment a *raison d'être*. Vestiges are relegated to tradition; others undergo a kind of mutation. The sheltering mantle, for example, can become a magnificent but cumbersome robe of state. Amulets, their symbolism lost or forgotten, become objects of decoration to show off the wearer's wealth. Man is a gregarious creature. And although innovations and changes may be initiated by individuals, the inspiration that triggers them grows out of the innovator's environment, and their acceptance or rejection is determined by his society. Nothing so graphically reflects social and cultural patterns as the manner in which individuals within a society alter their original appearance.
- C** Fashion can be a powerful force. Societies evolve for themselves a set of rules, and most people, consciously or subconsciously, do their best to conform. The nonconformists, those who do not wish to join in this game, must either sever

their relationship and go it alone or suffer the consequences. These regulations are hardly capricious. Their roots are in the foundation of a society which, although composed of individuals, develops an identity of its own and an instinct for self-preservation. A homogeneity in dress is a manifest catalyst, a visible unifier of a social group. Because this is so, costume if read properly can give us an insight not only into the class structure of a social organization but also into its religion and aesthetics, its fears, hopes and goals. Today our clothes continue to reflect our anxieties and how we try to cope with them. Our society is rapidly becoming global. The recent worldwide rage for jeans is an example of this new universality and the wholesale movement to break down past barriers – geographical and social.

D 'Fashion is the mirror of history,' King Louis XIV of France correctly observed. But if one were to transpose a fashion

into another era, it would be unlikely to make sense. How, for example, could an Amazonian Indian or a Roman senator rationalize a hoop skirt, a starched ruff, or a powdered wig? Yet scrutinised through the specialist's lens, such vagaries of dress can help chart the course of social mores, moral codes, the march of science and the progress of the arts. This would explain why the genealogy of clothes receives the rapt attention of the psychologist, sociologist, economist, anthropologist and art historian, each posing the same question: 'Why do people wear what they wear?' Why, indeed, have human beings chosen to transform themselves so astonishingly? For the sake of the flesh or the spirit? For themselves and their own inquisitive nature or for the eyes of beholders? What has driven them? Ambition? Fear? Humility? There is and can be no single adequate response.

Use of English

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1 Do you mind if I don't come back to the office after I've been to the dentist at lunchtime?
afternoon

Would you have any off after my dental appointment?

2 Everyone knows you are not allowed to smoke on domestic flights.
ban

It is common on domestic flights.

3 He knew nothing of his wife's impending promotion.
about

Little to be promoted.

4 He can't possibly have said anything like that.
misheard

You really completely.

5 All this media attention is quite unusual for a contemporary painting.
receive

Seldom much media attention.

6 Brian was offended when the teacher accused him of being disruptive.
being

Brian took disrupting the lesson.

Vocabulary

- 3 Which of these characteristics from the Chinese zodiac are negative? Use your dictionary to help you decide. Some may be a matter of opinion!



The Horse

athletic eloquent entertaining gifted
hard-working independent quick-witted ruthless
selfish unfeeling



The Goat

dissatisfied insecure irresponsible lovable
peace-loving pessimistic sweet-natured
undisciplined unpunctual



The Monkey

enthusiastic inventive long-winded passionate
unfaithful untruthful untrustworthy witty



The Rooster

amusing boastful conservative extravagant
industrious mistrustful pedantic pompous
short-sighted vivacious



The Dog

courageous cynical devoted introverted modest
noble prosperous respectable selfless stubborn



The Pig

gullible honest loyal materialistic naïve
non-competitive scrupulous sensitive sincere sociable

- 4 Match the signs to these descriptions, underlining the characteristics in the table above that justify your answers.

EXAMPLE: They are funny, lively and hard-working, but they can also be a bit suspicious and self-important.

Rooster – amusing, vivacious, industrious, mistrustful, pompous

- Honourable, brave and well-to-do, they tend to attach easily to people and put others first, but they can be inward-looking and a bit obstinate.
- A bit innocent and easily taken in, they like the fine things in life and pay attention to detail. Very genuine, they enjoy being among people and will always stand by their friends.
- They are amusing, eager people who are good at thinking things up, but they can be unreliable and may not always tell the truth.
- They are kind and gentle people, easy to love, but not always easily pleased. They sometimes lack confidence, often have an underdeveloped sense of responsibility and can't always look on the bright side.

- 5 Add an appropriate prefix to make the opposite of these adjectives from exercise 3. Use your dictionary to help you.

EXAMPLE: *unsociable*

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| aenthusiastic | enoble |
| bhonest | fselfish |
| cloyal | gsensitive |
| dmodest | hsincere |

- 6 Find the six compound adjectives in exercise 3 and use the *first* word of each to complete these sentences. Use your dictionary to help you. There may be more than one correct answer.

EXAMPLE: Some parents have a lot to put up with but are extremely *long-suffering*.

- The affair may have been very public but it was very-lived.
- The councillor's-hitting remarks at the meeting upset a lot of people.
- The Finance Director is renowned for being rather-tempered in a crisis.
- At election time, you will find-talking politicians everywhere.
- In any confrontation, her brother always adopts a-keeping role.

- 7 Which prefix can attach to every word in each list below? Use your dictionary to help you decide and check any meanings you don't know.

EXAMPLE: bearing, joyed, wrought
over (overbearing, overjoyed, overwrought)

- conscious, literate, skilled
- disposed, eminent, possessing, occupied
- dated, going, raged, ranked, standing
- assured, centred, important, opinionated, satisfied, styled

Grammar

8 Use linkers from the boxes to complete these extracts. You will not need to use them all.

at any rate consequently furthermore
having said that to some extent

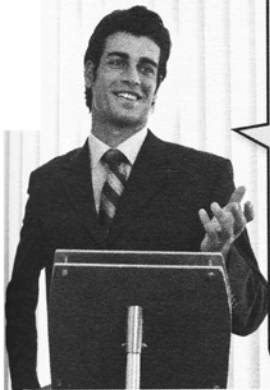
Dear Mrs Livermore

Having investigated the matter, we are satisfied that no mistake has been made on our part. (1)
I find that our sales staff have acted in a courteous and compliant manner. (2), we are unable to agree with your request for a refund and further compensation. (3), we will in the circumstances exchange the coat if you return it to the store within one week of this letter.

all the same even though in brief
on the contrary what's more

Senior management are determined to push on with the policy reforms (4) everyone has pointed out several problems with these proposals. (5), Mr Davies intends to go further than he has indicated in his email to all staff of 23 March. He claims that staff representatives have been 'obstructive and critical'; (6), we believe we have acted in a positive, constructive manner.

for that reason in short likewise
on the whole



Anita has overseen a major acquisition, she has increased profits by thirty per cent, she has restored shareholder confidence in the firm. (7) she has transformed this company since she took over twelve years ago. (8) David has had a huge impact on the company since he arrived nine years ago.

9 Gerund or infinitive? Complete these sentences with an appropriate form of the verbs in brackets. There may be more than one correct answer.

EXAMPLE: They decided *to put off tidying* (put off / tidy) the house until their visitors had left.

- a She stopped (iron) her clothes and started (put) them away.
- b He regretted (take) the job when he found he couldn't stand (work) with his new boss.
- c The new recruits all promised (improve) their standard of dress at work.
- d Apparently, no-one minds her (be) so untidy round the house. Her housemates don't like (be) tidy themselves!
- e They managed (defuse) the situation and (avoid / get) caught up in an ugly scene.
- f We meant (practise / do) the yoga exercises but the director objected to us (use) the room.
- g Having advised him (embark) on a course of therapy, the counsellor went on (suggest) that he try (see) a few different therapists before choosing one to work with.
- h Until she heard his voice, she had forgotten (meet) him three years ago.
- i 'Remember (stay) calm, whatever happens!' she shouted after him.
- j You've let your house (get) in a terrible state. There's no point (try / clean) it yourself – you'd better (get) a professional cleaner in.
- k I was hoping (buy) a new outfit for the occasion, but my parents have forbidden me (spend) any more money!
- l Predictably, he denied (lie) to them about the theft.
- m I've only found two things worth (read) in this newspaper.
- n He's been meaning (phone) you for a couple of weeks now.