

The Open University of Sri Lanka
Faculty of Engineering Technology
Department of Textile and Apparel Technology



Study Programme	: Bachelor of Science Honours in Engineering/ Bachelor of Industrial Studies Honours
Name of the Examination	: Final Examination
Course Code and Title	: TAJ5353 History and Traditions of Clothing
Academic Year	: 2024/25
Date	: 30 th January 2026
Time	: 1400 - 1700 hours
Duration	: 3 hours

General instructions

1. Read all instructions carefully before answering the questions.
2. This is an **Open Book Test (OBT)**, and thus, you are allowed to bring any material into the Examination Hall.
3. Write down your **Index Number** on all the pages of the answer script.
4. This question paper consists of six (06) questions in two (02) pages. Answer **five (05)** questions only. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
5. Answers for each question should commence on a **new page**. If a question has many parts, all the parts should be answered in chronological order under the same question.
6. Write down the answered question numbers on the cover page of the answer book.
7. Answers should be in clear handwriting.
8. Do not use **red-coloured** ink pens to write the answers.

Question 01

- a. "Clothing provides physical comfort and protection, yet the desire to attract attention through fashion can sometimes work against these functions. With the help of four (04) suitable examples supporting this statement, explain what you understand by it.
(12 marks)
- b. Arabic clothing reflects unique cultural developments shaped over centuries. Explain two (02) major influences that have contributed to the formation of traditional Arabic clothing styles.
(08 marks)

Question 02

- a. The renowned Italian fashion designer, Miuccia Prada once said, "What you wear is how you present yourself to the world". Explain this statement using two (02) different examples.
(08 marks)
- b. Explain three (03) key features reflected in the traditional clothing styles of Eastern European countries such as Poland, Latvia, Bulgaria, and Romania.
(12 marks)

Question 03

- a. "Clothing has long been a fundamental part of human culture, influencing how people lived, adapted to their environments, and expressed their identity throughout history. With the help of two (02) traditional clothing examples, explain how these support this statement. (08 marks)
- b. Briefly explain four (04) social factors that influenced the evolution of Western clothing from the 19th to the 20th centuries. (12 marks)

Question 04

- a. Explain two (02) highlighting features that belong to "Early clothing style developments" in world history. (08 marks)
- b. Although Africa hosts a wide range of cultural traditions across the continent, many traditional clothing styles share common features. Briefly explain four (04) key similarities with examples. (12 marks)

Question 05

- a. "Ancient clothing was primarily created through simple techniques such as draping, knotting, and gathering, with very minimal cutting or sewing involved. Explain the above statement with two (02) examples related to the Ancient Greek and Roman clothing. (08 marks)
- b. Briefly explain four (04) common features found in the traditional clothing of Near East cultures, focusing on Myanmar, Malaysia, and Thailand. (12 marks)

Question 06

- a. Clothing evolution refers to the gradual development and changes in human dress over time. Explain two (02) key factors that have influenced this evolution throughout history. (08 marks)
- b. Write short notes on any three (03) of the four topics given below.
 - i. Ancient Egyptian clothing
 - ii. Rococo period women's clothing
 - iii. Traditional Nepalese costumes
 - iv. Draping technique of the Kaccha sari style(12 marks)

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