AQA Design & Technology (8552)

Easter Revision Guide: Textiles Focus

28th March – 12th April

This Easter revision guide is structured to help you consistently prepare for your final 2-hour written exam. By completing one short task each day, you will cover the essential topics across Sections A, B, and C of the specification, with a specific focus on Textile Design, without feeling overwhelmed.

Each task is designed to take no more than 20 minutes. Keep a notebook or a folder specifically for these responses, ensuring you practise your exam technique and use correct technical terminology.

Revision Tracking Schedule

Use this table to track your progress over the two-week Easter break. Tick off each day once the task is completely finished.

Date	Topic	Exam Focus	Completed
28th March	New and Emerging Technologies	Section A	☐
29th March	Energy Generation and Storage	Section A	☐
30th March	Smart and Modern Materials	Section A	☐
31st March	Mechanical Devices	Section A	☐
1st April	Forces and Stresses	Section B	☐
2nd April	Ecological and Social Footprint	Section B	☐
3rd April	Scales of Production	Section B	☐
4th April	Material Properties and Selection	Section B	☐
5th April	Surface Treatments and Finishes	Section B	☐
6th April	Investigating User Needs	Section C	☐
7th April	The Work of Others	Section C	☐
8th April	Design Strategies	Section C	☐
9th April	Prototyping and Development	Section C	☐
10th April	Tolerances and Allowances	Section C	☐
11th April	Quality Control and Assurance	Section C	☐
12th April	Product Evaluation	Section C	☐

Daily Revision Tasks

Day 1: 28th March - New and Emerging Technologies

Focus: Section A
Explain the term 'planned obsolescence'. Write a 6-mark response discussing the ethical and environmental impacts of designing products with a limited lifespan. Give a specific example from the textile industry, such as 'fast fashion' garments.

Day 2: 29th March - Energy Generation and Storage

Focus: Section A
Create a comparison table for **two** renewable energy sources (e.g., wind, solar) and **two** non-renewable energy sources (e.g., coal, nuclear). For each, list one major advantage and one major disadvantage regarding their environmental impact and reliability for powering large textile mills.

Day 3: 30th March - Smart and Modern Materials

Focus: Section A
Define what makes a textile a 'smart material'. Select two of the following materials: *Thermochromic dyes, Microencapsulation, Conductive threads, or Photochromic dyes*. For your two chosen materials, write down their specific property changes and suggest one practical wearable application for each.

Day 4: 31st March - Mechanical Devices

Focus: Section A
Mechanics often rely on levers to create a mechanical advantage, even in textiles equipment. Sketch the three different classes of levers (Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3). Clearly label the **Load**, **Effort**, and **Fulcrum** on each, and provide a real-world example (e.g., fabric shears for Class 1, tweezers for threading a needle for Class 3).

Day 5: 1st April - Forces and Stresses

Focus: Section B
Textile products must withstand various physical forces during use and manufacture. Write a definition for each of the five main forces: **Tension, Compression, Torsion, Bending,** and **Shear**. Next to each definition, identify a textile process or product component that experiences this (e.g., tension on a sewing machine thread, shearing fabric with scissors).

Day 6: 2nd April - Ecological and Social Footprint

Focus: Section B
Write a short paragraph explaining the 'Six Rs' of sustainability (Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle). Choose an everyday textile product, such as a basic cotton t-shirt, and explain how a fashion designer could apply at least three of the 'Rs' to improve its environmental footprint.

Day 7: 3rd April - Scales of Production

Focus: Section B
Differentiate between *Bespoke (Haute Couture)* and *Mass Production*. Write down three characteristics of each scale. Then, explain why lay plans, pattern pieces, and standard sizing are essential when moving from bespoke production to batch or mass garment production.

Day 8: 4th April - Material Properties and Selection

Focus: Section B
You are designing an extreme weather outdoor jacket. Choose a specific textile material or fabric blend (e.g., Gore-Tex, coated nylon, or a poly-cotton blend). Write an 8-mark justification explaining why your chosen material is suitable, discussing its physical properties, working properties, and durability in harsh weather.

Day 9: 5th April - Surface Treatments and Finishes

Focus: Section B
Textile finishes are applied for two primary reasons: aesthetics and function. Provide one specific decorative technique (e.g., block printing, tie-dye, embroidery) and one functional finish (e.g., stain resistance/Teflon coating, flame retardant). Explain the step-by-step process of applying one of these to a fabric.

Day 10: 6th April - Investigating User Needs

Focus: Section C
Section C heavily focuses on data. Define *anthropometrics* and *ergonomics*. Imagine you are designing a rucksack or an item of protective clothing. List three specific anthropometric measurements you would need to gather from your target audience to ensure the product fits comfortably and is ergonomic.

Day 11: 7th April - The Work of Others

Focus: Section C
Designers often draw inspiration from iconic fashion designers or brands. Choose one iconic designer (e.g., Mary Quant, Vivienne Westwood, Alexander McQueen, or Coco Chanel). Write down three key features that define their signature design style, and ex-

plain how their work has influenced modern fashion or textiles.

Day 12: 8th April - Design Strategies

Focus: Section C
Spend 15 minutes practising your communication skills. Sketch a simple textile product (like a rucksack, a hat, or a jacket) using a flat drawing technique or a fashion croquis. Add basic rendering to indicate fabric texture, drape, folds, or a light source to make the design pop off the page.

Day 13: 9th April - Prototyping and Development

Focus: Section C
Explain the purpose of creating a *toile* (a mock-up usually made of calico) or a paper pattern model before manufacturing a final textile product. List three ways a physical toile can help a designer identify fit or construction flaws that a 2D fashion illustration might miss.

Day 14: 10th April - Tolerances and Allowances

Focus: Section C
In manufacturing, what is meant by the term 'tolerance' or 'allowance'? Write a brief explanation of why working to a specific seam allowance (e.g., 1.5 cm) is vital when assembling garment panels to ensure the final product matches standard sizing.

Day 15: 11th April - Quality Control and Assurance

Focus: Section C
Distinguish between Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC). Write a brief definition for both. Then, list three specific QC checks that could be carried out during the manufacture of a printed cotton tote bag (e.g., checking stitch tension, seam strength, or print registration/colour fastness).

Day 16: 12th April - Product Evaluation

Focus: Section C
Using the acronym **ACCESS FM** (Aesthetics, Cost, Customer, Environment, Size, Safety, Function, Material), write a brief evaluation of the item of clothing or textile accessory you are wearing right now. Write one bullet point for each letter of the acronym, critically analysing the design.