

4-H Fashion Revue Question Ideas

Fabric Characteristics and Care

- ✓ • What is the fiber content of your fabric(s)?
- ✓ • How do you care for your garment(s)?
 - Was your fabric easy to sew? Is it easy to care for?
 - What qualities did you look for when selecting fabric for your garment?
 - Is your fabric made of natural or synthetic (manmade) fibers?
 - When choosing thread to match your fabric, should you choose a thread color that appears to be slightly lighter or slightly darker than your fabric?
 - Slightly darker. Thread will appear darker on the spool than it will on your fabric.
 - Name something that should be listed on the end of a bolt of fabric.
 - Fiber content, fabric width, cost, care instructions
 - What is a fabric blend?
 - Two or more types of fibers combined in one fabric. Blends often have characteristics of each of the fibers used in the fabric.
- What are some of the fiber characteristics of the fabrics you used?
 - Different answers, according to fabric used.
- What are some of the differences between knit and woven fabrics?
 - Knitted fabric consists of continuous yarn(s) forming interlocking loops. Knits do not have lengthwise and crosswise grain, but courses and wales instead. Many knit fabrics stretch. They do not fray when cut but may snag and/or run. Knits generally do not have a selvage. Knits generally drape well.
 - Woven fabric (plain weave) consists of yarns (or threads, either is correct) that have been “warped” on a loom (the warp or warp yarns) vertically, with a second set of yarns weaving over and under the warp yarns horizontally (“filling” or “weft” yarns). Wovens do not stretch in the lengthwise or crosswise grain, unless the yarns contain stretch fibers or fibers that are specially crimped. There are also mechanical methods to creating a stretch woven. Wovens do stretch on the bias grain. Wovens tend to have a “crisper” hand than knits. Wovens fray when cut, except on the bias and on the selvage.
- What does the term “hand” mean in relation to fabric?
 - The tactile impression the fabric gives, i.e. soft, smooth, drapey, crisp, etc.
- What is “nap” in fabric?
 - A raised surface or pile on the fabric which causes the fabric to appear differently (generally lighter or darker) depending on the direction it is viewed. Patterns must be laid out in one direction only on a napped fabric to maintain a consistent appearance between garment pieces.
- What is pilling?
 - Small balls of fiber hanging from the fabric surface caused by abrasion.
- What is “selvage”?
 - The tightly woven finished edges of a piece of woven fabric. Selvages do not ravel. The edges of a woven piece of fabric where the crosswise (filling/weft) yarns complete their pass through the weft yarns and then pass back through in the opposite direction, creating a dense border that runs the length of the fabric on either side.

- What is “grain” in fabric?
 - Another word used for the lengthwise (warp yarn) or cross-wise (weft yarn) threads of the fabric. The direction the threads/yarns run in the fabric. On-grain = lined up parallel to the weave, usually in the lengthwise direction.
- What is the “lengthwise grain”?
 - Parallel to selvage edge (direction of the warp yarns) and stronger than crosswise grains. Most garments are cut with the lengthwise (warp) yarns going up and down the body. Most fabric drapes more softly (falls in softer folds) when hung in the lengthwise direction.
- What is the “crosswise grain” or “crossgrain”?
 - Perpendicular to selvage edge, (weft or filling yarns) running across the fabric between the selvages. Most garments are cut with the crosswise yarns running around the body.
- What is the “bias”?
 - A diagonal line (45°) between the lengthwise and crosswise grains. Fabric stretches on the bias.
- How do you determine if woven fabric is “on grain”?
 - On-grain woven fabric will lay flat when selvage edges and pulled or torn crossgrain edges are even.
- What is a “one-way” or “directional” print?
 - A print that has a definite direction to the design, such as animals all facing one direction. A “with nap” layout must be used with cutting out directional fabric.
- What are the advantages or special features of natural fibers? Of synthetic fibers?
 - Natural fibers: breathe well, water/moisture absorption is ideal for comfort (generally hydrophilic), renewable resource, generally ease and press well
 - Synthetic fibers: durable, can be mechanically manipulated to stretch, wick moisture, etc., oleophilic (attract oils), some do not breathe well, some must be drycleaned, mostly petroleum based, tend to melt under heat, do not ease well
- Name three or more synthetic/manmade fibers
 - Polyester, Rayon (viscose, Bemberg), Nylon (polyamide), Olefin/Polyolefin (Tyvek), Polypropylene, Spandex (polyurethane), Acetate, Aramide, Tencel (lyocell – “natural” manmade fiber), Ingeo (PLA – corn polymer fiber), etc.
- Name three natural fibers
 - Silk, Wool, Cotton, Linen, Ramie, Cashmere, Angora, Mohair, Camel hair, hemp, etc.
- Is it important to pretreat your fabric before cutting out the pattern? Why?
 - Pretreating fabric is important in order to predict shrinkability and suitability of care methods for the fabric prior to constructing the garment.
- ✓ Did you pretreat your fabric prior to cutting? How did you pretreat it?
- ✓ Would you select this type of fabric for another garment in the future?
- Does your fabric have any finishes on it? If so, what type?
 - Wrinkle resistant, flame resistant/retardant, spill resistant, glazing, etc.
- What do you do to treat snags in knit fabrics? How can you prevent snags during laundering?
 - Use a snag puller or “knit picker” to pull the snag to the wrong side of the garment. To prevent, launder items prone to snagging in a lingerie bag, or by hand.

Clothing Construction Techniques (generally ask questions that are applicable to the garment(s) being modeled)

- ✓ • What is the purpose of interfacing?
 - To give shape, stability and reinforcement to the fashion fabric. It is also used to prevent stretching and/or raveling when the fashion fabric is trimmed.
- What are two types of interfacing?
 - Woven, non-woven, knit, fusible, sew-in, welt insertion
- What are some garment areas that usually need interfacing?
 - Collars, cuffs, faced necklines, front or back openings, lapels, hems, pockets, waistbands, etc.
- What are two of the quality standards that judges use to evaluate interfacing?
 - Adds shape, body and support without bulkiness
 - Enhances the hand of the fabric
 - Interfacing weight is appropriate for fabric and detail
 - Color blends with fabric or is inconspicuous
 - Prevents seam allowances from showing through to the outside of the garment
 - Not visible
 - Free from raveling
 - Interfacing seams and darts are treated to eliminate bulkiness
- What are two of the quality standards that judges use to evaluate fused interfacing?
 - Secure, smooth and free from puckers, invisible from right side, garment edges not stretched, does not significantly change the hand, texture and/or color of the fashion fabric.
- What is the purpose of facings?
 - A facing covers and encloses a raw edge.
- What is the difference between a facing and an interfacing?
 - A facing covers and encloses a raw edge. Interfacing is fused or stitched to the wrong side of a facing or garment fabric to give support and/or to add shape, body, and prevent the garment from stretching out of shape.
- What is the purpose of linings?
 - To cover interior construction details; allow a garment to slide on/off smoothly; give additional support to fashion fabric; eliminate need for a slip.
- What is the purpose of darts?
 - Darts are used to shape a garment so it fits around your body's curves. Darts add shape and control fullness.
- Why is it important to press as you sew?
 - To open or flatten intersecting seams and to press small areas that will be difficult to reach when the garment is completed.
- What is the purpose of a press cloth?
 - Protects the fabric from damage and shine while allowing steam/heat to pass through
- What is the purpose of a pressing ham (or pressing mitt)?
 - To shape curved areas of a garment to fit rounded parts of the body
- What is the purpose of a seam roll?
 - To press seams and small areas; prevents ridges from forming on the outside of the garment when seams are pressed open.
- What standards do YOU use to judge a hem, a seam, overall appearance of a garment, machine stitching, etc?

- What methods or tools did you use to transfer the pattern marks to the fabric?
 - Clips, notches, fabric pencil/pen, tailor tacks, carbon and tracing wheel, etc.
- What new techniques did you learn while constructing your garment?
- If you were going to make your garment again, would you do anything differently?
- What was the hardest part of constructing your garment?
- Why did you _____ ?
- Did you use any special equipment (pressing ham, specialty feet, etc.) while constructing your garment?
- What do you enjoy most about sewing your own clothes?
- What factors do you consider when selecting interfacing, lining, notions, etc. to match your fabric?
- Do you prefer sewing with knit or woven fabrics? Why?
- What type of thread did you use? Would any other type of thread have worked as well?
- What type of hem, of seam finish, did you use in your garment?

Selection of Style and Color

- Why did you choose this style? This color?
- What factors did you consider when selecting accessories for your outfit?
- Do you plan to wear other accessories with this outfit?
- What colors look best on you? Is your wardrobe planned around these colors?
- How does your garment fit with other garments in your wardrobe?
- For what occasion(s) will you wear this outfit?
- What kinds of clothing look best on you?
- What types of clothes are you most comfortable in?
- Do you like wearing your outfit?
- What would you like to learn next?
- Is "wearing the latest fashion" important to you? Why or why not?
- What is your favorite type of accessory?
- Does this garment fit well with your lifestyle?
- What clothes would you like to add to your wardrobe?
- What was the cost of your outfit compared to purchased garments?
- Do you have any other skills (knitting, crocheting, embroidering) that would be useful in adding to your wardrobe?

Fitting

- What is "ease" in garment designs?
 - The looseness or tightness of a garment's fit; additional fabric incorporated (or not) into the design apart from body measurements to facilitate (or restrict) movement and/or to create a particular silhouette.
- If you are making a pair of long pants and you are very tall or short, how should you adjust the pattern before you cut out the fabric?

- Use the 'lengthen or shorten here' lines on the pattern to adjust to the correct length. (If there are no markings, generally you shorten near the knee and true the design lines. Shortening or lengthening solely at the hem can alter the intended design silhouette of the pant.)

Sewing Machine Knowledge

- What do the sewing machine feed dogs do?
 - Hold the fabric tight against the presser foot as stitches are formed. Feed dogs move back and forth to feed the fabric through the machine.
- What does the sewing machine presser foot do?
 - Holds the fabric in place against the feed dogs during sewing.
- What do the sewing machine thread guides do?
 - Holds the thread in place as it moves from spool, through the tension disk to the needle.
- What is the sewing machine throat plate?
 - A metal piece on the base of the machine under the presser foot. It has openings for the feed dogs and needle.
- What size(s) of sewing machine needle did you use?
- What are two different types of sewing machine needles?
 - Universal, ball-point, twin, stretch, Microtex/microfiber, leather, wing, embroidery, etc.

Serger Knowledge (if used in garment)

- What does balanced tension look like on a serged seam?
 - Even stitch length and width, loops meeting at the edge of the fabric without hanging over, fabric under loops lies flat without curling underneath (unless rolled hem stitch used), no puckers.
- What is differential feed, and why is it used?
 - Sergers with differential feed have two sets of feed dogs; one in front of the other. Differential feed controls the speed that fabric is fed into the machine by the front set of feed dogs. Used correctly, differential feed counteracts any stretching or gathering that may take place as the fabric is fed through the serger. It may also be used to create decorative effects such as ruffles or "lettuce edge" hems.
- What are two different ways of securing thread tails from a serger?
 - Seam sealant (Fray check), knot and clip, or threading tail back through stitching.

Stitching

- What is the purpose of under-stitching? How is it done?
 - Holds a facing/collar/neckline/cuff/pocket in place. It is not visible from the outside of the garment and thread blends with the fabric. It is done from the right side of the facing through the facing and all seam allowances after the seam allowances are trimmed, graded, clipped or notched.
- What is the difference between under-stitching and stay-stitching?
 - Under-stitching is permanent stitching meant to hold garment sections in place. It will be visible from the inside of the garment. Stay-stitching is temporary stitching in areas that might stretch and will not be visible after a garment is completed.

- What is the purpose of stay-stitching?
 - Temporary stitching line at the seam line of areas that might stretch during the construction process. Areas of stay-stitching are necklines, armholes, collar edges, and any section of fabric that has bias areas which might stretch.
- What does stitch-in-the-ditch mean?
 - Stitch in the groove (or well) of the seam so the stitching does not show. Most often used to discretely secure facings, elastic in casings, etc.
- What does “grading the seam” mean?
 - Trim the seams to different widths so that the bulk is reduced.
- How do you pivot when stitching?
 - Stitch to point where you want to turn the corner, stop with needle in fabric, lift presser foot, and turn fabric. Lower presser foot and resume stitching.

Originally prepared by Carole Boswell, County Extension Agent, Snohomish County, 1978

Updated by Karen Oldham and Katrina Walker, WSU Clothing and Textile Advisors, 2006; 2008

Sources used: Let's Sew; Under Construction (Sewing Expressions, Level 1, 4HCCS BU08060); Fashion Forward (Sewing Expressions, Level 2, 4HCCS BU08061); Refine Design (Sewing Expressions, Level 3, 4HCCS BU08062); Clothes that Click (EM 4899); Pressing Pointers (PNW 216); Sewing Skills Checklist (CO677); Interfacings (PNW 192); Measuring Up: Quality Standards for Sewn Items/Projects (PNW 0197)