

ROYAL STYLE IN THE MAKING

KS3-4 SECONDARY RESOURCE

FUNCTIONAL FASHION

Two quotes from royal designers illustrate the challenges and constraints of designing for royalty.



“The Queen and the Queen Mother do not want to be fashion setters. That’s left to other people with less important work to do. Their clothes have to have a non-sensational elegance....”

Sir Norman Hartnell, 1955

Dress design by Norman Hartnell, 1953
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“I have felt from the beginning that the Queen needs clothes that help her in what I can only describe as her work... I would deem myself a very disloyal subject, not to mention a thoroughly incompetent designer, if I offered the Queen any clothes that were difficult to wear.”

Sir Hardy Amies, 1984

DISCUSS:

What does fashion mean to you? Do you want to wear clothes that are functional and ‘easy to wear’? Or do you want something else from your fashion choices?



DO:

Design an outfit for Queen Camilla to wear to a garden party at Hillsborough Castle & Gardens? What things would you have to consider in your design? Add some notes to your drawing.



HRH Queen Camilla on a Royal Visit to
Hillsborough Castle and Gardens May 2023
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FASHION CONNECTIONS

Study the designs by David Sassoon for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Sassoon talks about the relationship between Diana, the clothes she wore, and the public, and how clothes are often a connection between people, a way of building rapport.

DISCUSS:

When you choose an outfit do you think about how others will react to it? Do you dress for yourself, or for an audience? Why do you think this might be the case?

DO:

Choose your favourite of Sassoon's designs for Diana, Princess of Wales, shown here. Quickly sketch it below and annotate it with how you think different people would have related to it and in what circumstances.



David Sassoon sketches
© Historic Royal Palaces



Fashion can connect people, places and ideas, it can also connect us to the past.
Historical fashion has always influenced current trends.

DO:

Can you see any historical influences in the designs displayed in the exhibition? If you visit the castle today, look closely at the portraits. **Choose one you like and sketch an item of clothing shown in the portrait, draw the modern version of the same item of clothing beside it, and highlight the historical influences.**

