Computer and fashion design

Computers have made design easier and faster. If the primary function of a working drawing is to communicate the designer's intentions regarding construction, fabrication, detail, trim, fastenings, and finish, Adobe Illustrator or other software can be used to show all of this. This software allows us to produce sophisticated working drawings. It is also possible to import photographic style images and impose them on a T-shirt for a realistic representation of a design. We can produce shading and texture to differentiate between areas: the drawing becomes clearer, with a three-dimensional feel, and specific trims and finishes can be clarified in detail boxes.

This software helps to apply a variety of treatments by repeating a shape, outline or silhouette. The designer can save time, and have sophisticated results. Colours can be modified by selecting and clicking, and we can show colour palettes and compare them on the screen. Designing ranges and working with colour combinations becomes simpler. The Pantone Colour Specifier System can add information on accurate colour when printing from the computer if we use the colour code numbers.

Desktop publishing software is very useful when working with graphics and visuals. Photographs can also be uploaded in the computer and then manipulated in a piece of image editing software such as Adobe Photoshop. Pictures can be inverted and modified: the colours can be switched to their opposites in the spectrum, images can be increased in size, rotated and given another appearance. There are other invaluable tools in fashion design. The fashion industry also uses software such as Tex Design and Primavision Design which helps to produce design development sheets to show a range or collection. Awhole collection may be repeated with emphasis on a different printed textile each time.

(Adapted from *Fashion Design*)

ACTIVITIES

1 *Fill in the gaps with the missing words.*

Nowadays design is made easier by the use of .... **1**. Some specific software allows the designers to communicate their .... **2** and produce detailed working .... **3**. Images can also be imported and printed on .... **4**.
Detail boxes can show .... **5** and finishes too. Various treatments can be applied by repeating shapes and .... **6**. Designers can also modify, select and show colours especially if they use .... **7**. Adobe Photoshop allows them to modify and invert .... **8**. Other invaluable tools in fashion design include .... **9** and Primavision Design which helps to repeat whole .... **10**.

2 *Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using computer software and computers in fashion design.*

3 *Do you use computers for fashion design? Describe your experience.*