

A-LEVEL FASHION AND TEXTILES: SUMMER BRIDGING TASK

PROJECT THEME: 'The Beauty of Decay'

"Everything is in a state of flux, including the status of the materials we use." > —
Cas Holmes, Textile Artist

Welcome to A-Level Textiles! This summer, you are shedding the need for "neat and perfect" GCSE outcomes. We want you to embrace the messy, the eroded, and the broken. Your mission is to explore **Decay** and translate it into tactile, 3D textile surfaces.

MISSION 1: The Decay Hunt (*Primary Photography*)

Grab your phone or camera and go on a scavenger hunt. Look for things that are rotting, rusting, peeling, or crumbling.

- **The Goal:** Take at least 15 macro (close-up) photos.
- **What to look for:** Peeling paint on old doors, rusted metal gates, crumbling brickwork, mold, skeletal dead leaves, or cracked mud.
- **The Golden Rule:** *No Google images. They must be your own original photos!*

MISSION 2: Distorted Marks (*Tactile Drawing*)

Translate the textures from your photos onto paper. Do **not** use a standard pencil on white paper—the drawing surface itself must feel decayed.

- **The Surface:** Draw on crumpled brown paper, cardboard, a piece of a newspaper, or a coffee-stained page.
- **The Medium:** Use charcoal, coffee/tea washes, oil pastels, or thick acrylic paint applied with a piece of rigid cardboard instead of a brush.
- **The Goal:** Don't just draw what it *looks* like—try to draw what it *feels* like.

MISSION 3: The Inspiration (*Artist Research*)

Research **one** of the following contemporary artists who use decay or fragmentation in their work. Create an inspiring research page featuring their work, your analysis, and how their techniques might inspire your samples:

- **Alice Kettle** – *Heavy, dense stitch and textured thread-painting.*
- **Priscilla Jones** – *Mixed-media, wire, and melted, crusty surfaces.*
- **Matthew Harris** – *Abstract, fragmented, pieced-together, and eroded cloths.*

Don't panic if a sample "fails." In A-Level Textiles, an experiment that looks completely ruined often yields the most interesting, sophisticated textures. Take risks, get messy, and show us your creative problem-solving.

BRING ALL WORK TO YOUR FIRST TEXTILES LESSON IN SEPTEMBER. ENJOY THE PROCESS!