

Fashion

Essay No. 01

Everyone should try to have some leisure and make the best use of it by taking to some good hobby or the other. Great caution should be exercised; in choosing a hobby. We should choose a hobby which recoups our energy and provides relaxation and recreation.

Young people all over the world are becoming more and more fashion conscious. Young students, whether boys or girls, are crazy about it they want to look smart and beautiful by wearing dresses of the latest designs.

In order to boost the sales of their dresses, leading cloth mills and dressmaking firms engage reputed fashion designers and beautiful models. Fashion parades and shows are held in big five-star hotels to exhibit the latest dresses.

Fashion is no longer the monopoly of women. Even men have great fancy for it. In fact, the latest uni-sex dresses like shirts and jeans can be worn both by the girls and she boys.

Today, the biggest centers of the latest fashion in the world are Paris, London, Hollywood and New York. In India, Mumbai, Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Jaipur, Shimla etc. have become centers of high fashion. Students generally try to copy fashions from films.

Fashion has permeated all spheres of our life. It is followed not only in clothes but also in hair-styles, shoes, etiquette or manners. Some people are content to wear fashionable clothes. Others go in for fashionable hair-styles. Still others adopt the latest trend in their speech and manner. All these people want to look impressive and attract the attention of others. They want to look different in the eyes of others.

Fashion is neither stable nor eternal. It is ever-changing. The change in fashion takes place so fast that people sometimes find it very difficult to catch up with it.

Students in India also have become quite fashion conscious. In a college campus, one can see both girls and boys wearing all types of clothes. Girls wear whatever their favorite heroines wear. Boys try to emulate their favorite heroes.

Fashion knows no frontiers. It travels across countries very fast. When students in India see latest foreign films from Hollywood, they adopt the latest fashions from

these films. They even imitate the way of life, speech, manners, actions, clothes, hair-styles of their favorite foreign actors and actresses.

Some students spend a lot of money and devote considerable time on their makeup. they neglect their studies. Their books gather dust. These students hardly realize that by neglecting their studies, they are ruining their own career. Students often seem to suffer from a mistaken notion that fashion means wearing clothes and other costly items like jewellery, etc. the fact is that sometimes expensive clothes and heavy makeup may prove counterproductive it may even have a negative effect on one's personality. Some people look smarter in simple clothes than in expensive clothes. As the old saying goes, beauty needs no ornaments. In fact, simplicity is the best fashion.

If student pursue fashion at the cost of their education, they will be left behind in their studies. This will spoil their prospects of a bright future. If they want to be successful in life, their motto should not be fashion but 'simple living and high thinking'

Unfortunately, college boys and girls have started regarding even smoking as a fashion. One can see a number of boys and girls sitting in college restaurants and enjoying a smoke. Those who have costly brands of cigarette packets and imported cigarette lighters feel proud. Some students go to the extent of taking intoxicating drugs like 'heroin', LSD, Hashish, Marijuana, etc.

Drinking is also considered as a symbol of modern society and high fashion. These habits adversely affect the health of students. A conscious effort should be made both by the teachers and parents to dissuade their children from falling prey to these anti-social habits in the name of fashion.

No doubt fashion spreads like wild fire especially when fashion critics hail any new design as ultra-modern. Slowly a fashion percolates first to the middle- class families and then to the poor strata of society. Once it becomes common, it loses it novelty. Fashion conscious boys and girls then look out for something else which is new and exclusive. But "fashion" should not be given wide meaning so as to include everything which is being followed in western countries. Due respect should be paid to one's native country's way of living also.

Whether the influence of western culture is a boon or a curse to the Indian youth, is a controversial topic. No culture is good or bad. After all every culture is an educative refinement, a product of an era. It is the understanding of a culture and methods of pursuing it that can make it good or bad in the eyes of other people. Thus, it cannot be concluded that every western influence is harmful. Indian youth, instead of following the west blindly, should try to grasp the very essence of

western culture and help it in enriching his own. Only then can true development take place.

Essay No. 02

Fashion

Fashion is a word that defies exact definition. Here, we need not vex ourselves with the dictionary meanings of the word, since even if only partly understood, the word is as commonly used as it can be.

We can call anything which gets recurrent or in frequent use to be fashion. When armed with such a definition, we can term frequent lies told by politicians, short measures given by shopkeepers, cheating methods adopted by students, strikes resorted to by employees, cheating of workers in the matter of salary, provident fund, etc. by their employers and all such things as fashions.

When, however, we talk strictly about fashion, we rivet our eyes on particular types of clothes, shoes, hairstyles, etc. adopted by people, particularly young men and women in schools and colleges.

Man has actually been fond of fashion in all ages and in all lands. Go anywhere in the world. In each country people observing the same type of fashion will be seen which will, however, be materially different from that in other countries. Thus, fashion changes in time and place, and may be even space.

If we look carefully at the playing cards, we'll find strange dresses worn by the kings, queens and jacks. These dresses are reminiscent of the eighteenth-century English people who wore such dresses during that period when the games of cards started in a systematic manner.

Similarly, from the toys and figures recovered from ruins of various ancient civilizations as in Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, the fashions of dress, beards etc. are quite apparent.

If we want to learn about the latest fashions we should go to some ultramodern college or university to have a look at dandies, fops and empty-headed gorgeous dolls walking up and down in the campus and then we can guess how youthful human energies can be wasted on trifles and to what extent.

Essay No. 03

Fashion

Fashion may be defined as the current style in dress, manners, conduct, etc. Fashions come in and go out with the passage of time and the mood of the society. They are as changeable as the weather. Change and variety is the other name of fashion. It is in man's nature to be fashionable. He loves variety, change and novelty. Old, stereotyped, stale and typecast things are not liked by him. Change is the law of nature. Man can be called a fashion conscious being. Fashions and fads spread like a wild fire, specially among young men and women, living in big towns and cities.

By nature, man is fashion-loving. He wants to be smart, novel, charming and fresh in his etiquette, style of clothes, shoes, hairdo, etc. and for that purpose he takes recourse to fashions. To see and to be seen is not unnatural. People never like to be considered out of fashion. No doubt when fashions become an obsession, they cause a lot of harm. Fashions can be said to be one of the root causes of progress of civilization. For example, the thirst for fashion and change has given rise to varieties of styles in writing. There are as many styles as there are famous authors and poets. Fashions come into vogue as a mark of social progress and prosperity.

People living in urban areas are more fashion-conscious than their counterparts in the rural areas. In the cities and big towns thousands and thousands of people live and mix up with one another. They belong to different classes, faiths and speak different languages, and so have different styles. Their contact with one another brings into vogue new fashions and styles. Young men and women come into close contact with one another in the colleges, schools, universities, offices and other places of working, and so they can easily imitate one another's style or can improve upon the existing ones.

Films and T.V. are a great source of fashions and quick changes in them. Films have deep influence on the youth. Young men and women imitate the styles of their heroes and -heroines in everything—in clothes, ornaments, food and drink, etiquette, amusement, music, etc. Fashion is a craze with the young people. The modern youth would never like to be called out of date and old fashioned. They mistake fashion for good taste, etiquette and good manners. They run after fashion. They are virtually at the beck and call of fads and fashions, as it were. But it is difficult always to obey the dictates of fashion. Only people of the affluent class can afford to be always in fashion and prevailing mode of styles in dress, etc. Fashion changes so quickly. What is in fashion today may not be so tomorrow.

In the big and fashionable cities like Bombay, Delhi, Madras, etc., there are fashion designers. They are ever engaged in designing new fashions to increase the sale of dresses, etc. The beautiful men and women as models are used to display their latest designs and styles at fashion shows. In five-star hotels, etc., fashion parades are held to popularize fashions and dresses. Fashion designing is a big and well

organised business. London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Hollywood Tokyo, New York, etc., are some of the biggest fashion centers. From these centers many fashions are imported to India as it were, in the form of dresses, ornaments, etc., brought from there. Then there are foreign films to introduce latest novelties in styles.

Many students in India are so fashion-conscious as spend lot of money for things of latest fashion. They spend a good deal of time and money in their makeup. It is a craze with them to see the latest Indian and foreign movies. They try their best to have the latest of the fashion in everything for they are afraid of being called unfashionable, backward and out of vogue. Thus, they spend their precious time, money and energy foolishly after fashions. They do it at the cost of their studies, which reflect their complexes. They forget that simplicity is the best and evergreen fashion.

We are now a free country, but still slaves of the foreign goods and fashions. Oblivious of our own rich heritage, culture and traditions and history, many of us run blindly after foreign fads and fashions. This reflects a very sad state of affairs. No doubt change is appreciable and necessary, but it does not mean slavish and blind imitation of Western ideas, styles, manners and designs in dress. Such habits are not only ridiculous but also harmful. Copying others in the name of change, novelty, variety and innovation is undesirable and detrimental to our national pride and interests. Our folk, classical and standardized traditions, cultures, customs, manners, etc., are so rich and varied that we can very well depend upon them to quench our thirst for change and innovations.

Essay No. 04

Fashions

Most of the human beings are the slaves of changing-fashions. Social development from one generation to another is responsible for this craze. The love of cinema too, to a great extent, is irresponsible for fashions. Women are much greater slaves to fashions though men are not averse to them. The worst effected section is school and college-going students. Craze for fashions is responsible for lowering the standards of education; Fashions are more prevalent in metropolitan cities where modern mass media is the most sensitive. There are many spheres off fashions. Today, the old concept about fashion has changed.

Rousseau, the French political thinker, was right in declaring that man was born free, but he was everywhere, in chains. Man has always

been a slave of traditions, customs, conventions, ceremonies and rituals. Human beings are also the slaves of changing fashions.

Fashions came into vogue as a matter of social development in a society from one stage to another. In fact, they are the product of the environment of a community. As a community develops into civilization its members come to develop certain ways of living. There is a gradual break in the traditional values giving way to new ones in keeping With the spirits of time.

Fashions are transitory. They come like a wave and die out. What is fashionable today may not be so tomorrow. Anything which gains acceptability becomes fashionable.

Cinema was at one time a craze. People loved going to the cinema, Watching movies which were being talked of.. Regular movie-goers acquired a certain prestige value in social -circles. This has gradually :given way to the Video. boom. One hardly talks of visiting the Cinema it is now in terms of cassettes- and video libraries. This also is on its Way, out giving place. to the Cable T.V. which is now considered fashionable and a status symbol.

The same applies to the theatre, dance, music, concerts and art exhibition. Many people belonging to upper classes go to these places, not because they have real taste for or understanding of music and art but because they want to be in the swim. They would feel backward if they were not to visit these shows and seen there, and if they Were, not able to talk about these things afterwards in their respective circles.,

However, in respect of fashions in dress, even people of modest means, feel impanelled to keep pace with changing fashions. In matters of dress, women are much greater slaves to fashions than men. In recent years in India feminine fashions have been changing rapidly and have heed, followed by vast numbers of women, with an equal rapidity. Examples A of tight-fitting clothes followed by loose dresses are a current vogue. In the West more and more women are taking to mini-skirts, the latest to appear on the fashion-scene being micro-minis.

Nor are men averse to fashions. Where, male attire is concerned, we generally follow the Western fashions blindly. The once-popular hippies style of uncouth dressing is fast on the wane.

The worst-affected section of this tyranny of modern fashions is our school- and college-going student populace. Latest made dresses is the prevailing fashion among the large majority of them. With the exception of extremely poor students who cannot afford the luxury of fashions almost all students regard it as an essential part of their duty to march with the times, and thus, appear up-to-date and modern. Sometimes they are ahead of the fashions and actually give the lead to other people in this respect.

Girls as well as boys spend much of their precious time on toilet. Boys are seen dressed in expensive suits of the latest cut. They are skilled judges in the matter of dress and eye one another's clothes with keen interest. Each tries to excel others in the beauty and design of his clothes. Critical remarks are freely made regarding classmates whose clothes do not fit them properly. Envious glances are cast upon a student whose clothes are striking in design and perfect in tailoring. Everyone aims at wearing his clothes to the best advantage and at producing a favorable impression upon his classmates. Students who are expensively dressed claim special privileges in the college because they think that their costly clothes are an additional qualification,

The results of this dandyism are terrible. Students pay no attention to class lectures because they keep adjusting their ties and handkerchiefs in their coat pockets. They look appreciatively at their own nicely-cut suits and are with a sort of self-satisfaction. The teachers are helpless in this matter which results in an increase in the number of flops.

Female students go two steps further and consider that in trying to look fashionable, boys are trespassing upon the domain that rightfully belongs to girls. The females have a natural and in-born love for pretty dresses and college is the right place to show this love. They go to colleges dressed in clothes, designed to bring their figures into relief. Tight-fitting shirts are in vogue because their dresses give prominence to their anatomical proportions and curves. Dupatta is no more in use for the same good reason. Hair-style changes with the dress. Scents and perfumes are also used by these Juliet's to excite their Romeos.

Such students evidently do not take interest in their studies. Going to college is a mere hobby or recreation for them, and examinations and class lectures an evil.

Fashions are more prevalent in metropolitan cities where modern mass media is the most sensitive. Diverse races, communities intermingle

greatly at such a place. In such cities grows an international culture. Then such fashions penetrate into other areas of the country's population. There is a continuous crossbreeding of fashions. Many fashions come into vogue, find ever-increasing favour among the youth and then spread like an epidemic.

Movies also cast their maximum influence on the young boys and girls. A heroine wearing a new design is aped by the young school and college girls and a particular dress worn by a handsome hero is imitated by the boys. Firms involved in the manufacture of readymade dresses and materials send their special designers to movies, so that they can observe the various patterns and designs to exploit the tastes of young folk.

The moralists feel that modern fashions are an encouragement to crime and rape and should be curbed and stopped. The exponents of fashions the other hand feel that in a free society sex-exhibitionism, instead of encouraging crime makes girls courageous and independent. One good result of fashions is that more and more girls are coming into open and taking jobs, which were once exclusively meant for men. Today women are participating in national and international activities Working with men in all fields.

The earlier concept that fashions are responsible for debasing the society has undergone a change. They are considered a source of enlightenment. This is becoming quite an accepted norm in our society.

The desire to follow fashions is, no doubt, natural in the sophisticated world of today. But there are many people who have to follow them for fear of Public opinion though they may not feel attracted to a particular fashion.

A wise person is one who does not ape fashions blindly. An individual approach is better but most times the hold of fashions is so strong that one inadvertently becomes a prey and slave to it.

Essay No. 05

Fashions

It is said that you cannot dip your finger twice in the same river. It underscores the law of change and flux. Fashions are no exception to this law. They come and go and change rapidly with the spirit of times. Fashions come into vogue and then go

out because man loves change, variety and novelty. Old, routine, stereotyped, stale and typecast things are not to his liking. With the change in the mood of man, change in styles, manners, conduct and way of life also come about. It adds zest and liveliness to life. Change and variety is the other name of fashion. Fashions are infectious as well and spread rapidly like wildfire, especially among young men and women in big towns and cities. Youth is more fashion-conscious because they represent life in terms of energy, courage, expectations, potentialities, power, and vigor. They want to look smart, up-to-date, charming and fresh in their dress, etiquette, styles of shoes, and hair-do, etc. They want to enjoy every moment of life and are full of unlimited zeal and appetite for it.

By nature, man is fashionable because of his inherent desire to see and to be seen. New and current styles in clothes and manners, etc. help people in becoming more smart, attractive, fascinating and lovable. People never like to be out of fashion. Fashion is not 'confined to etiquette, manners, dresses alone. It is pervasive and even religion, literature, and arts, etc. have their own fads and fashions. For example, the thirst for fashion has given rise to a variety of styles in writing and there are as many styles as there are famous writers, authors and poets.

Fashions can also be abused as well and become harmful when turned into an obsession. Then they mean waste of time, energy, and money. It is better to be a little out of fashion than to be in fashion at the cost of one's conscience and discretion.

Young men and women living in big towns and cities, with a network of fast and effective means of communication and availability of audio-visual aids in plenty, are really fashionable people. In the urban areas, thousands of people live and mix with each other and exchange ideas, opinions and interact freely. They belong to different classes, faiths, and speak different languages and, therefore, have different manners, tastes and styles. There are clubs, societies, social gatherings and get-togethers, which bring people into close contact with one another. Then there are hotels, restaurants, cinema halls, colleges, universities, schools, and offices, etc. where people see different styles and fashions and then try to imitate or to improve upon the existing ones. Fashion-consciousness in cities is so widespread and deep that as soon as a fashion comes in vogue in London, Paris, New York, Berlin or Rome, it is adopted and patronised by people in India. The means of communication are now so fast that the earth has turned into a global village and the infectious fashion knows no boundaries of time and space. The people in villages, rural areas and remote places remain untouched by the waves of fashion, both, because of lack of means of communication and poverty. But villages and towns too are not immune as traditional values, modes of living and traditions are giving way to change and novelty. To some extent, they too are

affected by new fashions, designs, patterns and way of living and as the process is slow and gradual, it takes time for a fashion to reach the villages from the cities through films, videos and personal contacts.

Films and cable T.V. are a great source of fashions and quick changes in trends. Fashions are liquid and changeable like weather. Till recently, bell-bottoms, midis, minis and maxis were quite in fashion and now they are out of fashion. Again tight-bottoms, skirt-tops, salwar-kamiz and saris are in fashion. But fashion is unpredictable and keeps on changing according to the moods, fancies and ideas of the people and the influence of the popular films. Therefore, it is not easy to predict what is fashionable. Fashions are also influenced by glossy, colorful and eye-catching textile advertisements, fashion shows, propaganda of fashion and dress designers, articles in the fashion magazines and foreign visitors.

Now, people spend a good amount of their pocket money and earnings to keep themselves in fashion. They are very particular about their dress, hairstyle, cosmetics, shoes, ornaments and manners. Has not Shakespeare declared in Hamlet, "the apparel oft proclaims the man"? Therefore, urbanites, particularly young men and women always keep themselves abreast of modern trends in styles and fashions. Consequently, the tailors, fashion designers, cosmetic manufacturers have a booming business. They catch on the new ideas in circulation and immediately push fashion products to suit the new fads, fashions and thoughts. Fashion designing and technology is now an established branch of human knowledge, science and practice. It provides employment and business to millions of people throughout the world and there has been a huge investment in the fashion industry. Expert fashion-designers, technologists, tailors and drapers are busy day and night to cater to the needs of the fashion-conscious in society. They not only cater to the tastes of the people but also create taste and fashion and thereby earn huge profits.

Freedom is man's most cherished possession and the freedom to choose one's lifestyle is of fundamental importance. Therefore, there is nothing to be ashamed of in being conscious of fashion. However, excess of everything is bad and should be avoided. Moderation should be the law in fashion as well. To live in style, dress well, colorfully and smartly makes life lively, attractive and zestful. In some mysterious way, it also gets linked to sex and its subtle and suggestive expression. Show and exhibitionism is part of a dynamic life and must be appreciated. Fashion-consciousness is a healthy sign as it appeals and pleases people, promotes togetherness, social interaction and enlivens the environment. It is misconceived to link fashion with immorality. But it would be certainly foolish to spend extravagantly on the latest fads and to run after them at the expense of valuable time, energy and resources. It is good to be fashionable but it is better to be simple and dignified because simplicity with dignity is the best and evergreen fashion.

Change is the law of nature and so desirable and appreciable, but it does not mean slavish, blind and foolish aping and imitation of ideas, styles, manners and designs in dress, shoes, and hairstyles, etc. Our own folk, classical and standardized traditions, customs, manners are so rich, varied and unique that we can very well depend upon them to quench our thirst for change, novelty and innovation.