

# *Home Economics*

## *Textiles, Clothing and Fashion*



*Topic: Sewing Threads: Use and Quality*

*Group Level: Form Four/Form Five Revision*

*Instructions:*

1. Read the information provided on the topic.
2. Review what you have learned by completing the worksheet.
3. Use the answer key to assess your performance.

## *Sewing Threads*

Sewing threads are special kinds of yarns that are engineered and designed to pass through a sewing machine rapidly. They form efficient stitches without breaking or becoming distorted during the useful life of the product. The basic function of a thread is to deliver aesthetics and performance in stitches and seam.

The main difference between yarn and thread is that thread is used to sew garments or other products while yarn is the collection of fiber used to weave or knit into a textile fabric. So all threads are Yarn but not all Yarns are thread.

### **Use of threads**

In addition to the apparel industry, sewing threads are used for a variety of purposes.

(1) In hospital for surgery – surgical thread made from silk or nylon.



(2) Upholstered furniture – speciality thread ideal for outdoor and heavy weight fabric



Sofa with pillow



Outdoor Bar Lounge furniture

(3) Automotive industry



Airbag



Car Seats

(4) Bedding and mattresses



(5) Flame retardant and protective wear



(6) Outdoor pursuits



(7) Sports equipment





## Qualities of a good thread

Threads used in garments must be durable enough to withstand the abrasion and needle heat that occur while sewing, garment finishing, stretching and recovery during wear. The higher the quality of the thread, the less special handling will be required. Poor quality thread has much lint and breaks easily and can take the joy out of any sewing project. Each type of thread has specific characteristics and will behave differently on sewing machines.

Requirements of good quality sewing thread:

- **Good tensile strength** to hold the stitched seam securely during wash and wear.
- **Smooth surface** ensures less friction between the needle and the material during high-speed sewing.
- **Uniform/even thickness** results in an even sewing thread, which moves smoothly and quickly through the needle eye and the fabric.
- **Good elasticity** enables thread to recover its original length immediately after the tension has been released.
- **Good colour fastness** provides immunity to the different agents the thread is exposed to during manufacture and washing.
- **Good resistance to chemical** for thread used in garments which may undergo washing, bleaching or dry-cleaning.
- **Good abrasion resistance** ensures a good sewing performance and makes the thread more durable.

## Worksheet

### Answer all Questions

1). 'All threads are Yarn but not all Yarns are thread'. Give a reason for this statement.

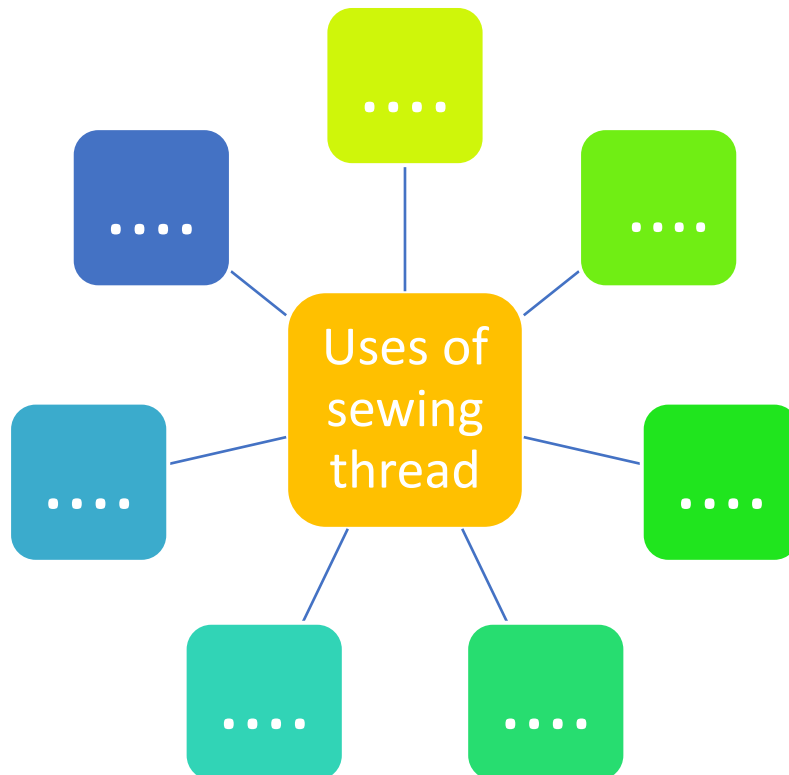
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(3 marks)

2). Complete the diagram with uses of sewing thread other than the garment industry.



(7 marks)

3). Give the reason for each of the following requirements for good quality sewing thread.

- i) Smooth surface.....
- ii) Good colour fastness.....
- iii) Good tensile strength.....
- iv) Even thickness.....
- v) Good elasticity.....

(10 marks)

Total 20 marks

## Answer Key

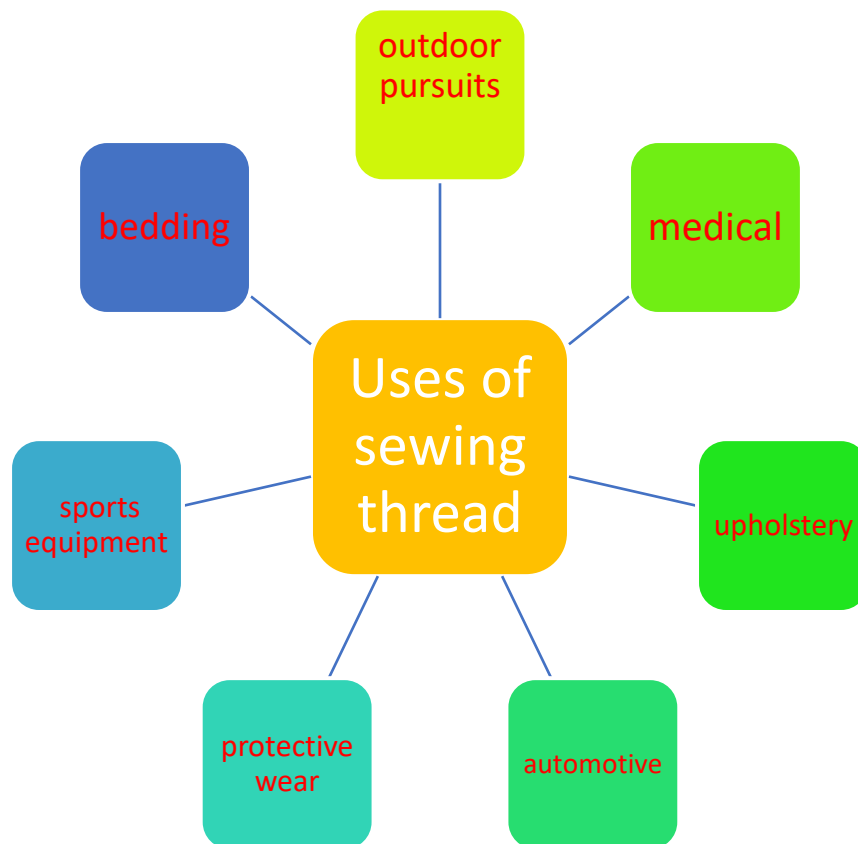
1). 'All threads are Yarn but not all Yarns are thread'. Give a reason for this statement.

Threads are special kinds of yarns used to sew garments or other products (1½ marks)

Yarn is the collection of fiber used to weave or knit into a textile fabric. (1½ marks)

(3 marks)

2). Complete the diagram with uses of sewing thread other than the garment industry.



(1 mark for each correct response)  
(7 marks)



3). Give the reason for each of the following requirements for good quality sewing thread.

- i) Smooth surface ensures less friction between the needle and the material during high-speed sewing.
- ii) Good colour fastness provides immunity to the different agents the thread is exposed to during manufacture and washing.
- iii) Good tensile strength to hold the stitched seam securely during wash and wear.
- iv) Even thickness results in an even sewing thread, which moves smoothly and quickly through the needle eye and the fabric.
- v) Good elasticity enables thread to recover its original length immediately after the tension has been released.

(2 marks for each correct response)

(10 marks)

Total 20 marks

**18 – 20 Excellent**

**15 – 17 Good**

**14 and under – Review information and try again**

## *References*

<https://www.superiorthreads.com/education/thread-characteristics>

IMAGES: CC0, public domain, royalty free

Colouring Sewing Thread: <https://www.goodfreephotos.com/public-domain-images/coloring-sewing-threads-photo.jpg.php>

Sofa: <https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-xdjcl>

Outdoor Bar Lounge Furniture:

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpixabay.com%2Fphotos%2Fbar-lounge-furniture-upholstery-4927817%2F&psig=AOvVaw3ohWScm9\\_ZDxike2eqbhq6&ust=1588723251977000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKEwjC\\_PS5tZvpAhVyZDABHasaB-EQr4kDegQIARBz](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpixabay.com%2Fphotos%2Fbar-lounge-furniture-upholstery-4927817%2F&psig=AOvVaw3ohWScm9_ZDxike2eqbhq6&ust=1588723251977000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKEwjC_PS5tZvpAhVyZDABHasaB-EQr4kDegQIARBz)

Airbag: <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-swpkw>

Car Seats: <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-zbvcz>

Bedding & Mattress <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-svgzq>

Protective Wear <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-jfcju>

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Boxing Glove <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-frdsl>

Surgeon <https://www.pikist.com/free-photo-xdqok>