

# *Home Economics*

## *Textiles, Clothing and Fashion*



*Topic: Types of Sewing Threads*

*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.

## *Types of sewing thread*

The type of sewing you are doing will determine the kind of thread you need. Are you using sewing thread for:

- ✓ Dressmaking
- ✓ Embroidery
- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ Upholstery
- ✓ Or maybe quilting

Whatever type of sewing thread you choose, look for quality thread brand names like Gutterman, Rasant, Coates and Clark, and Mettler. Quality sewing thread will always make the difference, especially when dealing with tricky fabrics such as silk, wool and Lycra.

Here are some of the common sewing threads:

**Cotton thread** is best used with 100% cotton fabrics, and most commonly used for patchwork and quilting.



**Silk thread** is very smooth and travels through even the lightest most delicate fabrics without leaving a mark, as well as being very strong, it is an excellent choice for a large variety of hand sewing projects. Other uses include decorative stitching.



**Elastic thread** is used in the bobbin in combination with regular thread in the top stitch because the elastic thread is too thick to be threaded through the machine needle. Elastic thread is great for elastic waist bands, ruffles, and techniques like shirring.



**Polyester thread** is a multipurpose weight and suitable for all types of fabric including stretch. This is the most commonly used

thread for sewing. It is available in the largest



colour range. Polyester thread has superior sunlight (UV) and mildew resistance. This makes it the first choice for sewing things that are used outdoors.

**Embroidery thread** is used for a large variety of needlework projects - cross-stitch, counted thread, embroidery, needlepoint, smocking, crewel, punch embroidery, appliqué and quilting.



**Metallic thread** is usually used in combination with other embroidery thread – both in machine embroidery as well as hand embroidery. In cross stitch, needle point



blackwork and other embroidery techniques they are used as a highlight, giving the work richness and grandness.

**Nylon thread** is used for sewing almost anything that requires strength and durability. It is strong, easy to use, and a great choice for sewing fabric, leather, canvas, and vinyl. Nylon thread thickness sizes range from hair-thin to cord-like.



**Rayon thread** is highly absorbent and fade-resistant. Many people use **rayon** for their embroidering, topstitching, and monogramming. It is not recommended for seam construction because it's not as strong as polyester and becomes even weaker when wet.

**Denim thread** for jeans and denim items.



**Clear thread** (also called monofilament or **invisible**) is perfect for topstitching on fabrics with a wide range of colours, values and visual textures. .

## Worksheet

### *Answer all Questions*

1). Fill in the blanks with the appropriate thread.

- i. I am very strong and smooth. ....
- ii. I am suitable for all types of fabrics. ....
- iii. Some refer to me as invisible. ....
- iv. I can be fine like hair or thick like cord. ....
- v. I tend to get weaker when I'm wet. ....
- vi. I am too thick for the eye, use me below. ....
- vii. I carry the largest colour range. ....
- viii. Choose me if you need a highlight. ....
- ix. I am best suited for my own kind. ....

(9 marks)

2). State the type of thread best suited for the following sewing tasks.

- i) Hemming a pair of jeans .....
- ii) Shirring a sleeve cuff .....
- iii) Making a cushion for an outdoor chair .....
- iv) Quilting a multi-coloured table mat .....
- v) Decorative hand stitches on a tray cloth .....
- vi) Replacing buttons on a leather jacket .....

(6 marks)

Total 15 marks

## Answer Key

1). Fill in the blanks with the appropriate thread.

- |       |   |           |
|-------|---|-----------|
| i.    | I am very strong and smooth.                | Silk      |
| ii.   | I am suitable for all types of fabrics.     | Polyester |
| iii.  | Some refer to me as invisible.              | Clear     |
| iv.   | I can be fine like hair or thick like cord. | Nylon     |
| v.    | I tend to get weaker when I'm wet.          | Rayon     |
| vi.   | I am too thick for the eye, use me below.   | Elastic   |
| vii.  | I carry the largest colour range.           | Polyester |
| viii. | Choose me if you need a highlight.          | Metallic  |
| ix.   | I am best suited for my own kind.           | Cotton    |

(1 mark for each correct response)

(9 marks)

4). State the type of thread best suited for the following sewing tasks.

- i) Hemming a pair of jeans. **Denim**
- ii) Shirring a sleeve cuff. **Elastic**
- iii) Making a cushion for an outdoor chair. **Polyester**
- iv) Quilting a multi-coloured table mat. **Clear or Invisible**
- v) Decorative hand stitches on a tray cloth. **Embroidery**
- vi) Replacing buttons on a leather jacket. **Nylon**

(1 mark for each correct response)

(6 marks)

Total 15 marks

**13 - 15 Excellent**

**10 – 12 Good**

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

## *References*

<https://blog.treasurie.com/sewing-thread-types/>

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Assorted Threads <https://www.pikrepo.com/fahux/photography-of-assorted-treads-with-needle-on-white-textile>

Cotton Thread <https://www.pikist.com/free-photo-vwhep>

Silk Thread [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pxfuel.com%2Fen%2Ffree-photo-ezvdg&psig=AOvVaw22qUH-U2gGfEblQiQP3cw5&ust=1588730499728000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKEwi-zvS50JvpAhVXRzABHQUoA\\_0Qr4kDegUIARDOAQ](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pxfuel.com%2Fen%2Ffree-photo-ezvdg&psig=AOvVaw22qUH-U2gGfEblQiQP3cw5&ust=1588730499728000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=2ahUKEwi-zvS50JvpAhVXRzABHQUoA_0Qr4kDegUIARDOAQ)

Polyester Thread <https://www.peakpx.com/609844/assorted-threads>

Nylon Thread <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=2629&picture=detail-of-sewing-thread>

Embroidery Thread <https://www.pickpik.com/thread-embroidery-sewing-craft-floss-colorful-64061>

Metallic Thread <https://www.pikist.com/free-photo-iuux>

Denim Thread <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-zimdo>

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Elastic Thread <https://www.flickr.com/photos/plusea/with/30827861737/>