

# *Home Economics*

## *Textiles, Clothing and Fashion*



*Topic: Blends and Mixtures*

*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.

## *Blends and Mixtures*

A **blend** is two or more fibres put together as the yarn is being made or spun e.g. cotton and polyester fibres are mixed and spun into yarns.

A **mixture** is two yarns of different fibre content put together as the fabric is made or woven e.g. one yarn of cotton fibres and one of wool fibres, producing a wool/cotton fiber mixture.

### **Reasons for blended and mixed yarn fabrics**

1. To improve the appearance of a fabric (i.e. texture, colour, and tone)
2. To improve the quality of the fabric so that it is more durable, stronger, and can be more easily cared for
3. To improve the handle of fabric so that it drapes better is easier to sew and can keep its shape well
4. To reduce cost by mixing a cheap fibre with a more expensive one and therefore, more desirable to customers.

### **Uses of blended/mixed fabric:**

**Polyester/Cotton** –The tough crease-resistance of polyester combines with the cool comfort of cotton and produces satisfactorily, a fabric for daily wear. It is easily laundered, dries quickly, strong, durable, and wrinkle resistant and is ironed with lower temperature than pure cotton. This fabric is cool and comfortable to wear and widely used in the clothing industry. A common use is for school uniforms.

**Wool/Cotton** – These two fabrics benefit from the inherent qualities of each other after blending. It gives better comfort, better aesthetics and better performance. It's a common blend in hats, socks, jackets and vests.

**Rayon/Cotton** – This fabric of rayon and cotton blend wears well and is washable. It is soft and has fuzzy surface. Dresses, suits, sportswear, men's shirts, etc. are made out of this fabric.

**Wool/Synthetics or Rayon/Synthetics** – This blend has a very clear finish and it drapes better and tailors easily. It has exceptional wearing qualities. The fabric is used for men's and women's suits and coats.

# Worksheet

## Answer all Questions

1. What is the difference between a blend and a mixture?

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.....

(2 marks)

2. State four reasons why fabrics are blended /mixed.

- (i) .....
- (ii) .....
- (iii).....
- (iv) .....

(4 marks)

3. List four advantages in combining cotton with polyester.

- (i) .....
- (ii) .....
- (iii) .....
- (iv) .....

(4 mark)

Total 10 marks

# Answer Key

1. What is the difference between a blend and a mixture?

A blend is two or more fibres put together as the yarn is being made or spun.

A mixture is two different fibre yarns put together as the fabric is made or woven.

(1 mark for each difference)

(2 marks)

2. State four reasons why fabrics are blended /mixed.

1. To improve the appearance of a fabric.
2. To improve the quality of the fabric.
3. To improve the handle of fabric so that it drapes better is easier to sew and can keep its shape well.
4. To reduce cost by mixing a cheap fibre with a more expensive one and therefore, more desirable to customers.

(1 mark for each reason)

(4marks)

3. List four advantages in combining cotton with polyester.

1. Easy to launder
2. Dries quickly
3. Strong
4. Durable
5. Crease resistant
6. Cool and comfortable to wear

(1 mark each for any four advantages)

(4 marks)

Total 10 marks

## *References*

<http://textileclothinginfo.blogspot.com/2015/02/importance-of-blending-and-mixing.html>

<https://www.textileschool.com/265/blended-fabrics-textile-composites/>

<https://www.textileschool.com/314/blended-fiber-analysis/>