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### Midterm Exam

Dress in the 1960s was very out there and bold. In the 1960s, miniskirts and other styles made by Mary Quant became extremely popular amongst younger women. Men had many new patterns and colors in their clothing, some military influence and “new fashion icons in the form of rock stars” (Reddy, 2019). Hippie styles also became popular in the late 1960s. Children's clothing didn't change as much as women and men wear. Children's clothing moved at a slower pace and girls wore dresses with defined waists and full skirts. A new silhouette like the A-line, dropped waist and babydoll look started to replace the defined waist look. It started to become more acceptable for young girls to wear pedal pushers, shorts, and trousers while playing (Reddy, 2019).

The garment I chose for this was the *Evening Dress*. It is designed by Marc Bohan for the brand Christian Dior and it was made for Bonwit Teller which was an American retailer (The Museum at FIT). The color of this dress is sheer pink and it has gold stripes wrapping around it. In the waist area of the dress, there's a gold metal chain with faux fur and coins (see figure 3). This dress is influenced by Indian cultures. The coin belt is used to show wealth and is similar to a belly dancer's costume and the gold-brocaded paisley fabric shows the Indian sari border as a stripe (The Museum at FIT). The colors on this dress also indicate it is Indian inspired because of the feminine colors that are seen in Indian clothing as well as gold fabric (see figure 2).



Figure 1: *Evening Dress* by Christian Dior



Figure 2: An Indian woman wearing a gold embroidered purple sari and gold jewelry.



Figure 3: Coin Belt close up

**Tone** is defined as a hue or mixture of pure colors and the only color added is pure gray which are equal amounts of black and white (Color, hue, tint, tone, and shade, 2019). There are different kinds of tone which are warm, cool, and neutral. This evening dress has warm tones since there's pinks and golds.

**Value** is defined as the amount of light or dark. A tint/pastel has white added to it and a shade has black added to it. The value of this dress is light because the pink color is sheer and not fully colored and intense.

**Texture** is defined as the surface treatment or feel and there's two kinds of texture which are visual/physical and suggestive. The texture of the dress is somewhat rough. The gold stripes going around the dress look wrinkly and the pink fabric isn't as smooth although it's silk. As mentioned earlier, there's a metal chain in the waist area that makes the dress look a bit bulky. Although the pink fabric is silk, the dress as a whole doesn't appear smooth but it shows femininity because of the silk fabric and warm colors it has.

**Line** is a direction and this dress is filled with horizontal lines with gold stripes. Horizontal lines mean easygoing, restful, peaceful and calm and this dress definitely shows all of those components. **Balance** is symmetrical or formal balance: mirror image and asymmetrical or informal balance: sides of equal weight but not exact replicas. This dress is very symmetrical and balanced because all the gold stripes are even and the same width and length.

**Repetition** is repeating or reiterating an idea or motif and there is repetition here as well with the gold stripes starting from the top of the dress and ending at the bottom of it.

**Composition** is the arrangement of lines, form, shapes as colors. There are two main colors in this dress which are pink and gold. The shapes are thin rectangles that are also wide horizontal lines and they wrap around the entire dress.

Fashion trends are always changing throughout the year however, one that has always stuck around is cultural appropriation. Cultural appropriation is still seen in fashion today and many high fashion brands still do it, especially for their fashion shows. For example, in 2019, the brand Burberry did cultural appropriation during their Autumn/Winter 2019 show by sending a model down the runway with the drawstring of a hoodie tied into a noose hanging from the neck which shows some suicide references. Also, the hanging noose is a symbol that's connected to lynching, a key hate symbol that targets African Americans (Kong, 2019). Burberry ended up releasing an apology statement and removed the design from the collection. Many companies become inspired by different cultures around the world but don't realize that they are doing cultural appropriation instead of cultural appreciation.

## References:

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