

Dear Observer,

This is a single topic Directive and one which has often been suggested by Mass-Observers - CLOTHES - As usual I am making some suggestions about how to handle it, but they are just to get you started. Do pick and choose and expand according to your interest.

But first a couple of important notes:

- Many thanks to everyone who encloses their name and address on a separate scrap of paper. This helps a great deal when I come to acknowledge your work. A few people are still putting their names on the work itself. Please do remember that **ONLY YOUR NUMBER** should appear on your contribution. If you can remember to put your number on every page (top right hand corner) better still.
- **FREEPOST and STAMPS:** If you put a stamp on your envelope please **don't** use our FREEPOST ADDRESS

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If you use a stamp and the FREEPOST address you and we may both pay, which is not a good idea. And now to business.

A. YOUR WARDROBE

1. A complete inventory of every single item of clothing that you own, whether you use it or not, would certainly be a useful start. And if other members of the family would add their lists it would be valuable.
2. Do things fall into groups like 'never worn' or 'hardly ever' or 'special occasions'? If they do will you say what they are and why?
3. What's the difference between your every-day and weekend leisure wear?
4. Have you got one or more favourite items? If so, why so?
5. In what ways does mood effect your choice of what to put on in the morning?
6. Is there a category of dress, e.g shoes, hats etc to which you attach more importance than any other? Any reasons?

B. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

1. Are you careful with your clothes, i.e brushing, hanging, folding, do you polish your shoes regularly? What about ironing clothes that are not in public view?
2. What things do you take to the dry-cleaners regularly or occasionally? Do you use dry-cleaners more or less than in the past, and if so are there reasons? What things do you prefer to wash by hand? Do you use a domestic washing machine or go to the launderette? If lauderette, do you go on a regular day or particular time. Are you shy about taking some things to a laudarette?

3. Are there things that you repair yourself or have repaired, eg socks and shoes? Have you changed your attitude in such matters? How strong is the 'Throw-away factor' as regards your clothes?

4. Who attends to the cleaning and repairs of all sorts in your household?

5. On all these points what changes have you observed over time?

C. BUYING CLOTHES

1. When you buy clothes how do you balance fashion, cost, comfort and durability as regards different items, e.g. is comfort more important than appearance for underwear; is 'night attire' a waste of money?

2. If you regularly buy clothes for another person, who is it what do you buy? How much consultation is there beforehand?

3. What colours do you prefer for yourself? Any particular reason?

4. What clothes do you buy locally and for which would you prefer to make a 'special expedition' and where would it be to?

5. What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe? What was your greatest mistake?

6. On the shopping scene: have you comments on availability of fashionable clothes in certain sizes - on synthetic fabrics - on designer labels, especially visible ones - on 'unisex' styles?

7. How much do other people's opinions, or the requirements of your work influence your buying? Have you thoughts about the buying and wearing of uniforms?

8. What about children's clothes? Quality, style, cost, recommended sizes and, of course, the children's likes and dislikes.

9. What clothes do you make (don't forget knitting) for yourself or others?

10. If you were given £250 that had to be spent on clothes, what would you buy?

D. OTHER PEOPLE

1. Likes and dislikes about contemporary fashion and general trends: Any long term changes that you particularly welcome or regret?

2. In the family what items are 'handed down' and which are not? By the way, have you been affected by this practice when you were child?

3. What items of clothing would you lend to a relative or friend and which would you be willing to borrow? In both cases what would you never lend or never borrow?

4. Do you sometimes or never buy secondhand clothes? If you do, are there nevertheless certain things that you would never buy secondhand?

5. Do you form opinions about (I don't say 'judge') people's style of life or occupation from their clothes? Could you describe a Yuppy, what does 'respectably dressed' look like, what is 'flash'? Be precise.

6. But does judgment come in sometimes? What, in young or old, strikes you as 'unsuitable' always, or on certain occasions? Be honest.