

First all-hijab collection at New York Fashion Week

18th September, 2016



History was made at the recent New York Fashion Week. For the very first time, there was a collection in which every model walked down the catwalk wearing a hijab. The hijab is the veil traditionally worn

by Muslim women, which usually covers the head and chest. It has got a bad press recently because of it being banned in various parts of the world. However, Muslim designer Anniesa Hasibuan from Indonesia wanted to show just how stylish and elegant the hijab could be and wowed the fashion world with her creations. Ms Hasibuan is just 30 years old and becomes the first Indonesian to feature a collection at a prestigious global fashion event. She received a standing ovation at the end of her show in New York.

There has been an upswing in the past few years of fashion designers incorporating Islamic fashion into their designs. The international retail clothing company H&M released an advert showing a Muslim model in a hijab, while Dolce and Gabbana released a line of hijabs aimed at wealthy Muslim customers. Not everyone is happy with the hijab entering mainstream fashion. Some say the new designs are bordering on being un-Islamic. Dr Eva Nisa, a professor of Islamic Studies, said: "The essence of Muslim dress is to wear something decent, to be modest. For women they have to make sure what they're wearing doesn't attract the attention of men."

Sources: bbc.com / independent.co.uk / NewYorkDailyNews

Writing

All fashion is a waste of time and money. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

history / fashion / collection / catwalk / veil / banned / stylish / elegant / prestigious / fashion designers / international / retail / model / wealthy / mainstream / modest

True / False

- a) The New York Fashion show was held for the first ever time. T / F
- b) There was a fashion collection in which all models wore a hijab. T / F
- c) The fashion designer was a 30-year-old from Indonesia. T / F
- d) Many people clapped and cheered at the end of the designer's show. T / F
- e) International fashion stores have not yet tapped into Muslim designs. T / F
- f) Dolce and Gabbana sold hijabs to poorer Muslims. T / F
- g) A professor said the designer's hijabs were very Islamic. T / F
- h) A hijab is traditionally worn so as not to attract the attention of men. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. traditionally | a. round of applause |
| 2. bad press | b. fashionable |
| 3. various | c. respectable |
| 4. stylish | d. including |
| 5. ovation | e. different |
| 6. incorporating | f. normal |
| 7. released | g. customarily |
| 8. mainstream | h. spirit |
| 9. essence | i. issued |
| 10. decent | j. negative commen |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are your favourite fashions?
- c) Why has it taken so long for the hijab to be in a fashion show?
- d) What do you think of fashion shows?
- e) What 'bad press' have hijabs had?
- f) What do you think of hijabs?
- g) How will this event change things for Muslim fashion?
- h) What advice would you give to Anniesa Hasibuan?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. every model walked down the | a. in the past few years |
| 2. It has got a bad | b. on being un-Islamic |
| 3. wowed | c. catwalk wearing a hijab |
| 4. feature a collection at a prestigious | d. ovation at the end |
| 5. She received a standing | e. fashion into their designs |
| 6. There has been an upswing | f. press recently |
| 7. incorporating Islamic | g. attention of men |
| 8. the hijab entering mainstream | h. global fashion event |
| 9. the new designs are bordering | i. fashion |
| 10. doesn't attract the | j. the fashion world |

Discussion – Student B

- What is fashion for?
- What's the difference between a headscarf and a hijab?
- Are colourful and fashionable hijabs un-Islamic?
- Why are some people saying Ms Hasibuan's hijabs are un-Islamic?
- Should we all dress modestly all the time?
- Is fashion for attracting attention?
- What might Muslim fashion be like in 50 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask a Muslim fashion designer?

Spelling

- walked down the wkclata
- banned in ivsauro parts of the world
- how stylish and gtneela the hijab could be
- dwowe the fashion world
- a gtisoieuspr global fashion event
- She received a standing ontvioa at the end
- coinaprnigort Islamic fashion into their designs
- tlehayw Muslim customers
- entering nmriemsata fashion
- The eenscse of Muslim dress
- wear something decent, to be dtoems
- attract the ttaotnien of men

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. e	4. b	5. a
6. d	7. i	8. f	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Location

You think the location is the most important thing for a fashion show. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): celebrity guests, size-zero models or something new.

Role B – Celebrity guests

You think celebrity guests is the most important thing for a fashion show. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the location, size-zero models or something new.

Role C – Size-zero models

You think size-zero models is the most important thing for a fashion show. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): celebrity guests, the location or something new.

Role D – Something new

You think something new is the most important thing for a fashion show. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): celebrity guests, size-zero models or the location.

Speaking – Fashion Show

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for a fashion show at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| • Location | • Headline-making designs |
| • Top designers | • Size-zero models |
| • Celebrity guests | • Something new |
| • Variety of cultures | • Famous models |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.