

Fast Fashion vs Sustainable Fashion

Ranking Exercise

Rank the following statements about purchasing habits in the context of fast fashion, from most environmentally conscious to least environmentally conscious. Explain why the first-ranked item is the most environmentally conscious.

- ___ I prefer to buy cheap, trendy items and don't mind if they don't last very long.
- ___ I often find myself buying clothes on impulse, especially when they're on sale.
- ___ I enjoy keeping up with the latest fashion trends and update my wardrobe frequently.
- ___ I only buy clothes when I really need them.
- ___ I try to buy second-hand clothing whenever possible.

Explain why the first-ranked item is the most environmentally conscious: _____

Comparison Chart

Aspect	Fast Fashion	Sustainable Fashion
Cost	Generally cheaper, with lower upfront costs	Often more expensive initially, but may last longer
Quality	Often lower quality, not made to last	Higher quality, designed for durability
Environmental Impact	High environmental impact due to mass production and use of non-sustainable materials	Lower environmental impact, uses sustainable materials and ethical production methods
Style Variety	Wide range of trendy, quickly changing styles	More classic, timeless designs
Production Ethics	Frequently involves poor labor conditions and low wages	Prioritizes fair labor practices and worker rights

Discussion Questions

1. How does the cost of fast fashion affect consumer behavior compared to sustainable fashion?

2. In what ways might the quality of clothing influence a person's decision to choose sustainable fashion over fast fashion?

3. How do the long-term environmental impacts of fast fashion compare to the impacts of sustainable fashion?

4. Why might someone prefer the style variety offered by fast fashion?

5. How do ethical considerations in production influence your personal fashion choices?

6. Can sustainable fashion be made more accessible to a wider range of consumers? How?

Possible Answers for the Ranking Exercise

1. "I try to buy second-hand clothing whenever possible."

- Explanation: This approach is the most environmentally conscious because it supports the recycling and reuse of clothes, reducing the need for new production and the associated environmental impact. By buying second-hand, one is actively participating in a circular economy, which is vital for sustainable consumption.

2. "I only buy clothes when I really need them."

- This choice reflects a mindful consumption habit. It indicates a conscious effort to avoid unnecessary purchases, thereby reducing personal contribution to the fast fashion cycle and its environmental footprint.

Informal Style Answers to Discussion Questions

1. Cost of Fast Fashion vs. Sustainable Fashion

- "Honestly, fast fashion is just easier on my wallet. I can get like three shirts for the price of one sustainable piece. But then again, I end up buying new stuff more often because they don't last. Sustainable fashion's pricey, but if you're thinking long-term, it kinda makes sense."

2. Quality and Decision Making

- "So, with sustainable stuff, you're looking at clothes that don't fall apart after two washes. I've got a couple of quality pieces that have been with me for years. Fast fashion? Not so much. It's more like wear it a few times and then it starts looking shabby. Quality matters if you don't wanna keep shopping every season."

3. Environmental Impacts

- "Fast fashion's a real problem for the planet. It's like, you buy stuff, wear it a bit, and then it's in a landfill. Sustainable fashion tries to fix that, using materials that are better for the environment and stuff. It's a big deal considering how much waste we're talking about."

4. Style Variety in Fast Fashion

- "I get why people dig fast fashion. It's always got the latest styles, and you can switch up your look without breaking the bank. But it's kinda like fast food for your wardrobe, you know? Tasty at first, but not great for you in the long run. Plus, it gets old seeing everyone wearing the same trendy thing."

5. Ethical Production and Personal Choices

- "The whole thing about bad labor practices in fast fashion really bugs me. I try to pick brands that are fair to their workers. It's like, I don't want my clothes to come at someone else's expense. It feels better knowing you're wearing something made ethically."

6. Making Sustainable Fashion More Accessible

- "Sustainable fashion's gotta be more than just a 'rich people thing,' you know? Maybe if they found a way to make it more affordable, more people would get on board. Awareness is key too. A lot of folks just don't know about the impacts of what they wear. Plus, having cool, affordable options would definitely help."