

Oceania's Evolving Fashion Scene: Economic Shocks, Sustainability, and Dig

Fashion Trends · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In Australia and New Zealand, what is the primary reason cited by consumers for reducing discretionary spending on clothing and footwear, as indicated by a 2025 survey?

- A) The rise of athleisure wear
- B) Increased inflation and rising prices**
- C) A shift towards minimalist aesthetics
- D) The influence of social media trends

2. Fiji Fashion Week (FJFW) has increasingly focused on sustainability. What is identified as a significant barrier for Fijian designers in adopting sustainable fashion practices?

- A) Lack of access to natural fibers
- B) High cost of sustainable materials and production methods**
- C) Limited consumer demand for sustainable products
- D) Government regulations restricting sustainable practices

3. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the garment sector in the Asia-Pacific region. What was a major consequence for workers in this sector due to plummeting retail sales in key export markets?

- A) Increased wages and improved working conditions
- B) A sharp rise in worker layoffs and dismissals**
- C) A shift towards automation in factories
- D) Government subsidies for all garment workers

4. In Australia, consumer spending on clothing, footwear, and accessories has seen a decline. What is a key implication of this trend for Australian fashion brands?

- A) Increased investment in fast fashion production
- B) A pivot towards value-conscious buyers and fewer, better pieces**
- C) Expansion into markets with lower consumer spending
- D) Focus on rapidly changing micro-trends

5. The influx of second-hand clothing into Fiji, often from wealthier nations, has been described by some experts as 'waste colonization.' What is a primary concern associated with this practice?

- A) Increased local garment manufacturing jobs
- B) Undermining local garment manufacturing and potential job creation**
- C) A boost to Fiji's textile export market
- D) Improved air quality due to better waste management

6. The digital economy is transforming business in the Pacific. What is a key benefit of digital technologies for small businesses in this region?

- A) Increased reliance on physical retail stores
- B) Easier attraction of new customers**
- C) Reduced internet connectivity
- D) Limited access to online payment systems

7. What is a significant economic challenge faced by Pacific Island countries in their tourism recovery efforts, according to recent forecasts?

- A) Over-reliance on domestic tourism
- B) High airfares and limited flight paths**
- C) Excessive government investment in tourism infrastructure
- D) A sudden decrease in global interest in island destinations

8. Cultural appropriation in fashion, particularly concerning Pacific cultures, can lead to negative consequences. Which of the following is a direct economic impact mentioned?

- A) Increased recognition of indigenous artists
- B) Undercutting communities' ability to earn income from authentic products**
- C) Greater investment in traditional craft education
- D) Development of new collaborative design models

9. In the Asia-Pacific region, the demand for luxury and branded accessories is rising. What is a key driver of this trend?

- A) A decrease in disposable income
- B) The growth of the middle class and increasing purchasing power**
- C) A decline in the appreciation for craftsmanship
- D) Reduced access to international brands

10. The Australian fashion industry is increasingly focusing on sustainability. What does this trend align with, beyond environmental concerns?

- A) A preference for fast fashion
- B) Economic pragmatism and purchasing fewer, better pieces**
- C) Increased reliance on synthetic materials
- D) A disregard for the resale economy

11. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Australian fashion brands working with local manufacturers experienced an advantage. What was this advantage related to?

- A) Ability to pivot production quickly to adapt to changing market conditions**
- B) Lower costs compared to overseas manufacturing
- C) Access to a wider range of raw materials
- D) Reduced need for digital marketing

12. What is a significant challenge for e-commerce growth in the Pacific region, despite improvements in digital financial tools?

- A) An overabundance of accessible online payment solutions
- B) Difficulty in spending digital funds due to a lack of robust e-commerce platforms**
- C) Limited internet penetration
- D) A lack of consumer interest in online shopping

13. In Fiji, the 'waste colonization' of textile imports is a concern. What is a potential environmental risk associated with the disposal of these textiles in landfills?

- A) Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- B) Leaching of chemicals, solvents, and dyes into the local environment**
- C) Increased demand for raw material extraction
- D) A decrease in the use of blended fabrics

14. The 'Hemline Index' and 'High Heel Theory' are historical economic indicators suggesting a link between fashion trends and economic health. What do these theories generally propose?

- A) Hemlines shorten and heels rise during economic downturns
- B) Hemlines lengthen and heels lower during economic booms**
- C) Economic conditions have no impact on fashion trends
- D) Hemlines and heel heights are unaffected by economic cycles

15. What is a key initiative mentioned to support the development of e-commerce in the Pacific Islands?

- A) Reducing investment in ICT infrastructure
- B) Developing regional freight assistance packages to lower cross-border costs**
- C) Discouraging the use of international e-commerce platforms
- D) Limiting digital skills training for entrepreneurs