

Abbasid Clothing:

The Abbasids were influenced by traditional Arabic dress and Persian court styles. During the previous Umayyid Caliphate, the court dressed simply in public and saved their shows of wealth for private display. The Abbasids loved the public display of wealth. During their time, the rules regulating fabric and design were loosened so the court could wear clothing they felt was appropriate to their ranks.

Two ideas regulated how people dressed during that time: The *adab*, or the ideal of sophistication in dress and behavior and *ghiyar*, the laws that enforced a separation or differentiation of classes and religions.

Often garments were the same for men and women, upper and lower classes; only the type of fabric, the patterns of the fabric, and the number of layers were different.

Underwear: This was the same for men and women.

Sirwal: general term for pants, which could mean underwear, briefs, knee-length pants, or a loose pair of trousers. Most upper classes wore some sort of cover on their crotch and then a pair of trousers over that.

Qamis: Undershirt, body shirt, or tunic. This was generally a collarless shirt with a round neck. It could be long or short sleeved and could go to the mid-thigh or the ankle. It could also be one solid piece of fabric or it could be split down the middle.

1st Layer: After the qamis, there was an outer layer. This was generally a tunic, a robe, or a coat depending on wealth, weather, and occasion. Here is a limited sample of options.

Thawb: long or short sleeved gown.

Ejubba: narrow sleeved tunic (often wool).

Hulla: long, flowing coat.

Qabd: Luxurious robe, split down the front, closed with buttons

Farruj: Long robe split down the back.

Barajirdi: linen or silk lined robe.

Durrota or durra'a: long, full robe, with wide sleeves made out of fine linen. The robe was split down the front.

Khaftan: Fine coat, with long narrow sleeves, split down the front and closed with buttons.

Outer layer: When going outside, men and women covered their outfits with a mantle, cloak, or veil. These were made from wool, silk, cotton, or linen.

Head covering: Men wore hats or turbans. Women wore veils.

Shoes: boots, slippers or ankle length shoes, and sandals.

Images from Period:



Example of a loose tunic with tiraz bands on the upper arms. You can see the white undershirt underneath.



Another domestic scene, again a loose tunic over the trousers with a simple turban or veil.



In this one you can still see the tiraz bands on the tunics and the long mantles/drapes worn over the clothing when going outside.



happening here but look, pants!

I have no idea what is



Women out at the mosque.



Here are examples of some loose robes or coats, split down the middle and closed with buttons.



Another image of the loose robe or coat, split down the middle.



Here is another example of a more fitted robe.

For patterning information and more detailed information on Islamic Clothing, please see:

Master Rashid's Persian Patterns:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~lilinah/Rashid/>

The Siege of Seville: A lovely page with step by step instructions and patterns:

<https://thesiegeofseville.wordpress.com/2015/07/16/qamisa-and-jubba-patterning/>

Clothing of the Al-Andalus by Qadiya Catalina de Arazuri:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/218362936/Clothing-of-al-Andalus-The-Durra-a-and-The-Qamisa-by-Qadiya-Catalina-de-Arazuri>

Richard Cullinan's website on Abbasid clothing:

<https://richardcullinan.wordpress.com/2016/12/17/an-overview-of-mens-abbasid-9th-10th-century-persian-clothing/>

The Art of the Abbasid:

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/abba/hd_abba.htm