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Welcome to our new monthly Focus magazine feature giving you the chance to ask our resident beauty expert, Alison Young, your beauty questions.

Alison's loyal following at QVC is largely due to her down-to-earth approach to beauty, offering solutions that really work. Her comprehensive knowledge and vast personal experience of a wide range of beauty products and brands mean she's in the ideal position to offer impartial advice about what's right for you.

Each month we'll select a few of the most popular questions from Alison's mailbag, and ask Alison for her professional advice. Here are this month's questions...

I'm in my 50s and have increasingly noticed that the skin around my eyes has become looser. Can you recommend anything to help firm slackskin around the eyelids?

Alison says:

For a quick fix - if you're going to a party, for example, and want to look your best - use **Genie Instant Line Smoother (215823)** wherever you want to temporarily improve the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles, bags and puffiness. Formulated with collagen and aloe vera, it has an instant firming effect that lasts for hours.

Gale Hayman Youth Lift (210407) does a similar job, helping to smooth away fine lines and wrinkles by creating an invisible, hydrating film that leaves skin feeling soft and youthful.

For a longer term result, you'll need to use an eye product. If you're already using an eye cream that you're happy with, try using **Nuxe Phytochoc Lifting Serum (214333)** underneath it both morning and evening for a firming and tightening effect.

If you're not currently using an eye cream, I recommend using **Gale Hayman Eye Lift Gel (211035)** in the morning to help firm and soothe the skin around the fragile eye area. In the evening, apply **Gatineau Defi-Lift Eye Contour Lift Cream (217439)**,

great for helping to firm and tone the skin around the eyes and reduce puffiness and dark circles.

In the summer, my hair tends to get very dry and brittle. Can you recommend any products to help?

Alison says:

MOP C-System Vitamin C Treat Trio (216243) is just what you need. Formulated with natural, organic ingredients, the C-System range is great for putting the moisture back into dry, over-processed or sun-damaged hair, or hair that's lost its lustre due to illness. If the dryness is not too bad, you can try using the shampoo and conditioner every four to five washes with your normal shampoo in between. If it's more severe, you might need to use the shampoo and conditioner every time you wash your hair to help replenish lost moisture.

I have a lot of fine wrinkles around my eyes. I'd like to find a concealer that will help to conceal the dark shadows under my eyes without drawing attention to the wrinkles.

Alison says:

First of all, let's address those fine wrinkles. They're often due to dehydration, so a product such as **Decleor Eye and Lip Cream Contour Mask (213733)** can really help to reduce them. Use this hydrating mask two to three times a week, leaving it on overnight, to help counteract the effect of too many late nights! If your skin is looking very dry and tired, you can use the mask four to six nights in a row.

If your wrinkles are slightly larger and extend across your cheeks, they're probably not due to dehydration but are expression lines. In this case, what you need is **Gatineau Melatogenine Focus Treatment (214370)**, which contains relaxing proteins and filler ingredients to help improve the appearance of wrinkles. In a pen form to aid precision application, it can be used not only on wrinkles around the eyes but on any part of the face.

Finally, to go back to your question, **Gale Hayman Line Lift and Concealer Duo (212627)** sounds like just what you need. The line lift is another great product for helping to firm the skin around the eyes, whilst the vitamin-enriched concealer's moisturising formula helps fill in lines and disguise dark shadows and skin imperfections.

I'm going on holiday soon and am looking for a moisturiser for my dry skin. Can you recommend something with an SPF which I can use on my face, but which won't slide off in hot and humid weather?

Alison says:

Many people prefer an uncomplicated skincare routine when they're on holiday, and if this is you, then **P20 Once a Day Sunfilter SPF20 (211579)** is the perfect solution. It's oil-free and non-comedogenic, so there's no shininess or greasiness. Simply apply it 90 minutes before you go out in the sun, and you'll be protected all day, even after swimming. You'll need to wait 90 minutes before applying your make-up.

If you prefer to stick to a more serious skincare routine while you're away, I'd recommend **Elemis Wrinkle Control Skincare**

Duo (212442). It contains Wrinkle Control Sun Screen, an anti-ageing cream with SPF25 and botanical extracts. More moisturising than the P20, it's great for dry skin but it has a matte finish and isn't heavy or greasy. You'll need to reapply it every hour or so to remain fully protected.

I have a greasy T-zone and suffer from breakouts. I'm looking for a product that will control oiliness without being too harsh on my skin, as it's also quite sensitive.

Alison says:

Many of the products for oily skin available on the High Street are far too harsh, even for very oily skin. Whilst they may give the desired matte effect initially, by stripping the skin of moisture they only serve to encourage the oil glands to produce more oil. More sophisticated skincare products take a more long-term approach to controlling oil production.

For cleansing and toning, try using **Elemis 400ml Cleanser and Toner Set (216772)** in Normal/Combination. It contains Balancing Lime Blossom Cleanser, great for normalising and rebalancing the skin, and Balancing Lavender Toner, which clarifies the complexion without using alcohol or harsh detergents. De-sensitising and anti-inflammatory, the toner helps maintain the skin's natural pH balance. The set comes with pump dispensers, so the products are economical, too, as a little goes a long way.

A common mistake made by people with oily skin is to moisturise just the drier parts of their face. But leaving the T-zone bare means the oil glands will stay overactive to compensate. It's better to use a light moisturiser such as **Decleor Hydra-Floral Comfort Cream 50ml (213643)**, a floral water-based treatment moisturiser, all over your face and neck.

If you have a very obvious, greasy T-zone you could also try **Molton Brown Instant Matte Shine Control (215877)**, which contains oil-absorbing ingredients to help keep your complexion shine-free.

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