

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/01

Written

General Comments

In almost all cases the scripts were well presented and handwriting was legible. Many candidates produced good clear labelled diagrams where these were needed to illustrate their answers, though some lost marks in Question 7(a) because care was not taken to show the needle making the correct stitch. In almost all Centres the separate lined answer sheets/booklets were attached to the back of the question book. A large number of Centres also included the insert sheet which is not necessary unless the candidate has written on it. Only a small number of candidates appeared to answer the paper in pencil before overwriting the answers in ink this year. Candidates are encouraged to answer the questions in ink.

Section A was attempted by all candidates and produced a wide standard of responses. A few candidates answered **Section A** in the answer book as well as on the question paper leaving them little time to answer **Section B**. The majority of candidates answered three questions in **Section B** but a few attempted only one or two questions. In several cases this appeared to be because candidates had run out of time. Questions 2, 4, 5 and 7 were the most popular questions with candidates showing confidence in answering questions relating to garment construction and hand sewing. Question 6 was the least popular question with candidates from only a small number of Centres attempting this question.

Candidates should be encouraged to read all questions carefully before they begin to answer. Some candidates gave information that was correct, but did not answer the actual question, which resulted in marks being lost. Candidates should be reminded that the number of marks for each question is clearly indicated in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question and this should give some indication of the amount of information that is required to gain full marks. It was apparent this year that many candidates chose carefully the sequence in which to answer questions in **Section B**, answering first those questions in which they felt most confident.

Candidates should be asked to fill in the front of the question book with the numbers of the questions attempted in **Section B**. They should also be asked to start each question on a separate page or at least leave a few lines between the end of one question and the beginning of the next. It was pleasing to note that most candidates this year wrote the answer numbers in the margin even if a response was not offered. As a result few candidates unintentionally missed parts of questions this year.

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Generally well answered, with most candidates offering two words to describe the style features. Few candidates gave a correct answer for D, the integral or front waistband.
- (b) The fibre and weight were generally known for both fabrics but some candidates offered two suggestions for weight. E.g. light/medium. Structure, appearance and feel/ handle were not well known.
- (c) Some good reasons given but many candidates gave answers which related to the fibre rather than the type of fabric.
- (d) Generally well answered with the majority of candidates using the Insert for their responses. A number of candidates gave 'One pack of Ric Rac' as the answer for the type and amount of thread

- (e) (i) Folds and selvages were well answered but a small number of candidates failed to answer the question, possibly as a result of not reading the question carefully.
- (ii) Some candidates answered this question very well, but there were some very poor responses especially where candidates did not identify that the pattern pieces placed on the fold were Centre panels (pieces 3 and 4).
- (iii) On the whole this question was well answered; candidates who referred to the use of interfacing for the whole garment instead of giving a specific area where the interfacing is used did not receive credit.
- (iv) Generally well answered but few candidates referred to the need to trim the seam allowance from the interfacing so did not achieve full marks.
- (f) (i) This question was generally well answered with the majority of candidates showing a good understanding of pattern markings. The pattern markings were clearly labelled in most answers this year. Placement of the Centre Front was omitted or inaccurate in the majority of answers.
- (ii) Responses to this question were generally poor with few candidates gaining more than 1 mark. The majority of candidates suggested simply drawing a new neckline on the fabric or existing pattern and then cutting out the square shape instead of creating a new paper pattern.
- (iii) Few candidates gave the correct explanation with many offering instructions for applying a facing or for making a bias facing.
- (g) This part was generally answered well with a good number of candidates achieving maximum marks. Almost all candidates used all the words and did not use words more than once or insert other words this year. However, candidates rarely went back and changed words when they reached the end and did not have the correct word left to use; this would indicate that they did not read through to check that what they had written made sense.

Section B

Question 2

This was a popular question that was generally well answered. It was ideal for candidates who had studied the production of viscose in detail and found drawing difficult.

- (a) This was generally well answered.
- (b) Almost all candidates gave detailed and accurate information about the production of viscose.
- (c) Although most candidates offered a list of fabric properties, few candidates chose the correct properties which related to viscose.
- (d) Responses to this question were disappointing with the majority of candidates offering only one aspect of care despite the fact that 4 marks were clearly indicated.
- (e) The majority of candidates understood that blending fibres changes the performance of the blended fibres but many candidates offered incorrect answers because they did not know the properties of viscose.

Question 3

This was a popular question with some good responses to part (a).

- (a) (i) There were some good answers with candidates showing a good understanding of antistatic finishes.
- (ii) Few candidates were able to demonstrate an understanding of an easy care finish; many candidates offered answers such as 'needs less washing' and rarely offered correct examples of fabrics/fibres needing an easy care finish.

- (iii) This part was well answered.
- (iv) Generally brushing was well known but some candidates referred to brushing fabric to remove lint.
- (b) A significant number of candidates did not attempt this part. Of those who did most answered well.
- (c) This part was generally answered well.

Question 4

Overall this question was poorly answered with candidates giving particularly weak answers in parts (c) and (d).

- (a) The majority of candidates were able to show an understanding of the difference between fibre and fabric.
- (b)(i) A large number of candidates incorrectly suggested woollen jumpers and cardigans as a use for wool felt.
 - (ii) Most candidates could offer appropriate suggestions for the use of polyester satin.
 - (iii) The uses of cotton denim were well known.
 - (iv) The suggested uses for nylon chiffon were not always appropriate. Many candidates offered uses for nylon fabrics that were not chiffon, for example cleaning cloths.
- (c)(i) Most responses referred to the insulation properties of wool with few candidates describing the properties of felt.
 - (ii) Answers mainly referred to the appearance of polyester satin.
 - (iii) This part was well answered.
 - (iv) This was poorly answered with most candidates referring solely to the properties of nylon alone.
- (d)(i) Few candidates were able to give details about the construction of felt with most candidates saying just that it is a bonded fabric.
 - (ii) Only a small number of candidates explained the weaving method used to produce polyester satin. The majority of answers referred, incorrectly, to the method of producing polyester fibre.

Question 5

The majority of candidates who answered this popular question gave clear answers showing that they were familiar with the techniques and were able to gain full marks.

- (a) The majority of answers were correct and well illustrated but a minority of candidates did not read the question properly and described how to make a waistband.
- (b) Few candidates gained full marks for this part although a number of different ways of attaching the lace to the neckline were allowed.
- (c) There were some good answers given to this question but a few candidates described a finished flat open seam and others lost a mark by making the seam on the outside instead of the inside.

Question 6

This was the least popular question and was poorly answered by those who chose to answer it.

- (a) Few candidates offered enough information about their suggested design to gain full marks on this part.
- (b)(i) Most candidates understood that fabric should be washed and ironed before printing but few suggested marking the position of the print or securing the fabric to the table.
 - (ii) This part of the question was poorly answered with few candidates being able to suggest a correct method of colouring the block.
 - (iii) The term 'fix the colour' was not understood. Only a small number of responses suggested using heat to fix the dye.
 - (iv) There were some reasonable answers to this part of the question showing some understanding of the need for care when washing newly printed fabrics.
- (c) This question was quite well answered with labelled diagrams included. Some candidates described how to make a separate casing for the elastic instead of the casing illustrated in the trousers shown in view F.

Question 7

This was the most popular question with most candidates offering good responses.

- (a) Most of the diagrams were unnecessarily large (half a page). Smaller illustrations would have taken less time to produce. A large number of candidates just showed the needle in a random position on the fabric instead of using the needle to show how the stitch was made.
 - (i) Most candidates knew running stitch but some showed back stitch.
 - (ii) Well answered by most candidates.
 - (iii) Most responses illustrated cross stitch.
- (b) The majority of candidates offered appropriate if unimaginative designs.
- (c) This part was well answered with almost all candidates giving confident responses.

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Paper 6050/02

Practical

General Comments

The 2009 practical test was in line with those of previous years. The test was within the standard expected of candidates at this level. The processes involved were quite straightforward and ones which the candidates should be able to achieve in the making of a simple garment. Most candidates were able to complete the right half of shortened shorts but there were one or two who did not get very far.

Comments on Specific Questions

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a shortened pair of shorts; this included a pleat in the front, inserting a pocket in the side seam, working a dart in the back and making and attaching a waistband. It was a straightforward test using processes which were familiar to the candidates. The majority understood the pattern and the instructions. Again, this year candidates tended to lose marks for inaccuracy. Many did not follow the instructions carefully when making and putting in the pocket and attaching the waistband. Candidates must learn to follow the instructions and to use the 1.5 cm seam allowance accurately. Candidates that do more than is instructed do not gain extra marks.

Choice of fabric and interfacing

Generally fabrics were most satisfactory although one or two Centres used fabric that was a little too fine and stiff on which it was difficult to work this test. The iron-on interfacing was of the correct weight for the fabric.

Cutting out

Marks were awarded for placing the pattern on the fabric accurately and for using the scissors carefully. The candidates showed that they had followed the instructions by placing the pattern pieces on the straight grain of the fabric. However, several lost marks for badly cut edges around curves at the centre front and centre back of the shorts. The majority made up the right hand side of the shorts, one or two made up the left hand side and there were a few muddled tests.

Pleat

Most candidates made the pleat correctly - of the right size and facing the side seam. One or two machined the pleat and therefore lost marks.

Side pocket

There were very few accurately placed pockets. The opening of the pocket was not always the correct distance down from the waistband in the side seam and the opening was often not flat or of the right size. On the wrong side there were some very good curved pockets, quite well trimmed and neatened. Several candidates made up the pocket with the seam on the inside of the pocket and lost marks. A few candidates pressed the pocket towards the back of the shorts and again lost marks. Not many tests had the pocket seam from the waist to the bottom of the pocket trimmed and neatened. Candidates must learn to follow the instructions and diagrams carefully.

Side seam

Very few candidates clipped and neatened the back seam allowance below the pocket and there were only a few who worked a good neat open edge stitched seam below the pocket. Several pressed the seam towards the back and neatened the seam by overlocking (an improvement on previous years).

The Dart

This was a simple process generally well done and the majority pressed it towards the back of the shorts.

Inner leg seam

On the majority of tests the edges were together at the crotch and a 1.5 cm seam allowance. Several did not accomplish this process.

Waistband

Many candidates did not work the front waistband seam – they therefore lost marks for workmanship and correct length. Generally the interfacing was used correctly.

Attaching the waistband

Candidates did not always follow the instructions step by step and turned the correct shorts front opening allowance to the wrong side or the centre back seam allowance to the wrong side before attaching the waistband. The tacking along the centre front fold was better this year. The C.F. waistband seam was not always in line with C.F. fold line of the front shorts. In the poorer tests the waistband seam was not often well trimmed and seldom did the candidates trim the last turning of the waistband, but generally the hemming was very good (a few candidates machine stitched the wrong side of the band).

Presentation

The presentation of the shorts was good, generally well pressed, clean and labels sewn on by hand (labels machine stitched on lose marks). One or two candidates lost marks for writing on the right side of the fabric and in some cases for leaving long ends of machine stitching or tacking. One or two tests could have had the shorts pressed better (time should always be allowed for this). One or two Centres put the patterns in the envelopes, which is not necessary as the patterns are for the Centres to keep.

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Paper 6050/04

Paper 4

General

Most of the work was well labelled and it is very helpful when all work from each candidate is grouped together, which it was in most cases. Summary sheets and individual comments were sent in almost all cases. Comments from teachers on the working mark sheet were very useful and particularly so where detailed comments were made about garments and processes. Some of the marking had been over generous and marks had to be adjusted. It may be helpful to teachers when marking to establish the highest quality and lowest quality work first, and then to award marks in order of merit from the highest to the lowest.

The majority of the work had been well prepared for the examination and candidates had taken care to press their garments carefully. There was some excellent work, showing a high standard of completed processes on two different fabrics. The majority of work presented showed a wide variety of processes and a skirt and top, or skirt and child's dress were common choices. Centres should follow the syllabus requirements carefully and submit only two garments. If more garments have been made during the course, the best two should be selected. The most common fabrics used were cotton denim or gabardine and polyester/cotton poplin or lawn. A few candidates had used more difficult fabrics such as polyester satin, which gave more opportunity for handling different fabrics. Work of a low standard was also presented. In some cases, processes were unfinished, or were inaccurately worked. This was particularly evident in techniques such as collars, buttonholes, seams and hems. As a general guide, it is preferable to show fewer processes, which are well-finished, rather than a large number of processes which are rushed and inaccurately worked. The use of the repetitive processes on both garments should be avoided, so for example, plain seams could be worked on the first garment, and double stitched seams worked on the second garment.

Section 1 - Folders

These were generally good and the majority of candidates had completed all the required sections. Many candidates achieved high marks, although some candidates could have included more detail to gain higher marks. This included adding more detail to the requirements for making the chosen item, e.g. width of fabric, length of zip, diameter of buttons, width of binding, etc.

A few folders had not given enough reasons for choice of pattern, fabric, style and colour. It was pleasing to see that most folders had included a plan of work before starting to make the item. The majority of folders had been word-processed which enhanced their presentation. However, candidates should ensure they complete a spell check to make sure there are no errors. Where photographs had been included, it gave a good idea of fit and suitability for the individual. Some candidates had included trial seams or other processes, although this is not a requirement of the syllabus.

Section 2 Suitability/appearance/effect of decorative work

This was mostly good although more decorative processes could have been included such as hand or machine embroidery, or even top-stitching. There were however, many garments which had included excellent top-stitching.

Section 3 - Garments

Many different processes were shown and seam finishes included hand or machine neatened edges, bound seams on fraying fabrics and many included the use of overlocking. Double stitched seams were often used on denim fabrics, allowing top-stitching to be used on the right side of the fabric. Decoration varied and appliqué, addition of lace/ribbons, self-made bindings and piping were included. There was some imaginative use of self-fabric decoration on children's garments.