

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/01

Written

General Comments

In general the scripts were well presented and handwriting was legible. The majority of candidates numbered their answers clearly, leaving a gap between answers, with many using a new page for each answer, which was helpful to the Examiner. Many candidates produced good, clear, labelled diagrams where needed, to illustrate their answers. In most cases the separate answer sheets/books were attached to the back of the question book but a large number of Centres again included the Insert Sheet which is not necessary unless the candidate has written on it.

Section A was attempted by all candidates and produced a wide range of responses. A small number of candidates answered **Section A** in the answer book as well as on the question paper leaving them little time to answer questions in **Section B**. A few candidates answered **Section A** in both the answer book and the question paper.

The majority of candidates answered three questions in **Section B** but some attempted only two questions. **Questions 3 and 4** were the most popular questions. As in previous examinations candidates showed most confidence in answering questions relating to garment construction. **Questions 5 and 6** were the least popular questions. 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 fewer marks being gained. This was especially the case with **Question 3** where a minority of candidates obtained no marks in spite of having written a lot of information. 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 that this should give an indication of the amount of information that is required to gain full marks.

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 reminded 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 is helpful if answer numbers are clearly written in the margin even if a response is not offered. This may also help candidates to avoid missing out a section from some questions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Generally well answered, with most candidates offering two words to describe the style features.
- (b) Responses were generally more confident and correct for (i), Voile. As in previous years structure, appearance and feel/ handle were not well known, particularly for (ii) jersey. The fibre and weight were generally known for both fabrics with most candidates offering just one answer for weight this year. Some good reasons were given for (iii) and (iv) but many candidates gave answers which related to the fibre rather than the type of weave for (iii).
- (c) This question was well answered but in c(i) a small number of candidates gave answers referring to measuring a garment rather than the body.
- (d) This question was generally well answered but there are still some candidates who confused width and amount.

- (e) (i) Generally well answered but a small number of candidates failed to attempt this section.
- (ii) Few candidates identified pattern pieces 1 and 2 as yoke patterns.
- (iii) Few candidates gave the correct explanation.
- (iv) Generally well answered.
- (v) Generally well answered, but a number of candidates simply described the differences between pattern pieces 3 and 4 – an example of needing to read the question more carefully.
- (f) (i) Some candidates answered this question well, but there were some poor answers with candidates adding lines outside the pattern piece illustrated, adding more than one seam line and using the 'place to fold' symbol instead of a fold line. This emphasises the need to read the question carefully as these candidates needed to relate the pattern markings to those found on a pocket.
- (ii) Parts one and three of this question were generally answered well, but candidates found part two difficult and for part four a number of candidates gave answers related to joining a seam instead of attaching a pocket.
- (g) This question was answered fairly well by a majority of candidates. However, candidates rarely went back and changed words when they reached the end and found they 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.
- (h) Most candidates were able to draw and describe three care symbols but they did not always relate them to the fibre and fabric described in 1(b)(i)

Section B

Question 2

This was a popular question but was not well answered.

- (a) Few candidates were able to name the chemicals from which polyester fibres are made. As in last year's examination the word 'origin' needs to be clearly understood by a number of candidates as they incorrectly answered with the names of various countries as the origin of polyester fibre.
- (b) Most candidates were able to correctly identify at least three properties of polyester.
- (c) Candidates who were able to name jersey as the fabric were also able to describe the fabric reasonably well.
- (d) This question was well answered by the majority of candidates although a small minority described the construction of the garment instead of how to press it correctly during construction.

Question 3

This was a popular question but many candidates who attempted it lost marks because they needed to read the question more carefully.

- (a) There were some good answers to this section but a proportion of candidates offered points referring to the fabric instead of the styles.

- (b) (i) Candidates generally showed a good understanding of a range of fibres or fabrics in a section. Many candidates lost marks because they did not need to include both the fabric and fibre content in their answer.
- (ii) Candidates needed to ensure that their answers related to the fabric as many gave answers related to the fibre.
- (c) There were some excellent answers to this section. Some candidates gave design ideas for children's clothes or fabric treatments to be applied during the construction of the garments instead of suggesting alterations to, or adaptation of, existing garments.

Question 4

This was probably the most popular question on the paper and was well answered with candidates giving good answers to all sections.

- (a) This question was well answered.
- (b) Generally well answered though a small number of candidates confused trimming seams with cutting corners.
- (c) Most candidates were able to describe top stitching well but under-stitching was less well understood.
- (d) This section was very well answered with candidates showing a good understanding of the two processes.

Question 5

There were some good responses to this question but some candidates repeated the same answer in different sections.

- (a) (i) This section was well answered.
- (ii) Most candidates gave good answers to this section.
- (b) (i) Most candidates repeated the answer already given for (a) (ii) and did not appear to refer to the **Insert** when considering the answer. The correct response was to describe the processes required to join the front and back yoke pieces at the shoulder.
- (ii) This section was fairly well answered but few candidates included instructions for gathering the main body of the top before attaching the yoke.
- (iii) Generally this section was not well answered, although most candidates correctly indicated that hemming stitch would be used to secure the yoke lining.

Question 6

This question was generally well answered but only a few candidates gave sufficient details to gain full marks in part (c).

- (a) Generally well answered with most candidates using clear diagrams to illustrate the answer.
- (b) This section was well answered with detailed information on how to complete the process.
- (c) (i) Few candidates gained full marks for this section because they could not explain clearly how the hem was formed. Some candidates appeared confused by the term 'faced edge' and included a facing as well as a crossway strip in their answer.
- (ii) This generally was well answered but marks were lost because candidates did not show clearly that this was a bound edge and not a faced edge.

Question 7

Answers to this question generally lacked sufficient detail to gain full marks and often indicated candidate needed to read the question more carefully.

- (a) (i) Sketches lacked detail and often not well labelled. Many candidates did not show their designs on the yoke and some did not refer to the **Insert** when considering their answer.
- (ii) Designs were unimaginative and often not shown on the yoke.
- (b) (i) There were some good answers to this section but most candidates did not give sufficient detail to gain full marks.
- (ii) Answers to this section were generally poor. Most candidates suggested zig-zag stitch and machining but needed to give the further detail needed for maximum marks e.g. machine settings, fastening off ends securely etc.
- (c) Few candidates achieved maximum marks for this question, mainly because they did not understand the difference between equipment and materials e.g. candidates gave thread as an answer. Reasons offered for choices of equipment were generally good.

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Paper 6050/02

Practical

General comments

The 2010 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 a dress bodice and there were only a few 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 girl's dress bodice; this included making and attaching a Peter Pan collar with a crossway neck facing; making up and setting in a sleeve and working a narrow machine stitched sleeve hem. It was a straightforward test using processes which were familiar to the candidate. The majority understood the pattern and the instructions. Again this year some candidates could have gained marks by being more accurate and by following the instructions more closely. Candidates need to learn to read the instructions very carefully before they begin to make up the test - they are there to guide them step by step. Candidates that do more than is instructed do not gain extra marks.

Choice of fabric

Generally the fabrics were most satisfactory and the iron-on interfacing was of the correct weight for the fabric. Colours chosen were good.

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 along the C.B. of the bodice, as the candidates were instructed to place these along the selvedge and several were poorly cut along the lower edges. The majority made up the right hand side of the bodice but a number placed the front of the collar to the edge of the facing so there was no allowance for an opening.

Front edge

The outer edge of the self front facing was generally well executed. Many candidates missed out on marks as they needed to turn the correct front facing allowance to the W.S. (accuracy) and needed to tack along the fold (marks for hand-stitching).

Shoulder seam

There were some very neat edge-stitched open seams and several good French seams. Unfortunately only a small number were of the correct length – candidates needed to use the 1.5 cm seam allowance accurately when attaching the collar and setting in the sleeve. Not all French seams were pressed towards the back of the bodice.

Collar

There were some well shaped collars with the edges worked out and well trimmed and clipped but there were also some very poor collars because they had not been trimmed and clipped well and the edges had not been worked out. Many candidates mistakenly joined the C.B. seam of the collar and so missed out on marks for size and again when attaching the collar.

Attaching the collar.

This process proved to be the most difficult. Candidates needed to follow the instructions step by step (and note the diagram) when attaching the collar to the neck edge matching the notches and the balance marks. Many did not turn the front facing to the outside along the fold line before attaching the neck facing (not the front opening). (Many placed the front of the collar to the corner). Where the C.B. of the collar had been stitched, candidates lost marks as the raw edges of the collar did not lie in line with the C.B. of the bodice. Many did not use the correct seam allowance to attach the collar, which was then not well trimmed and clipped. Some candidates neaten the seam by using the facing as a binding over the raw edges. There were one or two very neat collars attached with the facing used correctly. Generally the quality of hemming could be improved on. There were a few tests with the C.B. of the collar to the C.F. of the bodice.

Underarm seam

Generally well done – some French seams not pressed towards the back of the bodice.

Sleeve

Sleeve seam generally good – the sleeve hem not always a correct and even width but the machine stitching usually along the hem edge.

Setting in the Sleeve

Many candidates missed out on marks for not reading the instructions carefully as it was stated not to neaten or trim the seam. This meant that the marks for matching notches and balance marks were not gained as were the marks for machining on the fitting line. The sleeves had been eased into the armhole quite well and many on the right side had a smooth line round the head of sleeve and a smooth line underarm with no puckers. Some tests had gathers at the head of the sleeve, but the illustration on the pattern envelope clearly showed a plain set in sleeve.

Presentation

The presentation of the bodice was good, generally well pressed and folded, clean and labels sewn on by hand (labels that are machine stitched on lose marks). One or two candidates missed out on 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 Centres put the patterns in the envelopes – these are for the Centres to keep and use.

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Paper 6050/04

Paper 4

General Comments

All candidates had presented the required items for this component: a folder, and two garments. The fabrics chosen were mostly cotton types which were easy to work on, although some candidates had used slippery or textured fabrics which were more challenging.

Some Centres had packaged the three items together which was welcome. There were a small number of folders which had not been named. It is recommended that all labels are stitched and that no pins are left in the work.

Mark sheets and summary sheets were appropriately completed which was also welcomed.

The majority of candidates had been well prepared for this component and it was pleasing to see some practical work of a very high standard with imaginative use of decorative features.

It is recommended that a high standard of work on a smaller number of processes is preferable to a wide variety of processes which have been rushed and inadequately finished on the wrong side. There is a detailed list of the requirements for both garments, in the syllabus.

Comments on Folders and Garments

The folders were generally very good with effective use of word processors helping to produce good quality presentations. Some folders were hand written, and were also well laid out. Most sections were included in folders as directed in the syllabus. Occasionally there were omissions, such as 'reasons for choice' were not always completed correctly. The 'plan of work' was included in many more folders this year. It was also pleasing to see photographs of the finished garments, although this is not a requirement of the syllabus.

Popular garment choices were: children's dresses, shirts, shorts, skirts, and trousers. It was also usual to see two different fabrics being used, one cotton based, and another heavier weight or synthetic type, both of which gave scope for different handling skills. It is also recommended that different processes are shown on the two garments. Seam types included plain, finished with zig-zag or overlocking. French seams and double stitched were also popular. Machining skills in general were good quality although the finish on the wrong side varied. The quality of stitching in different places on one garment also varied and this is an area which could be given careful consideration.

Hand sewing was usually very good and there was some imaginative use of piping, hand embroidery and the use of trimmings. The choice of components (thread, buttons, binding etc.) were usually appropriate to the garment.

Overall the garments presented fulfilled the requirements of the syllabus.

