

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/01

Written

Key messages

- Candidates should pay attention to the number of marks available for a question and structure their answers accordingly.
- 3 questions (not just two) should be answered in Section B.
- Section A should be answered on the question paper, Section B on separate answer paper.

General comments

All candidates attempted **Section A** and produced a wide range 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 questions in **Section B**.

The majority of candidates answered three questions in **Section B** with a small number attempting only two questions. A few weaker candidates answered all the questions in **Section B**. **Questions 2, 3, 5 and 6** were all popular questions. Responses to **Question 7** were generally disappointing; candidates need to offer more original and detailed ideas to gain full marks. **Question 4** was the least popular question and generally answers to this question were weak. 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. This was especially the case with **Question 3(a)** where many candidates achieved no marks because they described the criteria for choosing a sewing machine instead of the useful functions asked for in the question. 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 some indication of the amount of information that is required to gain full marks.

Scripts were well presented and many candidates produced good, clear labelled diagrams where needed, to illustrate their answers. 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.

This year all candidates wrote question numbers clearly in the margin which was very helpful to Examiners. It would be helpful if candidates could also 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. This may also help candidates to avoid missing out a section from some questions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Few candidates gained more than half marks for this question, with many candidates mistaking darts for pleats. Candidates can improve their marks by ensuring that they give two word answers.
- (b)(i) and (ii) Responses were generally more confident and correct for (i), linen. Many candidates lost marks for this question because they did not appear to read the question properly. As in previous years structure, appearance and feel/handle were not well known, with a substantial number of candidates giving the name of another fibre for structure. Weight was generally known for both

fabrics with most candidates offering just one answer for weight this year. Few candidates gave a method of applying colour in answer to the last part of the question.

- (iii) The majority of candidates gave answers which related to the general properties of linen and did not relate their answers to the blouse/top View C.
 - (iv) While the majority of candidates were able to give details of at least one fabric finish, few candidates chose fabric finishes which would be appropriate to use on Linen Lawn. A small number of candidates suggested seam and hem finishes.
- (c) (i) Generally well answered.
- (ii) Generally well answered with good clear illustrations.
- (d) (i) There was a pleasing improvement in answers to this question this year. A small number of candidates answered with the names of countries instead of the materials from which buttons, tape and thread are made.
- (ii) Well answered.
- (iii) Generally well answered.
- (iv) A variety of alternative fastenings were given by candidates. Press studs are the only fastening which can be used without changing the style or appearance of the blouse View C.
- (v) Well answered by candidates who answered part (iv) correctly.
- (e) (i) Well answered.
- (ii) Most candidates understood the need to measure the body. To get a mark candidates needed to go on to say that they would use the measurements to help choose the correct pattern size.
- (iii) Few candidates showed an understanding of why there is a difference between garment size and body measurements. The most common answers referred to seam allowances.
- (f) (i) The majority of candidates were able to identify the fold and selvedge on the larger pattern lay. Few candidates gave the correct selvedge for the smaller piece of fabric.
- (ii) Generally well answered.
- (iii) Few candidates answered this question correctly.
- (iv) Generally well answered with most candidates showing a good understanding of appropriate pattern markings.
- (g) This question was answered fairly well by the majority of candidates.
- (h) Few candidates gave correct answers for both linen and polyester. Many answers appeared to be guesses with a substantial number of candidates giving the same incorrect answer for both fibres, e.g. an iron with two dots.

Section B

Question 2

This was a popular question with many candidates demonstrating a good knowledge of fibres.

- (a) Generally well answered, most candidates responding with wool and silk.
- (b) Those candidates who answered correctly gave detailed answers showing a sound understanding of the processing of flax fibres. Others answered with information about cotton or even latex.

- (c) Most candidates who answered this question were able to name absorbency and characteristics making linen suitable for clothing. Many responses included characteristics which were negative factors in choosing linen for clothing, or which referred to other fibres.
- (d)(i) The majority of candidates answered that fibres were mixed together before spinning and did not offer further explanation.
- (ii) Candidates generally showed a reasonable understanding of why linen may be blended with other fibres and were able to give examples.

Question 3

Although this was a popular question many candidates who attempted it lost marks in part (a) because they did not read the question carefully.

- (a) The majority of candidates who attempted this question gave as their answer a list of criteria to consider when buying a sewing machine, such as must have a guarantee or must have a lot of functions. Others listed parts of the machine which are essential parts of a sewing machine e.g. foot pedal.
- (b) Well answered.
- (c)(i) and (ii) Answers to this question generally demonstrated a good knowledge of how to prepare a side seam and insert a zip. Few candidates gave the particular information about a semi-concealed zip needed to gain top marks. Sketches were clear and well labelled.

Question 4

This was the least popular question.

- (a) This question was generally well answered. To achieve full marks in parts (i) and (ii) candidates should give more detail of stitching processes and finishing off the elastic and casing.
- (b) Generally well answered though a number of candidates lost marks because they concentrated on the steps needed to make a buttonhole instead of the cuff.

Question 5

There were some good responses to this question and the majority of candidates illustrated their answers with diagrams.

- (a) This question was well answered.
- (b) Most candidates gave good answers to this part question.
- (c) Raglan sleeve was known by the majority of candidates.
- (d) Generally well answered but a minority of candidates misunderstood the question and gave differences between iron on and sew on interfacings.
- (e) This part of the question was not answered well with few candidates understanding a worked loop.
- (f) Few candidates gained full marks for this question.

Question 6

Candidates needed to give more detail in their answers to gain high marks for this question.

- (a) Almost all candidates gained a mark but did not add sufficient detail to get full marks.
- (b) The majority of candidates sketched and labelled three care symbols correctly but did not go on to explain why the symbols were used. A small number of candidates included the iron symbol in their answers.

- (c) Few candidates gained full marks for this part of the question. Responses appeared to be based on general knowledge rather than information learnt as part of their fashion and fabrics course.
- (d) There were some excellent responses to this question.

Question 7

Answers to this question generally lacked sufficient detail to gain full marks and often indicated that the candidate had not read the question carefully enough.

- (a) (i) Most designs were appropriate. Candidates need to offer more original and detailed designs to gain full marks. Many candidates did not show their designs on the blouse or suggest colours for the design.
- (b) This was generally well answered.
- (c) Most candidates answered this well with some good clear diagrams to support their answers.
- (d) Answers to this part were generally poor. Candidates did not show that they understood how their designs should be changed so that they could be worked on a sewing machine.
- (e) Most candidates gained a mark for suggesting an appropriate machine stitch but very few suggested a second stitch or went on to say how the stitches could be worked on polyester satin.

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/02

Practical

Key messages

- Candidates are advised to look at the picture on the pattern envelope and read through the instructions carefully before they begin to make up the test.
- Candidates do not gain additional marks by doing more than instructed – for example, refer to the *Button* section below.

General comments

The 2011 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 boy's shirt and there were only a few very muddled tests.

Comments on specific questions

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a boy's shirt; this included making and attaching a patch pocket; making and attaching a straight collar and sewing on a button. It was a straightforward test using processes which were familiar to the candidates. The majority understood the pattern and the instructions. Again this year some candidates tended to lose marks for inaccuracy (not using the correct seam allowance) and for not following the instructions carefully. Candidates must look at the picture on the pattern envelope and read through the instructions carefully before they begin to make up the test – they are there to guide them step by step. Candidates who do more than 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. The 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 layout instructions by placing the pattern pieces on the straight grain of the fabric. However, several lost marks for badly cut edges along the Centre Back of the shirt as they were instructed to place the Centre Back to the selvedge. Several tests were poorly cut along the lower edges. The majority made up the right hand side of the shirt but a number attached the collar back to front and/or placed the front of the collar to the edge of the facing so there was no allowance for an opening for a reverse collar.

Pocket

The collar was generally placed in the correct position but was not always on straight. The shape was quite good although many found the bottom curves of the pocket difficult to manipulate mainly because the turnings were not trimmed and clipped sufficiently. Edge stitching was generally good but strengthening of the corners was poor.

The facing

The outer edge of the self front facing was generally well executed. Many candidates cut the facing off the shirt instead of just cutting the facing from interfacing. This meant loss of marks for the width of the facing as they had a seam instead of a fold and therefore did not tack the facing in position along the fold.

Shoulder seam

There were some very neat edge stitched open seams and a number of good French seams but many were not pressed towards the back of the shirt.

Collar

There were some well shaped collars with the edges worked out and with a good corner, well trimmed and clipped. Some collars scored lower marks because they had not been trimmed and clipped well and the edges had not been worked out. Many candidates joined the Centre Back seam of the collar so lost marks for size and again when attaching the collar. There were several tests with upside down collars or collars attached back to front. Care should be taken in matching notches and balance marks.

Attaching the collar

This process proved to be the most difficult. Candidates did not always follow the instructions step by step (and noted the diagram) when attaching the collar to the neck edge matching the notches and balance marks. Several candidates did not turn the front facing to the outside over the collar and fold along the fold line (making the front opening). Many placed the front of the collar to the corner instead of to the large O thus making the reverse (very clear on the picture on front of the pattern envelope). Where the Centre Back of the collar had been stitched, candidates lost marks as the raw edges of the collar did not lie in line with the Centre Back of the shirt. Many did not use the correct seam allowance to attach the collar, which was then not well trimmed and clipped. There were a number of very neat collars attached with the facing used correctly. The quality of the hemming was generally good although not many hemmed the facing to the shoulder seam.

Button

Candidates were asked to sew on one button but in a small number of tests they had sewn on two – marks were only given for the one in the correct position. There were very few tests with a neat worked bar on the wrong side but the majority were sewn on in the correct position.

Presentation

The presentation of the shirt was good, generally well pressed and folded, clean and labels sewn on by hand (labels that are machined on lose marks). One or two candidates lost marks for writing on the right side of the shirt and in a very few cases for leaving long ends of machine stitching. One or two Centres put the patterns in the envelopes which is not necessary as these are for the Centres to keep and use.

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/04

Coursework

Key Messages

- It is not necessary to include samples of processes worked as part of the coursework.
- Candidates should choose their fabrics carefully. Polyester satin is more difficult to work with than cotton and requires a higher level of ability.
- The use of decorative stitches in appropriate places can result in higher marks.

General comments

The work was packaged carefully in the majority of cases and was well labelled. It is very helpful when all the work of each candidate is grouped together. The summary mark sheets were appropriately completed and there were fewer sheets which used half marks (only whole marks should be used when marking).

The work submitted this year was similar in standard to previous years. A good variety of fabrics and processes were shown and were mostly finished to a good standard. There were a few unfinished items. The types of garment chosen ranged from skirts, dresses, tops, trousers and items for children. A few candidates also submitted jackets. There was a pleasing range of decorative work shown although this is an area which could be developed further by some candidates. It is recommended that the syllabus is followed carefully, as it has specific details of the amount and standard of work expected both in folders and on individual garments.

Comments on specific sections

Folders

The standard of folders was good and they were usually well-presented. Many candidates had word processed the text and had included one or two photographs of the finished garments. Although this is not a requirement, it was good to see that the presentation had been carefully considered. A few candidates had omitted the 'plan of work' which lowered their mark for this section. The plan needs to be written in advance of the making-process. A few folders were submitted in heavy folders and it is recommended that folders have soft covers and A4 size is appropriate. There is no requirement to include samples of processes worked such as seams and hems, although a few folders had included these.

Garments

It is recommended that the two garments are made from fabrics which have different weights and handling properties. Fabrics such as cotton and polyester gabardine, cotton denim, cotton gingham and printed cotton cambric are suitable and easy to handle. Polyester skirt fabrics are also suitable and if they are medium, give a suitable second fabric for another garment. Fabrics such as polyester satin are difficult to handle and it is recommended that this may be more suitable for candidates who have a higher level of ability.

Appearance of garments showed some very good pressing of processes throughout. Other work was over-handled and not well-presented which lowered the marks.

Some of the garments showed excellent hand-sewing, with neat finishes shown for zips and buttonholes. Bar tacks were used in many cases which showed carefully finished work.

Many more candidates had used overlocking as a seam finish. A few had overlocked seams at the end of the making process which made it difficult to finish all the raw edges adequately.

In some cases, the marks could have been increased with the use of decorative techniques such as machine embroidery stitches, or the addition of lace trim, or even self fabric binding. There were very good examples of piping along seam edges and pockets. Where ribbons were used, they were used imaginatively in combination with machine embroidery stitches. A few candidates had submitted hand smocking which was beautifully worked.

In a small number of cases, garments had tacking left in, threads were loose and seams had uneven stitches. Collar points were not always even and hand-stitching was worked too tightly.

Overall the standard of work was good and it was pleasing to see that candidates had enjoyed their Fashion and Fabrics course.