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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

DRESS AND TEXTILES

GCE Advanced Level

Paper 9332/01

Theory

General comments

A wide range in the standard of responses. Although some candidates showed good knowledge, there was evidence that they were not reading the questions carefully. This may be partly due to not understanding the terms used, although, on the whole, English was good with only a few errors in grammar and vocabulary. There were few candidates who were able to give sufficiently full and detailed answers to achieve a high standard. Candidates should be encouraged to complete the grid on the front cover of the booklet to show the numbers of the questions answered.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Not a popular question.

- (a) Some good answers with several candidates knowing well the chemicals used and the melt spinning manufacturing process.
- (b) Most answers showed good knowledge of the properties of polyamide, but few gave full answers.
- (c) Knowledge of care labels was poor with no one drawing a full label. Most were able to describe some of the methods accurately.

Question 2

A popular question, but generally not well answered.

- (a) A number of candidates did not understand the fibre types with several naming 'cotton' as an animal fibre. Man-made cellulose fibres were also not known by all. There was a lot of confusion on physical and chemical tests, with many candidates giving two physical tests and therefore gaining no more than half marks. The burning test was well known, but it was not always realised that it is a physical not chemical test. Chemical tests are classified as the reaction to a chemical e.g. acid.
- (b) Most candidates were unable to describe clearly the principles of weaving. Most mentioned the warp and weft yarns, but did not describe in full the process of weaving on a loom. The description of only one woven fabric was required and therefore diagrams of several different weave structures were not required.

Section B

Question 3

A very popular question, answered by most candidates.

- (a)(i) This was generally well done. All drew both front and back views and the sketches were usually well labelled with a number of candidates gaining full marks.
- (ii) Some good answers, but others did not give detailed reasons.
- (b) Many candidates misunderstood the term 'edge finishes'. This is the finishing of edges, such as neck or armhole edge, hems etc. It does not include seams, which is the joining of two pieces of fabric. Those who gave seams were unable to gain marks.

Question 4

This was a less popular question.

- (a) A few good well labelled designs, but some poorly drawn with few labels. Several did not show how the design would be used on different items. Some chose unsuitable fabrics for bed linen. A few candidates did not seem to understand that 'bed linen' is a general term for bedding. It does not have to be made from linen fabrics. A few did not give reasons for their choices.
- (b)(i) In many cases this was well done with stitches drawn accurately. However there were also a few very poor answers with methods described very briefly and with poor diagrams.
- (ii) Some showed understanding of the methods for pressing a decorative process, but often failed to give full details, particularly iron temperature.
- (iii) A few explained the making up well, but often answers lacked detail.

Section C

Question 5

A fairly popular question

- (a)(i)(ii) Many sketches were poorly labelled. A few candidates failed to show different seams, but variations of the same. e.g. princess seams are a style, but still use the 'open seam' method.
- (b) Most candidates knew how to work the seams, but not all diagrams were clear or well labelled. There was some confusion with right and wrong sides in double stitched (machine and fell) seams. For this method the material should be placed with the right sides facing.

Question 6

A fairly popular question, although some candidates did not read it carefully. There was no punctuation between (i) and (ii) and therefore read 'choosing fabrics and styles of garments for young children'.

- (i) Some candidates gave general points on choosing fabrics and did not relate it to children's garments.
- (ii) A number of good points were given here.

Question 7

This was not a popular question and poorly answered.

- (a) Some candidates merely listed fastenings, without making any comment about them.
- (b) Although methods were known, they were not always well described and many diagrams were poor. This was particularly the case when explaining the insertion of a zip.

<p>Paper 9332/02 Practical Test</p>

General comments

The majority of candidates attempted all areas of the practical test. The performance of each candidate exhibited a range of skills with varying levels of success. The candidates appeared to understand what was required in each section of the test.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Planning Session

Shopping lists were clearly written with all the relevant details. Occasionally candidates forgot to offer an alternative width of fabric or quantity of interfacing.

Reasons for first choice of fabric were included but did not always contain all four requisite categories i.e. suitability for candidate or wear, colour and design factors, cleaning properties and handling qualities.

Question 2

Preparation Session

This was marked locally with helpful comments on the performance of each candidate.

Question 3

Examination Session

Darts were usually well stitched, pressed and secure at the points although not always well tapered or clipped and neatened effectively.

Pockets varied in size, shape, position and accuracy of application. It was expected that the size and shape of the pocket would reflect the angular fitted design of the top and be parallel to the front edge. Shoulder seams were well stitched with varying standards of neatening.

Facings were generally firmly attached. Interfacing was usually smooth and trimmed but not always caught in the seam. A neat edge finish, crisp corners, a rolled seam and top stitching was expected here.

Side seams were similar to shoulder seams but careful attention to the alignment of back and front lower edges was required.

The double sleeve needed to have smooth side seams and a well rolled lower edge. Application of the sleeve required a smooth head, firm, well neatened line of stitches reinforced at the underarm. Buttons were usually firmly stitched and finished with buttonholes well positioned and a suitable size for the button, although some were tight and unevenly stitched.

All candidates were awarded for the amount of work successfully completed.

General comments

The candidates work was well presented and packaged – tissue paper – plastic bags and boxes. Most of them were of an appropriate size and weight, but a few of the boxes were on the large size. To enable ease of handling, size and weight should be considered.

Comments on specific parts

General

A good range of fabrics were used by the candidates and suitable for the chosen garments. The breadth of experience was indicated by the variety of sewing methods and difficulties encountered. Most candidates included photographic evidence of completed garments being worn, to demonstrate the fit of the garments.

The appearance of the work indicated that it had been handled with care throughout the construction. The original design work that was included in the folders was encouraging, but there are still some candidates that do not include the design work in the folders.

Outfit

The majority of the garments were of a high standard and showed skill in the workmanship. In some cases accuracy was lacking – sleeves not fitting smoothly and collar points not sharp enough and in some cases garments were not pressed. It is always satisfying to handle well finished garments with good evidence of both hand and machine sewing skills.

Undergarment

The fabric that was chosen for these garments was attractive and suitable for the items that the candidates chose to make, which were of a good standard. Hand and machine embroidery is expected on these garments and it is disappointing when it is not included.

Household

The candidates submitted a good and interesting range of articles including wall hangings, table cloths, cushion covers and bed linen. The decorative work was of a good standard and demonstrated a range of ability and interests.

Folders

- (a) The overall presentation was good and well organised and attractively presented, with good diagrams. The candidates responded well with good details for justification of their choices.
- (b) A good number of candidates responded well to this section, but some did not explain how they resolved the problems they encountered. A small number of candidates did not include this section in their folder.
- (c) The approach to this section was good, it is always pleasing to see a good range of experimental work with samples that demonstrate investigations into methods and techniques.

Although most candidates made reference to the source of their design work, not all of them included details of the development of the design.
- (d) Some candidates assessed the individual items well, but others did not meet the requirements of this area and did not include individual assessments of each item.
- (e) Not all candidates included an overall evaluation of the course, the evaluations that were included were well written.