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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

<p>Paper 9332/01</p>

<p>Theory</p>

General comments

The standard was generally lower than last year with few candidates gaining high marks. In a few cases, candidates did not seem to understand the questions. Many candidates seemed to spend too long on the early questions and, as a result, the later questions were rushed or incomplete. Candidates should try to pace themselves as all questions carry equal marks and they need to allow adequate time for each one.

Candidates should be encouraged to complete the grid on the front of the booklet, giving the numbers of the questions attempted.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

A fairly popular question.

- (a) A number of candidates lost marks as they considered burning to be a chemical test. Please note that burning is a physical test and a chemical test must be a solvent test or a stain test. Where the burning test was described, the results were generally well known for wool, but less so for acrylic. Those who described the microscope test generally were unable to draw accurately the appearance of the fibre under the microscope, particularly for acrylic fibres. Usually a cross sectional view was included. When chemical tests were described they were often not ones which could be used to identify the fibres, e.g. the acetone test would give a negative result with both fibres.
- (b) The properties of wool and acrylic fibres were generally quite well known. Some candidates confused acrylic with other man-made fibres.
- (c) Most candidates knew the reasons for blending and were able to discuss at least some advantages of wool and acrylic blends over pure wool or 100% acrylic. A few candidates discussed wool blended with other fibres which was not asked.

Question 2

A popular question.

- (a) Five different methods of fabric construction were required. Different weaves were acceptable e.g. plain, twill, satin, but not variations of the same weave. Some candidates included fabrics of the same construction, e.g. 2/1 twill and 2/2 twill or plain weave and plain rib weave, which could not be accepted. A few candidates gave fibre names rather than fabrics and they could not be awarded any marks.
 - (i) Some inaccurate weave diagrams, but others which clearly showed the construction. A number of candidates confused warp and weft knitting. Bonded fabrics were only included by a few. Those candidates who answered (a) incorrectly by naming fibres also lost out here as they gave details of fibre construction and not fabrics.
 - (ii) Most candidates found it difficult to describe the appearance of fabrics. Very few included the appearance on the wrong side.
 - (iii) Most candidates had some idea as to the feel or handle of the fabric.

- (b)(i) Mixed answers. A few included details of pins and needles etc., but most answers lacked detail.
- (ii) Many candidates did not include the fibre content of the fabrics named in (a), which made it very difficult to give accurate details of cleaning or washing.

Section B

Question 3

A very popular question and fairly well answered.

- (a) A large number of well drawn and well labelled sketches which gained full marks. A few candidates did not fully label their sketches.
- (b) Most candidates were able to give good reasons for their choices. Some seemed to be unsure about fabric finishes. A flame resistant finish would have been a good choice and was given by some. A few candidates appeared not to know the meaning of the word 'justify' and only listed their fabrics, colours, style features and fabric finishes.
- (c)(i) Most candidates knew how to finish the neckline but were sometimes let down by the lack of detail and poor diagrams.
- (ii) Methods of making a seam were well known, but not always described with sufficient detail. Many diagrams were poor.

Question 4

A less popular question.

- (a) Some very good sketches which were well labelled and gave full details of the colours, fabrics and techniques. These gained full marks. Others did not give sufficient detail, particularly when stating the techniques uses. A number of candidates did not give fibre and fabric name when stating the fabric used. Some items did not show features by which they could be identified as a 'set'.
- (b)(i) Those candidates who did not give sufficient details of the fabric in (a) had difficulties here stating why it was suitable. Most were able to relate it to the suitability of the chosen techniques, but some did not consider the care of the fabrics.
- (ii) Most candidates were able to explain a number of valid points.
- (c) Candidates showed knowledge of their chosen technique, but often explanations lacked detail and diagrams were poor or non-existent.

Section C

Question 5

This was a popular question with a number of good answers.

- (a) Most candidates had no problem in sketching garments showing three different types of collar. Some sketches were not fully labelled.
- (b)(i) All were able to give at least one reason for the choice of collar, although on the whole they were not well explained.
- (ii) Some good answers and most were able to give valid reasons for using a detachable collar. A few did not seem to understand the term 'detachable'.
- (c) This question specified 'making a collar', but some candidates seemed to ignore this or give only a very brief explanation of the actual making of the collar and concentrated on attaching the collar. Methods of attaching collars was well known, but diagrams were often poor.

Question 6

This was answered by a number of candidates. They generally displayed good knowledge of the points to look for when choosing garments, colours and fabrics for different figure types. As this was often the last question to be attempted, candidates were often running out of time and some answers were rushed or incomplete.

Question 7

This was not a popular question and not well answered. Those who attempted it showed some understanding of the use of ornament and decoration when making items for the home. However, there were some who did not appear to understand the question and who included some irrelevant comments. Once again, this was usually the last question to be attempted and answers tended to be rushed and incomplete.

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

General comments

Attaching upper to lower front proved difficult for many candidates as did the insertion of lace on the round collar and the attachment of the collar at the neckline.

These processes were not more difficult than those required in previous years.

The overall performance of the candidates was lower than expected. The use of unsuitable fabric, poor finishing techniques and the processes mentioned above were responsible for this.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Planning session

Candidates did not always provide all the details required on the shopping list. The main omissions were an alternative fabric, fabric widths, colour of fabrics, weight of interfacing, type of elastic (round or flat) colour and fibre of lace trim and fabric of buttons.

Reasons for choice

This was always attempted but the categories were sometimes muddled particularly suitability and handling qualities. Some bald statements were made without qualification e.g. 'the fabric is fine'.

Question 2

Preparation session

Alterations and pattern lay were marked in the Centres examination session.

Question 3

Self facings

This was generally well handled but occasionally left with raw edges and not applied right over left.

Lace trim

The lines of stitching were variable in accuracy. Stitch quality was good.

Question 4

Upper to lower front

This process was not well controlled. Gathering was uneven, the line of stitching wavered and the neatening inadequate in the majority of candidate's work.

Side front seam

Sometimes both seams had been attempted and often more than 60 cm completed. Candidates do need to avoid such errors which shorten the time they have to devote to other processes.

Shoulder seams

The line of stitching was usually good but neatening was not always well executed.

Question 5

Making the collar

Interfacing was well used. The outer edge of the collar needed a smooth line of stitching with matching curves and the seams rolled and on the edge. A very few candidates controlled the lace insertion by gathering it round the curves so that it would lie flat when the collar was turned through as tapering it at the neckline so that the collar would fit to the balance points.

Question 6

Collar attachment

Collars were not always stitched on smoothly with a snug fit at the neckline. Turnings were trimmed but not layered. Bias tape needed to be put into the seam generously (without stretching) so that the outer edge could be greatly stretched before hemming but still remain a constant width. Finishing at the neck edge was often poor.

Question 7

Sleeve and side seam

There were some smooth sleeve heads but many had been rushed and poorly finished. Reinforcement at the underarm was often omitted. Side seams were stitched but again not well finished. To neaten seams well the edges may be pressed open, turned and machined with a straight stitch close to the fold and trimmed, or pressed together, machined with a straight stitch, trimmed and then zig-zagged over the stitching and enclosing the edges.

Question 8

Sleeve hem

There were some neat hems either hand or machine stitched, even in width, secure and pressed.

Question 9

Elasticated casing

Lines of stitching on the casing were not always smooth and evenly spaced with the ends firmly finished. Elastic used was generally flat and secure.

Question 10

Marks were awarded in this section according to the amount of work successfully completed.

<p>Paper 9332/03 Coursework</p>

General comments

The work submitted by the candidates was generally of a good standard and well presented, although there were a few that were disappointing. Tissue paper, plastic bags and boxes of reasonable size and weight should be used appropriately. It was gratifying to find several of the boxes contained more than one candidate's work and were generally correctly labelled.

Comments on specific questions

General

The candidates used a good range of fabrics and the garments were suitable for the chosen fabrics. The work demonstrated a variety of sewing skills and processes. A good number of the candidates included photographic evidence of them wearing their finished garments to demonstrate the fit of the garments.

The careful handling of the work throughout the construction was well demonstrated by the appearance, presentation and packaging.

It is pleasing to see the original design work for the embroidery included in the folders. Candidates should be encouraged to include design work on their garments and to show the planning of the designs in their folders. Folders should provide the evidence for the planning and execution of the design work.

Outfit

The majority of the garments were of a good standard, demonstrating skills and techniques of both hand and machine stitching. There were some garments that were lacking in accuracy, sleeves not fitting smoothly, garment fronts not level, buttons that are too big for the buttonholes. The finish of a few of the garments was not to a satisfactory standard. There is a marked improvement in the standard of the garments and the number of garments that had been overpressed has decreased. It is always a pleasure to see and handle well made garments.

Undergarment

The candidates chose the fabrics for these items with care and consideration for their suitability of wear and climate. The majority of these items were of a high standard with a few that were disappointing. The garments were well made and the finishing neat. It is expected that either hand or machine embroidery will be included on these garments, it is disappointing that not all the candidates meet this requirement. It is acceptable to use lace or braid as a trimming as well as the embroidery but not instead of embroidery. The use of braid or embroidery helps candidates to demonstrate their skills.

Household

An interesting range of items were submitted for this section often reflecting the candidates personal interests, including a wide range of wall hangings, cot covers, and table cloths. The decorative work was of a high standard and covered a wide variety of skills. Some of the design work was of a good standard but others were less so and in some cases there was none at all, it is always of interest to look at the design work and to read the background notes to the candidate's choices.

Folders

The presentation of the folders was good, well organised and presented. The response by the candidates to the aims and justification of their choices was well done and detailed.

It is pleasing to see that more candidates are including this section in their folders, but some candidates do not always explain the resolution of a problem. There are still some candidates that do not respond to this section.

The experimental work generally is good, but does vary in the depth of study. Some candidates cover a wide range of experimental work with a good range of samples and techniques developed from their investigations which followed through to their practical work. It is disappointing that more design work is not included in the folder although most candidates refer to design work or creating a design but do not submit the evidence. The design work that is included is usually of a good standard.

Some candidates assessed the individual items well, while others did not meet the requirements of this section and did not include the individual assessments of the items.

It is pleasing to see that more candidates are including an overall evaluation of the coursework. These are generally well written.

Candidates take a lot of time and care in the presentation of their folders with some interestingly decorated and colourful, which is pleasing.