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## FOREWORD

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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

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## GCE Advanced Level

<p>Paper 9332/01</p>
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<p>Theory</p>
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### General comments

There was generally an improvement in the standard of responses this year, with many candidates showing good all round knowledge. The use of the English language was good, with only a few spelling or grammar errors. A few candidates appeared to have misjudged the time and failed to complete their last question.

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) The manufacture of Viscose was fairly well known, with some candidates gaining full marks. A few did not remember the chemicals used or confused Viscose with other man-made fibres.
- (b) Many candidates had a good knowledge of the fibre properties, but others confused different fibres. A few seemed unaware of other cellulose fibres such as cotton or linen. Occasionally only properties of Viscose were given with no comparisons made.
- (c) Some candidates were not able to name an actual fabric. This was important as laundering requirements might differ according to the fabric structure.

#### **Question 2**

A popular question.

- (a) In naming fabrics some candidates did not include the fibre name and in a few cases did not even give a fabric name, only the name of the construction method. When giving details of the structure, many candidates only described the method of construction and did not include a description of the fabric, such as appearance on the right and wrong side, feel, handle or weight. A few were able to do no more than name fabrics and made no attempt to describe them and these answers gained no marks.
  - (a) Some candidates confused warp and weft knitting and attributed the wrong method to the fabric name. Diagrams of weft knitting were often good. A few of the fabrics named were actually woven.
  - (b) Most candidates were able to describe accurately the construction of plain woven fabrics, but some were confused with twill and satin weaves.
  - (c) Bonded fabrics e.g. Vilene were often well described, but other methods were less well known.
- (b) Many were able to discuss the properties of their chosen fabric fully and sometimes gained full marks.

## **Section B**

### **Question 3**

A very popular question.

- (a) Outfits were generally well sketched with style features well labelled. Very few candidates labelled the fabrics used and some gave no indication of colour. A few did not name the sport for which the outfit was designed.
- (b) Generally well answered with candidates able to justify their choices. A few candidates wasted time by listing the style features that they had already labelled in (a).
- (c) Some mixed answers. Many clearly explained methods with some good diagrams, but others lacked detail. Hardly anyone took into account the fabric chosen for the outfit in (a) nor did they include the appropriate threads or stitches to be used.

### **Question 4**

Less popular and less well done.

- (a) Many of the cushions could not be regarded as 'a set' as they had very little to link them. Diagrams were often poor and too small to show any detail. Some candidates gave full details of colours, fabrics and techniques, but often these were poor.
- (b) Choices were poorly justified and there appeared to be little knowledge of the fabrics chosen.
- (c) Methods were generally poorly described and frequently brief, with few details given. Diagrams of stitches were often inaccurate showing the needle in the wrong position.

## **Section C**

### **Question 5**

A very popular question

- (a) All candidates were able to sketch garments showing different pockets. Most were clear and well labelled with many gaining full marks. However a few failed to label the style features fully and so marks were less.
- (b) A number of candidates did not justify why a particular style of pocket had been chosen. A few candidates gave reasons for choosing pockets in general and did not distinguish between the different types chosen.
- (c) Candidates had a good knowledge of the working of pockets. Many explanations were clear with good diagrams and gained high marks. However others lacked detail and some diagrams were poorly labelled.

### **Question 6**

Not a popular question.

Answers were generally poor with very little mention of specific items of clothing, only the names of fibres or fabrics. Although the question specified 'clothes', occasionally household articles were included which could not be awarded marks. For several candidates, this was their last question and the answer was incomplete.

### **Question 7**

Not a very popular question.

A few good answers showing a range of garments and a variety of trimmings with good discussion on how they enhanced the appearance. However there were also a number of poorer answers, where few examples were given and little discussion.

**Paper 9332/02**

**Practical Test**

### **General comments**

Some candidates experienced difficulty with the manipulation of the waistband, but as this process has been included in previous years, it really does not affect the overall difficulty of the paper.

The practical tests were well presented and carefully packed for submission. Most candidates attempted all sections of the test, but the carriers and waistband were sometimes incomplete or omitted.

### **Comments on specific questions**

#### **Question 1**

##### *Planning session*

Shopping lists were generally good with only minor omissions of details of requirements.

Reason for choice varied from excellent to sketchy and/or repetitive. Four distinct reasons, one from each category are required e.g. (a) suitability of fabric for candidate and wear (including style, climate, time of year, cost, sensitivity of skin, absorption factors etc.); (b) colour and design factors; (c) cleaning properties; (d) handling qualities and fabric finishes.

#### **Question 2**

##### *Preparation session*

This section was marked in Mauritius with explanatory comments.

#### **Question 3**

##### *Examination session*

Darts were well-handled in the main, well-tapered with only occasional minor inaccuracies of width or length, or insecure at the points.

The top positioning of the zip caused some difficulty in the application of the waistband. The metal stop (if any), needs to be placed 3mm below the fitting line to allow easier manipulation of the waistband. Stitching was generally secure and of a good quality, but wavering lines and poor curves were seen in some cases. Neatening over the edge of turnings and of the tapes was not well done.

Pockets were often presented with well-rolled seams, smoothly top stitched and pressed with good curved line of stitch on the bag. Mostly, zig-zag neatening of the bag was not over the edges of the fabric and allowed considerable fraying.

Seams were on the whole well-handled but poorly neatened when the zig-zag method was employed. The crotch seam was not always reinforced.

Carriers were of an even width, rarely top stitched and often only secure at one end.

Waistbands all had inter-facing which was usually smooth and trimmed. The first line of stitches applying the waistband needed to be on the fitting lines with an extension on the underside of the band. This seam was trimmed but with no evidence of layering. The hand finish of the waistband was into the machine stitches but often with large stitches; a good line of machine finish was expected if this method was used. Square, matching ends to a waistband of even width were not often seen.

The final finish marks were awarded for the amount of work successfully completed.

**Paper 9332/03**

**Coursework**

### **General comments**

The candidates work was generally of a good standard and well presented. The packages used tissue paper, plastic bags and boxes, most of which 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. If appropriate more than one candidates work can be packed into a single box, with the correct labelling on the outside of the box.

The candidates used good ranges of fabrics and suitable garments were chosen for the fabrics used. The work demonstrated a variety of sewing methods and processes. Most candidates included good photographic evidence of completed garments being worn, which demonstrates the fit of the garments.

The presentation and appearance of the work demonstrated that it had been carefully handled throughout its construction.

It is always pleasing to see the original design work included in the folders, but there are still candidates that do not include any design work in their folders.

### **Comments on specific questions**

#### **Outfit**

Most of the garments were of a high standard showing good skills in workmanship. Although there were some garments where accuracy was lacking, for example sleeves not fitting smoothly, garment fronts of uneven length, and collar points not sharp enough, there is also a marked improvement in this area and fewer garments were over-pressed. It is a pleasure to handle garments that are well finished and show evidence of both good hand and machine sewing skills.

#### **Undergarment**

The fabrics that the candidates chose for these garments were suitable and attractive and showed care taken in the choices made. The standard of these garments was high, but it is disappointing when either hand or machine embroidery is not included on these garments as it is expected to be included on these garments. It is acceptable to include trimmings such as lace or braid as well as the embroidery but not instead of the embroidery.

#### **Household**

A good and interesting range of items was submitted in this section including wall hangings, tablecloths, and cot covers. The decorative work was of a good standard and showed the skills of the candidates and a range of interests. It is of interest to read the background to the candidate's choice of subject and to see their design work in this area.

#### **Folders**

- (a) The presentation of the folders was good, well-organised with good diagrams. The candidates responded well with good details for the justification of their choices.
- (b) The response to this section varied, some candidates responded well, while others detailed the problems but did not explain how they resolved them. There are still a number of candidates that do not respond to this section, which is disappointing.
- (c) The response to this section is generally very good. Candidates demonstrate the time taken in their experimental work with a good range of samples and techniques developed from their investigations. Although most candidates made reference to the design work carried out not all of them included evidence in the folder.

- (d) Some candidates assessed the items individually well, while other candidates did not meet the requirements of this section because they did not include the individual assessments of the items.
- (e) Not all candidates included an overall evaluation of the course, the evaluations that were included were well written.

Candidates take a lot of care in the presentation of the folders, often with interesting decoration on the covers, which are always a pleasure to see.