

CONTENTS

DRESS AND TEXTILES	1
GCE Advanced Level.....	1
Paper 9332/01 Theory.....	1
Paper 9332/02 Practical Test.....	3
Paper 9332/03 Coursework.....	4

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

The quality of scripts this year showed a wide range of abilities. At the top there were some very good answers to the questions resulting in high marks. However, there were also a number of disappointing scripts. Most candidates were able to express themselves satisfactorily in English, although there were a number of instances of poor grammar. A few candidates did not appear to have fully understood the questions, as their answers were not focused on what was asked. In some cases a lot of irrelevant information was included which wasted time and gained no marks. A few candidates only answered three questions and others obviously rushed or failed to complete one or more of the questions.

Many candidates had difficulty explaining methods and were not able to give step-by-step descriptions of the techniques. When describing methods, diagrams should be included wherever possible. These should show the layers of material and should be fully labelled showing the right and wrong side of the fabric, position of stitches, needle, etc.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

This question was answered by a number of candidates but was less popular than **Question 2**.

- (a) Mixed answers. Some candidates knew the processes involved in the manufacture, but often muddled the stages. Many candidates confused the manufacturing processes with that of other fibres.
- (b) This was fairly well answered. Many candidates knew the properties of flax and were able to show how they contributed to the popularity of fabrics for garments and household uses. However, some candidates again confused flax/linen with other fibres resulting in some points being given that were inaccurate.
- (c) Fabrics made from flax fibres were not well known and very few candidates were able to identify and describe three well. Some candidates simply named blended fibres or stated 'linen' without giving any indication of the actual fabric, whilst others gave names of fabrics that would not have been produced from flax.

Question 2

This was a fairly popular question, although answers were mixed.

- (a) Most candidates understood the reasons for carrying out tests on fibres. All were able to give examples of some tests, although the results described were not always accurate. Some answers only described one or two tests and examples of chemical tests were very limited. A few candidates stated incorrectly that burning was a chemical test. However, there were also a few excellent answers to this part of the question.
- (b) Many candidates had very limited knowledge of non-woven fabrics. Hardly anyone was able to explain that this term referred to fabrics made directly from fibres instead of yarns. A number of candidates were aware of the term 'bonded' fabrics and were able to give Vilene as an example and explain some of its uses. A few were also able to give an indication of the method of construction. Some also mentioned felt.

Section B**Question 3**

This was a very popular question answered by the majority of candidates.

- (a) Some good outfits were designed and these were generally well drawn, although they did not all include back views. Some candidates did not label the style features on the sketches and so could not gain full marks. Occasionally details of the fabrics and decoration were not included in this section. When fabrics are named both the fibre and fabric name should be given.
- (b) Some candidates did not seem to understand the meaning of the word 'justify' and failed to give reasons why the colours, fabrics and decoration were suitable.
- (c) Some very disappointing answers as a number of candidates appeared not to understand the question. Edges could include necklines, armholes, sleeves or hemlines but not the joining of seams. Candidates who described the making of seams could not be awarded marks. Where candidates did answer correctly, there were some pleasing answers.

Question 4

A popular question.

- (a) Mixed answers. Some good sketches of items for the kitchen, but they did not always co-ordinate and therefore could not really be considered part of a range. Some drawings were not labelled or only included labels for the decoration. A few candidates either did not read the question properly or did not understand the term 'quilting' as this sometimes was not included in any of the items. Some included several decorative techniques in their sketches despite the fact the question highlighted that just one was required.
- (b) As in **Question 3**, the word 'justify' did not always seem to be understood as some answers simply listed the fabrics, colour and decoration chosen. However, a number of candidates were able to give good explanations of why the choices they had made were suitable for the items designed.
- (c) The method for carrying out quilting was not well known. Descriptions of the working were poor with very few candidates giving any details of the stitch or thread used. Some candidates appeared to make up the item before carrying out the quilting, which would have led to a very poor finish. The other decorative technique was also often badly explained and diagrams tended to be poor and not well labelled. Those candidates who had included extra techniques in part (a) sometimes tried to describe them all in this section, which meant they were unable to include full details.

Section C**Question 5**

This question was popular and answered by most candidates.

- (a) Most candidates were able to show three different fastenings, but some included different types of the same one. Only one zip fastener could be accepted even if it was inserted using a different method. When sketching garments they should be labelled fully to show the main style features as well as the fastening.
- (b) Some good answers, but a number of candidates only stated the fastenings used instead of giving reasons why they were appropriate. When naming the fabrics, fibre content and fabric name were often not both included.
- (c) Mixed answers. Some candidates had difficulty describing the methods and did not always include labelled diagrams. Most had knowledge of carrying out machine worked buttonholes, often on an automatic machine, but explanations of working were poor and often details of the machine foot, stitch settings and thread used were not given. Few candidates had knowledge of a button foot and how this could be used for attaching buttons. Methods for inserting zips were not always clearly described and some candidates did not explain the use of a zipper foot. Only one method of inserting a zip fastener could be accepted.

Question 6

Not a very popular question.

- (a) Some candidates did not fully understand the question and focused their answer on points to look for when choosing a sewing machine rather than discussing the different machines which were available. Candidates generally had a limited knowledge of different types of sewing machine. Mention was often made of hand, electric, automatic and computerised machines, but few details were given of their features.
- (b) Candidates were aware of a number of different attachments available and included an explanation of the use of several feet including, zipper, narrow hemmer, binder etc. A good attempt was made, although in some answers explanations were unclear or muddled. A few candidates produced good sketches of machine feet, which greatly enhanced their answers.

Question 7

Not a popular question and not well answered.

- (a) Candidates were able to name a few threads and knew what they were used for, but details of their fibre content and thickness was limited.
- (b) This was not well done. Candidates discussed ready made textured fabrics, but there were few suggestions as to how they themselves could introduce texture into decorative textiles. It was a pity that they were not able to give suitable examples such as using appliqué, embroidery using different thicknesses of thread, quilting etc.

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

General comments

The insertion of the zip and finishing of the yoke facing proved to be difficult for some candidates.

The overall difficulty compared favourably with previous years when a zip was employed.

Accuracy and correct alignment of seams and turnings gave the best results. Overall the candidates tackled the test well, many of them attempting all the required manipulative elements.

Shopping lists were usually well attempted. The main error was the failure to specify an alternative width for the second fabric listed.

Reasons for choice of fabric did not always produce answers in the four categories required. If the candidates considered the following questions they may produce a better result:

- Why is the fabric suitable for you?
- Why have you chosen this colour?
- How will you keep the garment clean?
- How does the fabric handle and why?

The preparation session was marked in the Centres where it was taken.

Pleats

There were some very good pleats, stitched, secure, positioned and accurately pressed.

Seams

Generally good, but neatening was often poor with zig-zag stitching not over the edges of trimmed double thickness fabric. Single thickness fabric where trimmed, turned and stitched close to the fold, gave a firmer result than zig-zag stitching.

Pocket Flaps

The majority had smooth interfacing, were firmly stitched and in the correct position. Some corners needed more attention and occasionally the two flaps did not match in size.

Yoke

This was mostly well joined, trimmed and pressed with smooth interfacing. Attachments when accurate showed matching seams, a good line of stitches with the skirt clipped, trimmed, layered and pressed.

Zip

The upper edges of the zip needed careful positioning so that when the yoke facing was attached there was room to make the seam. Lines of stitches down the length of the zip were not always accurate. Security at the lower end was generally good, but seam neatening was sometimes inadequate.

Yoke Facing

This was problematical for some candidates. The waistline join needed careful manipulation using the correct width of turnings, so that at the top of the zip the two sides were of equal length. The seam needed to be trimmed, pressed and understitched for a firm edge. Some candidates hemmed the facing in place to cover the join to the skirt, which was acceptable. Tacking the facing in place and then top stitching from the right side would have given the finish illustrated on the pattern envelope.

Hook and Bar

Where attempted this was well stitched.

Final Finish

Candidates need to be aware of overpressing, which was seen several times, leaving a shiny area particularly on thicker dark fabric and on pocket flaps. The work packed in grey plastic envelopes travelled with fewer creases than the work packed in small brown envelopes.

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

General comments

The work that was submitted by the candidates was generally of a good standard and well presented, although there were some that were disappointing. The use of the packaging was appropriate to the items but Examiners would suggest that the use of staples be reconsidered as they can damage the candidates work. Most of the work was correctly labelled with the candidates details but there were a few Centres that submitted the items with no labels on the work at all.

Comments on specific questions

General

The fabrics chosen by the candidates were generally of a good range and suitable for the individual garments, although in some cases the garments were made in similar fabrics and not a variety of fabrics. It is always pleasing to see the variety of sewing skills and processes demonstrated by the candidates and often to a high standard. The inclusion of photographs of the candidates wearing their outfit to demonstrate the fit is important, and it is pleasing that the majority of candidates do include the photographs.

It is interesting to see the design work for the embroidery, which should be included in the folders, but there are still candidates who do not include any sketches of the design work.

Outfit

The garments submitted for this section, jackets and skirts or trousers and sometimes blouses or simple tops were generally of a good standard, demonstrating skills in both hand and machine sewing. There were some garments that were lacking in accuracy, sleeves not fitting smoothly, garment fronts and collar points uneven, and lining not smooth. The standard of the garments in this section is still improving and there are now very few garments that are overpressed. It is always a pleasure to see and handle well made garments.

Undergarment

The garments submitted in this section always receive care and consideration in the choice of fabric for suitability of wear and climate. The garments were generally well made and the finishing was neat. It is disappointing that the majority of the candidates are not meeting the requirement of either hand or machine embroidery that should be included on this garment. Lace or braid may be used as a trimming as well as the embroidery but not instead of the embroidery.

Household

The items submitted for this section are always of interest and often reflect the candidate's personal interests. The items include wall hangings, tablecloths, cot covers and cushion covers. The work generally was of a high standard and covered a variety of skills. Design work, where it was included, was of a good standard, but not all the candidates included their design work which is disappointing.

Folders

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

- (a) The majority of the folders were well organised and presented. The response by the candidates to the aims and justification of their choices was well done and detailed.
- (b) There are more candidates responding to this section which is pleasing, but some do not explain how they have resolved a problem. There are still candidates that do not respond to this section.
- (c) The experimental work was generally well done, but does vary in the depth of study. Some candidates cover a wide range of experimental work and sampling of techniques which follow through to their practical work. Some of the sewing trails and experimental work did not relate to the garments. There are still candidates that are not including their work in their folders, but the design work that was included was of a good standard.
- (d) Some candidates assessed the items individually well, while others did not meet the requirements of this section and did not include individual assessments of the items.
- (e) More candidates are including an overall evaluation of the coursework, which is generally well written and this is pleasing but there are still candidates that do not meet the requirements of this section.