

DRESS AND TEXTILES

<p>Paper 9332/01</p>

<p>Theory</p>

General comments

The paper was in line with previous years and the spread of marks ranged from very high to low and below a pass within all individual questions. There were some excellent answers with well drawn sketches which were well labelled, showing very good knowledge in practical garment making. Overall performance was in line with previous years.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) The majority of candidates who attempted this part of the question scored well and there was evidence of very good knowledge. Raw materials and chemical names were well known and most candidates were able to give the correct order of production. A few candidates muddled the process of making polyamide with other fibres, for example wet spinning was mentioned, which is relevant to viscose production, but was not asked for in this question.
- (b) The highest scores showed very good knowledge and candidates were able to make appropriate comparisons between polyamide and polyester fibres. Answers which scored low marks were those where candidates were able to list the properties for individual fibres, but had not compared them with the other fibre asked for in the question.
- (c) Fabric names were not always well known and in some answers the fabric type was given without the fibre content. Some credit was given, but not always full marks. The best answers were able to give specific details such as: polyester twill, polyester satin, or nylon tricot (e.g. warp knitted). Washing, drying and ironing details were usually well known.

Question 2

- (a)
 - (i) Woven and knitted fabrics were usually well known and the diagrams were appropriately labelled. However, in a few cases, it was not clear which threads were warp and which were weft. It is recommended that candidates show arrows to indicate the direction of threads in the weaving process, especially where the diagram is made up of small squares. Popular fabrics were cotton denim or gabardine.
 - (ii) Weft knitting was well known and the diagrams showed the interlocking of loops clearly. Some answers sketched knitted fabrics as loops without making clear how one loop interlocks with the next. At A Level it is expected that candidates should show this clearly for high marks. A common answer for this section was cotton jersey.
 - (iii) Vilene was the usual answer given for bonded fabrics although the diagrams varied and there were few well sketched responses.
 - (iv) The felt structure was widely known with wool felt being the usual name given.
- (b) Ease of making up, durability and hygienic qualities were well known with many candidates gaining high marks for this part.

Section B

Question 3

- (a) Many candidates gained full marks for this part. Sketches were well drawn, well labelled and included all relevant details.
- (b) The justification was usually appropriate with full marks being gained in many cases.
- (c)
 - (i) Many answers showed very good sketches which were clear and candidates knew the machine processes well. Free machining was the process included in most answers. Candidates knew the techniques in detail although a few answers omitted to include the dis-engaging of the feed, which allows the fabric to move freely. Another popular method was the appliqué method where fabric shapes are cut and added to a background, to build up the design.
 - (ii) The most common edge hem was a narrow one with a neatened edge, which was then hand stitched in place. There was confusion in some cases, where candidates had written that hemming stitch was a suitable stitch to use. Normally, slip-hemming is used in this situation so that less of the stitch shows on the right side. A few answers included an overlocked edge.

Question 4

This was a popular question and when chosen was usually very well answered.

- (a) Sketches were usually clear, of a good size so as to show details and there were some imaginative ideas and designs for wall hangings.
- (b) Justification was usually well answered and full marks were often gained here.
- (c) There were some very good answers showing how processes were worked with many candidates gaining full marks for this section. The main choice of pockets were patch pockets, with a simple hem at the top edge. However, a few showed the use of a bound edge to give a more decorative effect. The hanging loops were often a narrow fabric strip machined, then turned through and stitched onto the top edge.

Section C

Question 5

This was a popular question.

- (a) Most candidates drew appropriate sketches of necklines and gained full marks for this section.
- (b) The neckline edge processes were well known in the majority of cases and marks were scored at the high end of the mark bands.
- (c) This was usually well known and high marks were scored.

Question 6

This too was a popular question and was usually well answered.

- (a) This was well known with appropriate sketches included.
- (b) This was well answered with relevant factors being given, which related to the seams given in (a).
- (c) Popular seams were plain, French and double stitched. Sketches were usually well sketched.

Question 7:

This was chosen by a large number of candidates although the answer was variable. Many candidates produced a list of different fastenings without fully discussing the points about each one. Some credit was given, but the question was expecting an assessment of the range of fastenings. There were some very good examples given, and it was clear that candidates have worked these fastenings as part of their course. Many candidates chose to include sketches to show how the fastenings were worked, which allowed them to write in more detail about the fabric used and position of the fastenings in relation to the garment.

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Paper 9332/02

Practical Test

1. The paper was considered to be of the same level of difficulty compared with other years. However, some candidates met problems they were unable to solve when inserting the zip or applying the waist facing.
2. Many candidates attempted all sections of the question paper within the permitted time limits and produced results within their abilities.

Question 1

Shopping lists were usually good, but sometimes alternatives were inadequate and minor details of haberdashery were omitted.

Reasons for choice of first fabric were attempted by all candidates but did not always cover the four categories required.

Question 2

This section was marked in Centres.

Question 3

- (a) Front and side seams were well made with good quality stitching. Often neatening was of a poor standard although the seams were well pressed.
- (b) The majority of candidates attached the underlay accurately. Neatening of the edges and securing the pleats on the right side were less good.
- (c) Back and side seams were well stitched with some poor neatening and rarely all pressed open.
- (d) The finishing and matching of the top edges of the zip was weak. One reason for this was setting the zip too high, the metal stops need to be 5 mm or 3/8 inches below the fitting line. A smoother finish on the lines of stitches holding the zip may be obtained if they are both worked in the same direction as opposed to one line down the length across the base of the zip and one line upwards. All zips had free movement.
- (e) The interfacing was usually applied smoothly. The lower edge of the waist facing was generally neatened well. Application of the facing varied widely. Careful attention to the matching of fitting lines whilst attaching the waist facing was essential for a good line and accuracy at the head of the zip. Under-stitching rarely appeared. Hand stitches across all the seams were often missing or hurriedly worked but occasionally were very good.
- (f) Very few well positioned and neatly stitched hooks and eyes were seen.

Most candidates attempting the hem worked across a seam for 10 cm as requested. Some seams were trimmed and pressed open to reduce bulk before folding the hem. Few edges were machine stitched first, but hand sewing was seen.

- (g) Final finish marks were awarded according to the amount of work successfully completed.

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Paper 9332/03

Coursework

General Comments

The candidates submitted work that was generally of a good standard and well presented. Care was taken in packaging the items which was appropriate, although some items did not have a label with the candidates' details securely attached and some of the labels were attached in an inappropriate position.

Section 1 General

Good varieties of fabrics were chosen for the items submitted and were suitable for the garments and household items. Most of the candidates used a wide variety of sewing skills and processes with a degree of difficulty demonstrated, using both hand and machine sewing. It is important to include photographs of the candidates wearing their outfits enabling the fit to be seen. It is pleasing to see the care that has been taken in handling the items.

It is expected that sketches and design work for the household item should be included in the folder. There are still a number of candidates that do not meet this requirement.

Section 2 Outfit

It is good to see a range of garments including tops, skirts, jackets and dresses, which were generally of a good standard, demonstrating both hand and machine sewing skills. There were fewer garments that had badly fitting sleeves which is an improvement. Some garments had the wrong weight of interfacing and in a few cases none at all which is disappointing. It is always a pleasure to see the modern fashion trends in this section and the care taken in making them.

Section 3 Undergarments

The garments in this section were generally well made with good selection of suitable fabrics. There were a number of candidates that omitted to stitch the folded edge of the elastic casing. Hand or machine embroidery was not always used on the garments, which is a requirement of this section. On the garments that included either hand or machine embroidery, or in some cases both, this was well done.

Section 4 Household

The submissions in this section are always interesting and cover a wide variety of topics personally selected by the candidates, often reflecting their personalities. It is interesting to see the various decorative techniques that are combined to give beautiful pieces of work that are individual, interesting and well executed.

It is a requirement of this section that design work is included in the folders. Sketches and visual ideas were not always submitted but the art included was generally of a good standard.

Section 5 Folders

- (a) The folders were well presented and pleasing to read. Aims and justification of choices were well written and detailed.
- (b) The response to this section does not always meet the requirements; candidates do not always explain how they resolved the difficulty they experienced. The candidates that met the requirements did this section well.

- (c) The sewing trials required by this section were generally well carried out and relate to the candidates' projects enabling them to make decisions and achieve good results in the items they submit. There were a few candidates that did not meet the requirements of this section. Design work that was submitted often reflected the candidate's individuality.
- (d) Candidates that assessed their items individually met the requirements well, but there were a number of candidates that did not include the assessment of individual items which was disappointing.
- (e) The majority of candidates are including an overall evaluation of the coursework as a whole, but there are still candidates that do not meet this requirement.

The presentations of the folders reflect the time and care taken by the candidates in their work and are always interesting to read and handle. Some of the folders are colourful and decorative.