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Examiners' Report

June 2011

GCSE Design & Technology: Textiles
5TT02 01

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Introduction

This is the first year that a whole cohort has sat the new specification. As this paper is no longer tiered it has the benefit of testing the candidates' knowledge and understanding of a range of specific Textiles points and the application of these in one format. Multiple choice questions introduce the candidates to a range of areas; however these will not be included in the report and were computer marked. This report will provide clips that exemplify candidates' work across the whole paper, together with tips and/or comments. The main exemplification will come from a selection of questions which required more complex responses from candidates. Low level responses are acceptable at the start of the paper where it is important for there to be access for all candidates. There is a design question in the middle worth 16 marks which provides some continuity from the old paper. As the paper progresses the level of complexity increases in each question and a range of skills are tested.

As a whole this paper performed well allowing candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. This was particularly evident as candidates performed well in the following questions:

- 11a
- 11b
- 11d
- 12
- 13b
- 14d

Candidates were less successful in:

- 11ci
- 11g
- 13d
- 14aii
- 14c
- 14f

Candidates had to display a breadth of knowledge, some analysis and evaluative skills to gain full marks in some questions. Where this was necessary the percentage of full marks achieved dropped dramatically. This was observed when candidates had to put together a structured piece of writing, supplying evidence, evaluative comments and comparative reasoning. Future examination preparation will need to take into account not just the breadth of knowledge required to be demonstrated (as early on in the paper as the 1st ten multiple choice questions), but also the application and understanding to suit the end use presented. The Quality of Language and Communication skills required to compose a successful piece of extended writing should also be addressed. Specific recall knowledge questions, for example Q11d and 13b were answered much more successfully.

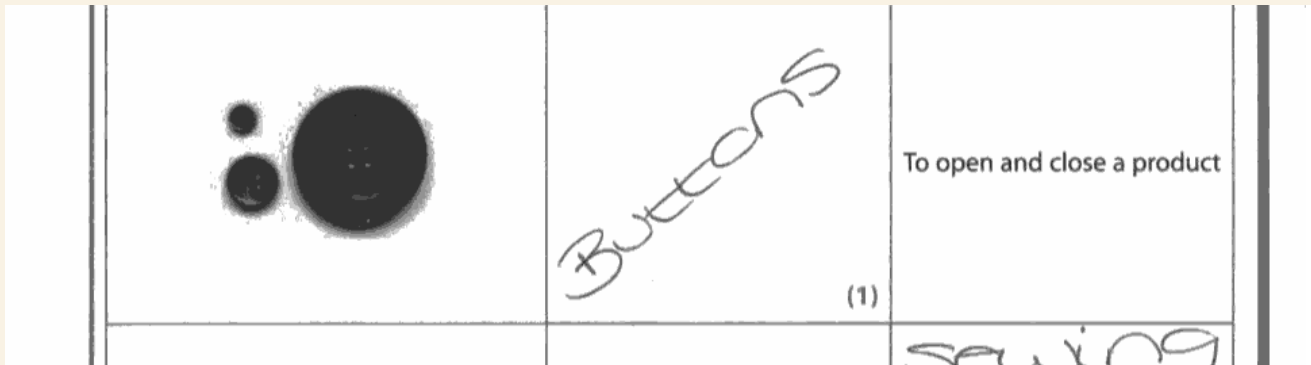
Questions that were good indicators of higher achieving candidates were:

- 11f full marks (2)
- 12 high to full marks (15-16)
- 14c high to full marks (3-4). 4 being extremely rare.
- 14d full marks (2)
- 13d & 14f high to full marks (5-6)

Question 11 (a) (i)

The response sought from the candidates was to see if they could identify a common component used in making textiles products.

There was a high level of Candidate responses so few blank boxes were seen.



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Examiner Comments

Spelling was accurate, this item remained in the clip and was easy to mark as a result and could be clerically marked.



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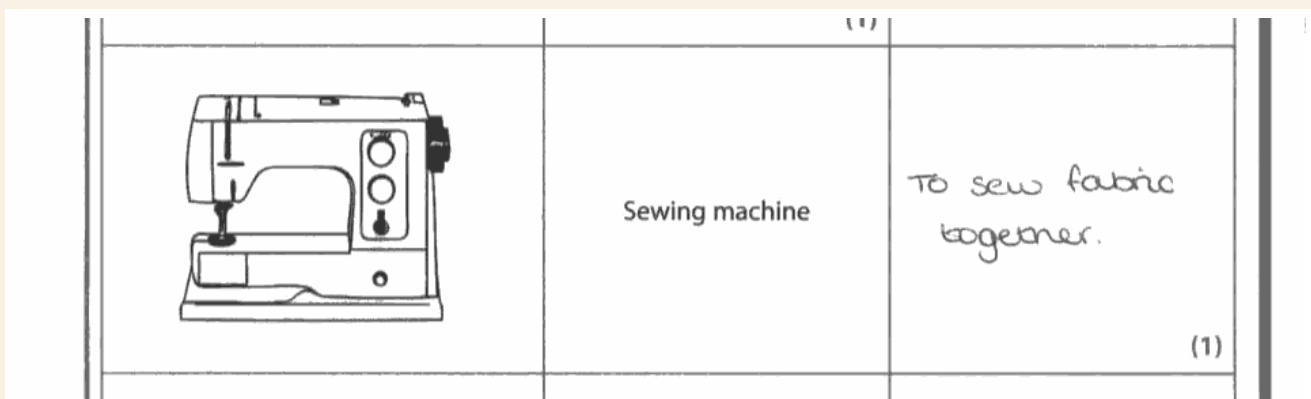
Examiner Tip

A variety of responses was acceptable, accurate spelling was not crucial and any phonically appropriate answer was given.

Question 11 (a) (ii)

This question is to test the candidates understanding of the practical use of common workshop equipment.

Basic level responses were required here and fairly general comments were acceptable



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Examiner Comments

Here the candidate gives a direct practical use for a sewing machine.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should focus on what this piece of equipment can do above hand techniques and other tools. E.g. 'machine used to sew securely and quickly'.

Question 11 (a) (iii)

As the previous question this one also tested the candidates understanding of the practical use of common workshop equipment.

Most candidates correctly identified that this piece of equipment got rid of creases, made creases or could be used to fuse non-woven fabrics.

	Iron	makes fabric smoother and less creased (1)
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ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

As basic level responses were acceptable, a range of associated responses were admissible.



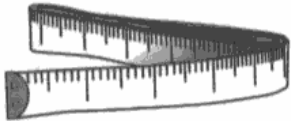
ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to make the link between what they use (or can be used) in the workshop, to a range of functions that the object has.

Question 11 (a) (iv)

The response sought from the candidates was to see if they could identify a common component used in making textiles products.

Most candidates gave a response to this item, although there was a wide variety of interesting alternatives to the correct spelling seen.

	measuring tape.	Measuring (1)
---	-----------------	------------------




ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A variety of responses was acceptable this early on in the paper, accurate spelling was not crucial and any phonically appropriate answer was allowed.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Credit should be given to candidates who can match the correct choice of equipment to the task it is needed for and encourage correct spelling of these items.

	Tape measure	Measuring
	(1)	



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Examiner Comments

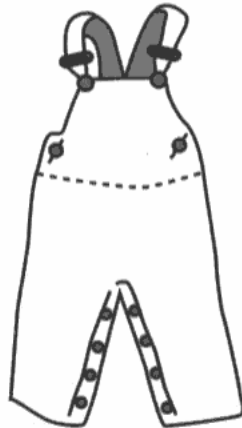
Other commonly used alternative combinations can be given credit to.

Question 11 (b)

Here candidates are asked to apply specific knowledge of a fabric. They should comment on what benefits its construction, aesthetic and functional characteristics bring to its suitability for use in an item of childrenswear. For full marks they needed to give a valid corresponding reason.

This candidate clearly identifies a characteristic and gives a matching reason. Durable/strong were the two most popular characteristics given.

(b) The drawing below shows a child's dungarees made in corduroy fabric.



Give **one** characteristic of corduroy that makes it suitable for the child's dungarees.

For your characteristic, give **one** reason for your answer.

(2)

Characteristic

Durable

Reason

So when children are running around and playing games, the dungarees won't wear away and will last.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Candidates seemed very aware of the practical needs of children's clothing. They could then relate this to the characteristics of the fabric (corduroy) would need to have.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should understand the properties and characteristics of fabrics and also get used to matching these to suitable end uses.

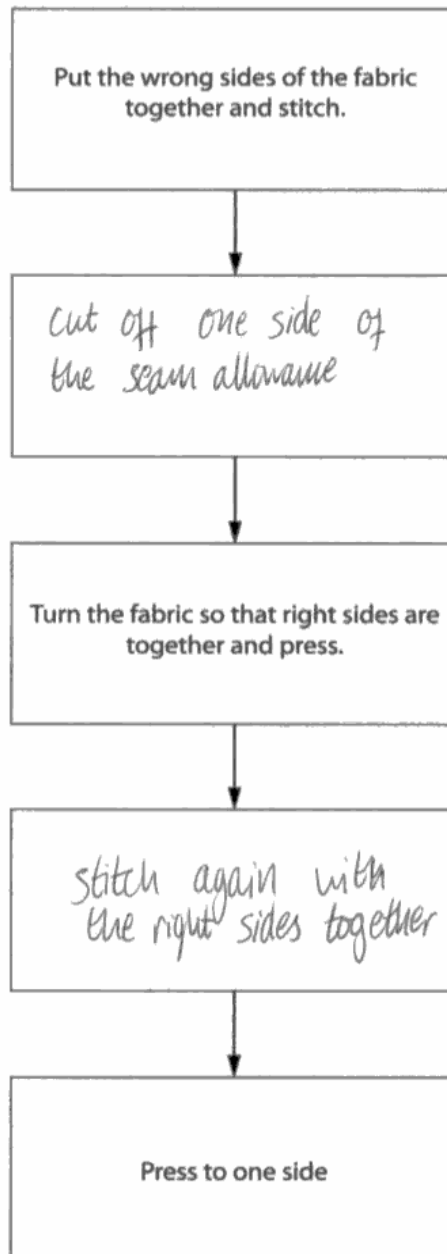
Question 11 (c) (i)

The task here was to identify and fill in the missing parts of the sequence diagram for constructing a French seam. Although specific responses were desirable, detail and focussed knowledge was lacking from a considerable amount of candidate answers.

(c) (i) Complete the block diagram below to show the main stages and correct sequence of the construction of a French seam.

Three stages have been done for you.

(2)



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Here the candidate responds with detail ensuring that they display adequate knowledge of the process. They are specific in the first box and tell us what needs to be 'cut' but in the second box they only give the key word 'stitch' and then repeat the given information in the previous box.



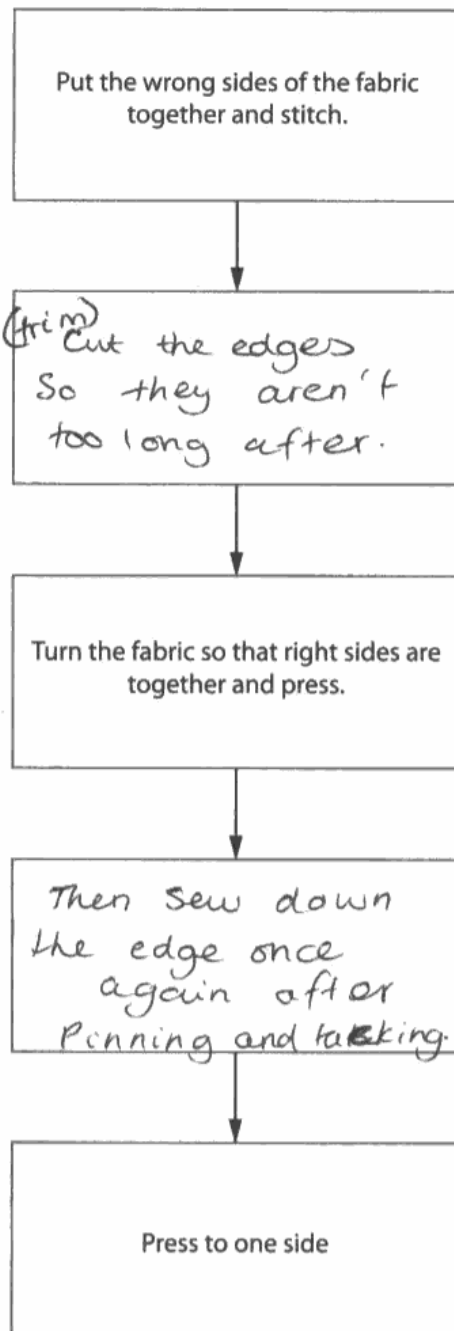
ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Be as specific as possible. This second box would have been even better if they mention enclosing the raw edges or seam.

(c) (i) Complete the block diagram below to show the main stages and correct sequence of the construction of a French seam.

Three stages have been done for you.

(2)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Clear demonstration of knowledge on this topic, the context in which the keywords were found showed understanding.

Question 11 (c) (ii)

Candidates had to apply the advantages of the French seam to the product, giving a suitably connected explanation of that point.

Application of knowledge was sought here about the previous joining (construction) technique.

(ii) French seams and plain seams are both suitable construction methods to make a child's garment.

Explain **one** advantage that a French seam has over a plain seam in a child's garment.

(2)

It is alot stronger and could withstand roughness that can may occur whilst children are playing.



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Examiner Comments

Well identified point 'stronger' with the connecting statement of 'withstand roughness - whilst playing' for the supporting comment.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates were asked to recall two chemical finishing processes in this 'name' question. This required straight forward 1 – 2 word responses.

Question 11 (d)

Candidates were asked to relocate two chemical finishes processes in this 'name' question. This required straight one – two word responses.

Mixed responses were seen overall. Many could put 1 or 2 appropriate chemical finishes into their responses. Unfortunately a number of Candidates thought dyeing and other decorative techniques could qualify.

(d) Bleaching is a chemical finishing process used on fabrics.

Name **two** other chemical finishing processes used on fabrics.

(2)

1. lamination

2. waterproof coating



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Examiner Comments

Knowledge of a wide range of classification of finishes (in the specification) is necessary.



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Examiner Tip

Observations of the different categories within the specification should be made clear to candidates as biological modern and smart finishes, would be classified under separate headings & questioned as such.

Question 11 (e)

Two brief reasons were required to answer this section on quality control.

The candidate highlights the need for products to be of a "certain standard", and then states that "mistakes" are costly. So attaining maximum marks.

(e) Give **two** reasons why quality control is needed in manufacturing. (2)

- 1 To make sure that the garment meets certain standards set by the retailer so it is suitable to be sold
- 2 So that any mistakes can be found quickly and rectified / reduce waste



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Candidates who mentioned 'safety' issues were not able to access any marks as this did not answer the question posed on quality.

A wide range of responses were given. The task was to find a second completely different reason differentiated many candidates. Some merely repeated their first reason in an alternative way.

(e) Give **two** reasons why quality control is needed in manufacturing. (2)

- 1 so the product does not get sent back to the manufacturer.
- 2 to check the product is at a high standard and can be sent for retail.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The first response clearly addresses the issues that manufacturers face with loss of reputation, whilst the second "high standard" uses language that does not repeat the question's wording to give the reason.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This Candidate shows clarity of thought and good communication skills as they explain their knowledge.

Question 11 (f)

Identifying why the layplan of pattern fabric needs careful consideration required the candidate to extend their knowledge past the normal needs of layplanning on plain fabric.

(f) Give **two** reasons why the layplan of a garment made from patterned fabric has to be carefully considered.

(2)

- 1 the pieces have to be cut out with the pattern fairly the same way on all of them.
- 2 when the garment is made the pattern may need to correspond at joins/seams



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Responses needed to give specific references to the concerns of using patterned fabric in order to be credited.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Ensure that responses relate directly to the question and are not general comments that latch onto one part of the question, not fully comprehending and addressing the main point.

(f) Give **two** reasons why the layplan of a garment made from patterned fabric has to be carefully considered.

(2)

- 1 so the pattern is continuous all the way around the garment.
- 2 so the pattern is the right way up and not the opposite to another.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This Candidate ensured two marks by being descriptive about the patterns progress around the garment and the direction of the pattern that needs to be considered.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

A number of candidates who only mentioned 'waste' failed to gain marks and should endeavour to practise examination techniques regularly as well as understanding different methods and considerations of layplanning.

Question 11 (g)

The question on the benefits of batch production for the manufacturer asked candidates to stretch their knowledge once again. Gaining one mark was generally accessible, achieving the other two was much more thought provoking.

Full marks were rarely achieved and this question gave an indication of a high achieving candidate.

(g) Give **three** benefits of batch production for the manufacturer.

(3)

- 1 Generally cheaper for the manufacturer as the garments are not being made ^{one} off.
- 2 Only a set amount of garments are made during
- 3 Usually made in ~~trends~~ season trends



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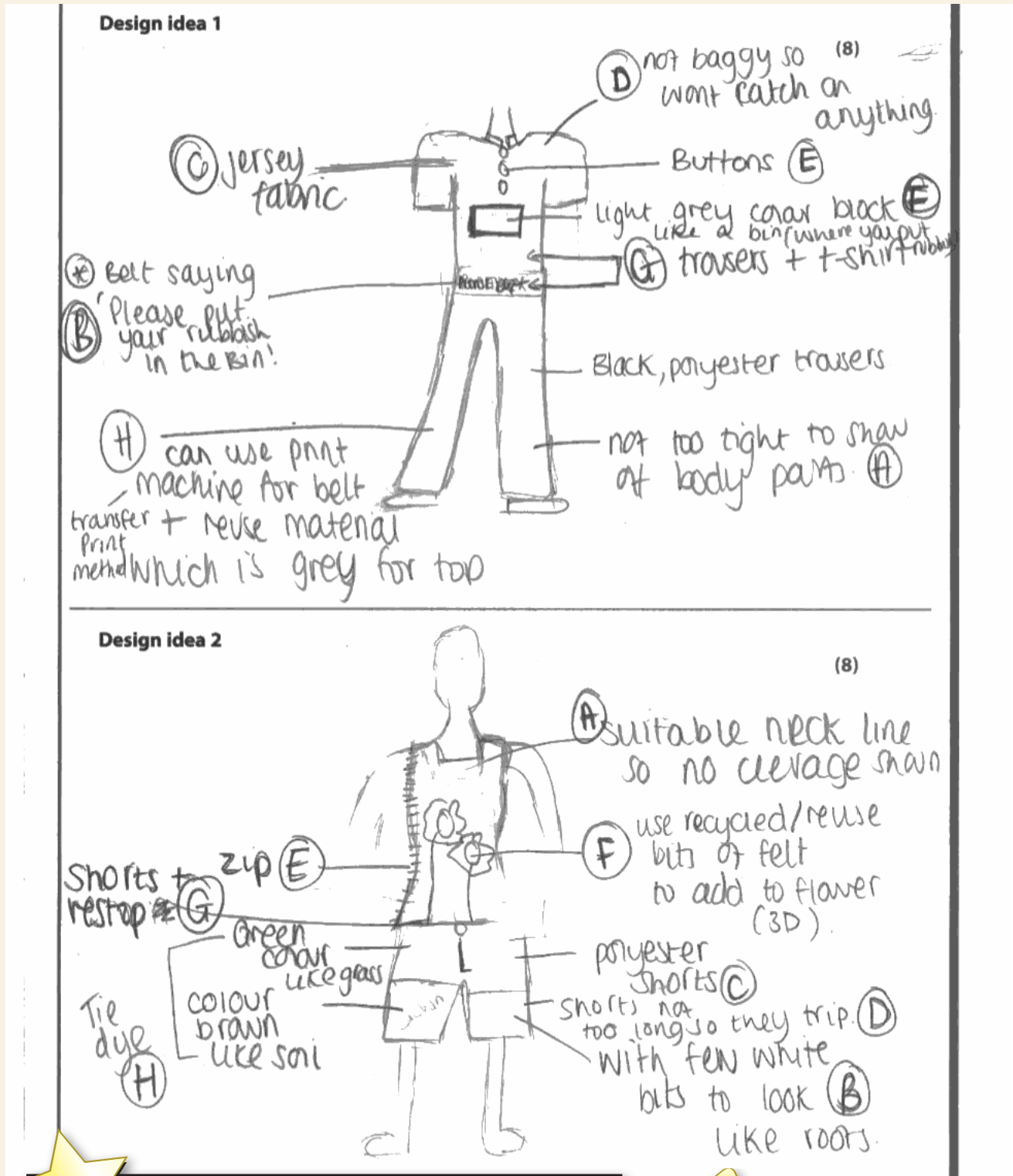
Examiner Comments

As the specification states candidates should ensure that they learn and can demonstrate knowledge of as many benefits as possible of manufacturing, including the advantages and disadvantages.

Question 12

Success in the design question relies on meeting all the specification points and is often successfully completed by a high level of candidates.

This candidate addresses each point in a concise, clear and easy to read format that ensures every word is legible.



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Examiner Comments

The use of annotation to explain specification points ensured more marks could be given, although some candidates would have achieved the same marks if they were more concise with their wording. Avoiding repetition and achieving a better use of their time.



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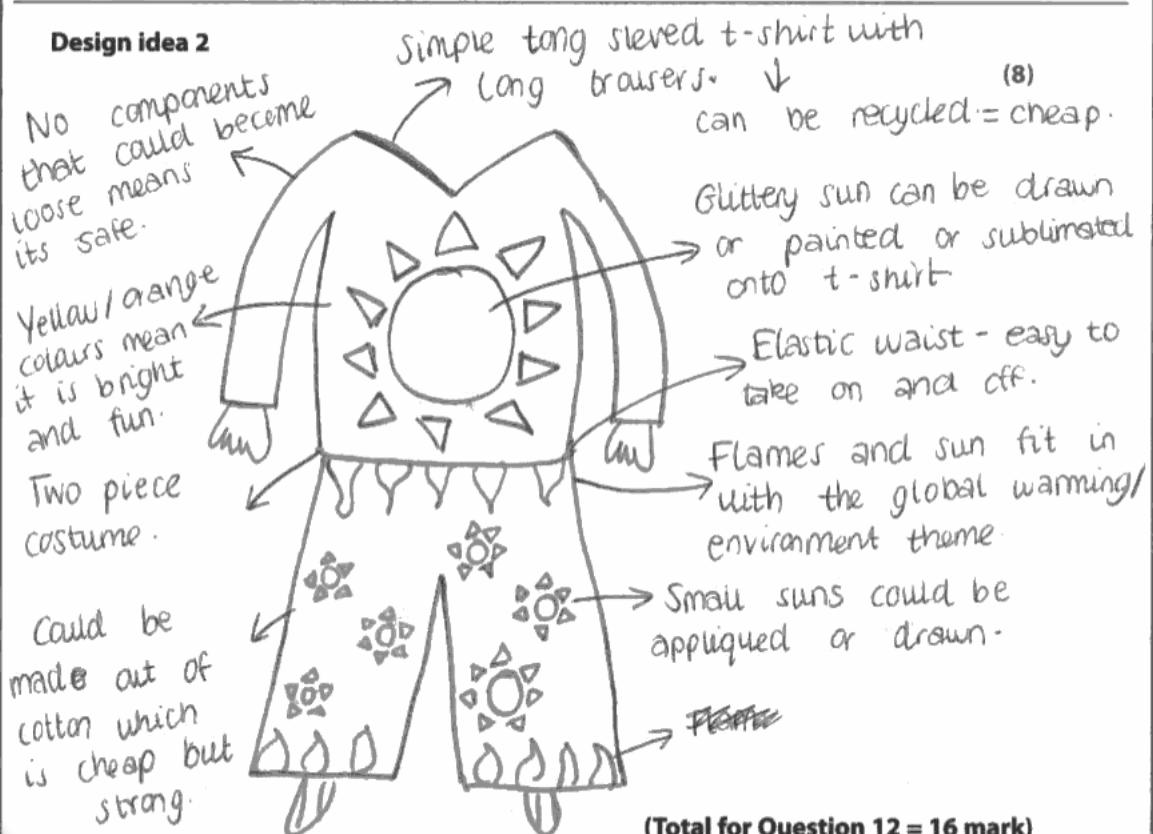
Examiner Tip

Those that relied on purely visual methods to gain their specification marks could be misconstrued.

Design idea 1



Design idea 2



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a good example of a design which provides evidence for every specification point. The fourth bullet point on the specification was generally not addressed regularly by many candidates. It was left up to the examiner to judge and find elements of 'safe to wear' evidence in the design. This is not ideal and in future it would be better if points such as 'cheap to make' and 'safe to wear' were made explicit in order to gain mark.

Question 13 (a)

As knowledge and understanding of fibres and fabrics form the basis for a great part of Textiles, this question tested the knowledge and suitability of the property of nylon (a popular synthetic fabric) to an end use.

This candidate states one of the most obvious properties of nylon and follows it up with a linked justification. Their second property and comment is equally accurate and well justified.

(a) Give **two** properties of nylon that make it a suitable fabric for the trousers.

For each property, justify your answer. (4)

Property 1
Strong

Justification
so he can wear it all the time,
and it won't rip as easily, especially
~~another fabric~~ when children have rough
play.

Property 2
Crease resistant.

Justification
so doesn't have to waste time
ironing it, and doesn't look
scruffy, so less maintenance.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The task of naming and justifying both properties and justifications stretched and differentiated many candidates.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should practice identifying and matching the positive and negative properties of a wide range of fibres and fabrics to equip them to answer this type of question.

(a) Give **two** properties of nylon that make it a suitable fabric for the trousers.

For each property, justify your answer.

(4)

Property 1

~~Hardwearing~~ Hardwearing

Justification

It will last a long time meaning
you will not have to replace the trousers

Property 2

Crease Resistance

Justification

Less energy spent on ironing the fabric



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Strong and durable were once again the most popular responses seen, with easycare and crease resistance as the next most popular. These are key features of this fabric.

Question 13 (b)

Any two key stages, from the design and application, were required to gain full marks.

Their seemed to be theoretical knowledge displayed of industrial practices as well as workshop knowledge in the successful responses given.

(b) Describe briefly how transfer printing is carried out.

(2)

The design is printed on to T-SHIRT TRANSFER PAPER. It is then cut out and laid on to the chosen material. The material is then pressed with an iron ^{until} ~~before~~ it is ready to remove the paper.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response demonstrates a good example of knowledge that seemed to be gained in the workshop. The language used is technical 'transfer paper' and the appropriate equipment to transfer the design is commonly found in workshops.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to use technical language and state any relevant equipment in their responses.

(b) Describe briefly how transfer printing is carried out.

(2)

The motif design is made on a computer and then printed onto sublimation paper. The paper and fabric ~~are~~ are then passed through heated roller where the design is transferred onto the fabric.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate shows extensive knowledge of this process and refers to 'sublimation paper' in its correct context. The equipment referred to is more industrial and an excellent alternative to the one stated previously.

Question 13(c) (i)

Candidates needed to briefly mention 'why' the outfit has high visibility and 'how' it achieves it to gain the 2 marks on offer.

(i) has high visibility

(2)

It has very smichy reflective colours
Bright blues, oranges and fluorescent colours
made the outfit stand out as they are
shony contrasting colours.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate offers 2 explained points. Although they are not in the correct order both sets of colours are justified.

Question 13 (c) (ii)

It was necessary for candidates to explain how the outfit is adjustable by identifying these aspects of the clothing and then extending their vocabulary to explain how that was achieved.

(2)

The elasticated waist allow people of different sizes to fit into the trousers. The adjustable velcro attached to the reflective braces allow the tightness / length of the straps to be altered.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

For questions 13ci and 13cii, those candidates that used the same language as the question 'e.g. adjustable or visible' did not achieve the second mark available.

Question 13 (d)

These extended response questions gave the candidates the opportunity to compare and show their evaluative skills. This meant that candidates who simply named one thing against another without stating its advantages over the former could not break into the higher level descriptor.

A range of responses were required and technical language could be rewarded as well as their ability to structure an extended piece of writing.

This candidate shows higher order skills and presented a well-structured and easy to follow text that was not frequently seen in this question.

*(d) Evaluate the suitability of Outfit A compared with Outfit B for use at a fancy dress party.

(6)

Outfit A and B both have adjustable braces, but A uses ~~but~~ velcro, & B uses buttons. I think ~~&~~ Velcro is better as it's less fiddly to buttons and is very secure. A also ~~&~~ can be fastened anywhere, unlike positioned buttons. Outfit A also has an elastic waist band, so it can fit more sizes than outfit B + is more comfortable, which is what's needed for a clown that moves a lot.

Both have T-shirt and trousers, but Outfit A is more colourful with patterns + pictures, This looks more exciting, ^{compared to a plain blue,} which is needed for a kids entertainer.

Outfit A will also be more comfortable when it comes to trousers, as cotton is very soft (good handle). Nylon trousers will be uncomfortable ^{and} possibly irritate the skin. Therefore I think Outfit A is the more suitable one, as it looks more exciting and colourful, which is good for a child's entertainer, and it looks more practical for a clown that will be moving around a lot for a long time.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Throughout this piece of extended writing references are made to differences that each point will make to the user or target audience. Thus, they are giving evaluative comments and comparing points against each other using evidence gained from the images. E.g. "velcro is better as it's less fiddly to buttons and more secure". Colours and decorative motif are related to the "entertainer". Technical language is used well like "good handle" when describing cotton.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Reading of the question is crucial, as the amount of candidates that scored no marks at all because they wrote about sustainability instead of the appropriateness to fancy dress, was unfortunate.

Question 14 (a) (i)

A common question starts of Q14. A familiar fairly non demanding response is required for a low level mark.

(a) (i) State how the manufacturer of the mask could use CAD/CAM in the lay planning process. (1)

They could use CAD to make sure they have got the best use out of the fabric and to see where each piece will go.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A standard, well answered response given that adequately explains this point.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This would have been even better if they used more technical vocabulary relating to effective use of fabric and minimising waste.

(a) (i) State how the manufacturer of the mask could use CAD/CAM in the lay planning process. (1)

they could find the most efficient lay plan faster and easier with a computer.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response gives an alternative.

Question 14 (a) (ii)

Candidates needed to give reasons for the use of CAD/CAM in stock control and this should be linked to the improved efficiency, accuracy, speed and economic benefits of tracking stock (materials, components and products) using this method in manufacturing.

1. When low on stock, alert is sent to production warehouse.
2. Thus you instantly know how much stock of each size you have.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Stock movement and re-ordering were common factors mentioned.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The points to focus on are the efficiency with which CAD/CAM improves stock control for example in ordering, recording, delivery and distribution and the other related benefits.

Question 14 (b)

This question required a clear description that covered the encapsulation of gas/liquid or solid for 1 mark and the detailed release of the substance for the 2nd mark.

~~Small~~ Microscopic particles, nanoparticles, act as tiny capsules with trapped scent inside them. When the fabric is used and friction caused the micro-capsules are burst releasing scent. This gives fabrics desirable ~~and~~ odours.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

There was a great sense that the candidate understood this process and is able to give a full account of the "tiny capsules" as the encapsulation process and then the catalyst that releases them.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Although many types of gas/liquid or solids can be encapsulated, candidates are encouraged to be specific mention of what they are referring to, e.g. 'dye' if they are to show full knowledge of his topic.

Microencapsulation has little bubbles which have a scent or something else like a liquid that is released when heat or friction is applied to the fabric.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Candidates could demonstrate knowledge by giving a descriptive account of the process e.g. "bubbles" as this shows an understanding of the shielding process undertaken in microencapsulation.



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Examiner Tip

Encourage candidates to use appropriate descriptive language so that micro is not just little but 'tiny' or 'miniscule'

An appropriate example sometimes helps candidates to remember and show levels of knowledge e.g. 'embedded in socks, bedding, and medical dressing'

Question 14 (c)

Candidates had to choose one dyeing stage in which they could show their knowledge of an advantage and disadvantage of the process. This asked them to distinguish why manufacturers chose one stage over another and how predictions play an important role in the decisions made.

There seemed to be a lack of knowledge demonstrated by candidates on this topic. Responses generally were better in the advantages section for the fibre choice but many struggled to relate the importance of the timescale that manufacturers had to make decisions on fabric and garment colouration.

The dyeing of a product can be carried out at various stages of production.

(c) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage to the manufacturer of dyeing at **one** of the following stages of production:

- fibre stage
- fabric stage
- garment stage.

(4)

Dyeing stage

garment stage

Advantage

once the garment is made you will be able to decide exactly what you want to dye the fabric for a better finish.

Disadvantage

If you make a mistake when dyeing it will ruin the garment so you will have to start again, evidently wasting money and time.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate was able to identify that decisions can be more effective at this late stage and so gained credit here.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

The response given of dyeing errors and the related cost implication gave a justified disadvantage.

Candidates should apply their knowledge and familiarise themselves with processes involved in the manufacture of products, Topic 3.3 of the specification. This would give them an understanding of the whole process a product will go through after the design decisions have been made.

The dyeing of a product can be carried out at various stages of production.

(c) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage to the manufacturer of dyeing at **one** of the following stages of production:

- fibre stage
- fabric stage
- garment stage.

(4)

Dyeing stage

Fibre stage

Advantage

dye is evenly distributed as it is able to get into each individual fibre creating vivid colours.

Disadvantage

it produces wastage if the fibres are not all used meaning energy and water was used unnecessarily.



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Examiner Comments

"Evenly distributed" dye and the creation of "vivid colours" adequately explain the benefits of dyeing at the fibre stage.

Question 14 (d)

This item asked for specific knowledge of a biological finishing process. A variety of key words such as 'enzyme, cellulosic, soft, smooth, pill and bobble were watched out for to demonstrate knowledge of this.

Good levels of response were seen in this question.

Describe the biopolishing process. (2)

An enzyme is put onto a fabric that softens the fabric. The enzyme turns the fabric into a smoother and shiny fabric and its mainly used in leisure wear like tracksuits. So the overall aesthetics are improved.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Key words and technical terms were used well. As in this example you can see "enzyme" is used and its effects back up their understanding of the process.

Question 14 (e)

The correct benefit of nanotechnology was sought by candidates who then had to apply this knowledge to the end use of a medical mask.

(e) Describe **one** benefit of using nanotechnology for making a medical mask. (2)

They have microscopic particles so it would be very difficult for allergens or bacteria to get in, ~~mask the~~ ~~deleter~~ as they wouldn't be able to pass through. Also, nanoparticles have specific properties so could be made to protect from germs.



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Examiner Comments

The overwhelming majority of correct responses were based on the masks ability to stop bacteria passing through.



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Examiner Tip

Very few candidates gained full marks for this question. "The ability to manipulate properties in fibres at a molecular level" does not seem familiar to many candidates yet and this is an area for improvement.

Question 14 (f)

Many candidates could explain how to 'minimise waste' in manufacturing and the higher marks were awarded to those candidates that considered applying that knowledge to the end use specified of surgical garments. These products have the added consideration of the need to be either sterile to be reused or disposable so as to not cause contamination.

As in the previous level marked question, (13d) candidates struggled to clearly relate to the requirements that are needed for this product and considerations that follow when considering waste management.

*f) Textile manufacturers need to consider the impact their products have on the environment throughout the product's life cycle.

Evaluate how waste production can be minimised in the manufacture of surgical garments throughout the product life cycle.

(6)

When a surgical garment is first made it could be created using either recycled fibres from old disinfected surgical garments or an organic cotton that isn't grown using chemicals like fertilizers that effect the environment. Also in the production of the garment smart materials could be used to make the surgical gown anti-bacterial, so it's safe for ~~an~~ more than one use, meaning that less will be put in a landfill. Also if the garments are made of cotton a natural fibre this means that they will be able to decompose faster causing less of a impact to the environment. Another way that would cause less impact to the environment would be producing the garment's in the country they are needed for so less transport is needed meaning less CO₂ is released.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The response is well structured and mentions a variety of related points. Right from the beginning this candidate refers to the benefits of "organic cotton", use of "smart materials", "landfill issues" and decomposition.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should try to highlight the issues that are most pertinent to the products end use as well as its life cycle.

Summary

The multiple choice section performed well with high achievement on most of the questions. This shows that candidates do have very good general factual knowledge. With the help of Results plus, centres can now go on to individualise their attainment and see where they may need to support their candidates further. Questions that require justification, analysis, explanation and evaluation are performing less well than those that require short answer responses. The design question should be clarified with annotation but this should be succinct, clearly laid out and not repetitive in order to score well. Candidates are advised to read the question carefully and ensure they understand what is being asked of them (especially in extended responses) so that they can direct their answers to the specific question set.

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