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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.**

FASHION AND FABRICS

GCE Ordinary Level

<p>Paper 6050/01</p>

<p>Written</p>

General comments

The general standard of scripts was good with the majority being well presented and legible. The answer booklets/paper for **Section B** were securely attached at the back of the question paper, some being so tightly tied that turning pages was difficult. There were some scripts where correction fluid had been used although it clearly says on the front of the question paper that this is not allowed. The absence of insert sheets this year was good as they are not required unless the candidate has written on them.

Section A was attempted by all candidates and should be answered on the question paper, but in a few cases the answers were written in the answer booklet. Candidates were not penalised for this but must lose time especially when they write out the questions before answering them.

The majority of candidates appeared to manage their time well and attempted three questions in **Section B**, but a few answered all six. A small number only attempted one or two questions resulting immediately in a loss of marks. The most popular questions were **4** and **6** and the least popular were **Questions 2** and **7**. The standard of answers varied from very detailed with good diagrams where relevant, to very poor. Some candidates drew diagrams with no labelling or notes of explanation. Very few candidates wrote the numbers of the questions attempted in **Section B** in the grid on the front of the question booklet as instructed.

Candidates must be encouraged to read all the questions thoroughly. They must answer the question and not what they would like the question to be. Some candidates see a word and not the whole sentence and lose marks because what they write may be accurate but does not answer the question. This can be seen over all the ability range. Marks for each question are shown in brackets [] and this should give some idea of how much information is required for each particular answer.

Overall candidates attempted the paper quite well and it was very evident if Centres had concentrated on one or two particular aspects of the syllabus. Final marks varied widely.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Generally well answered although not all candidates used *two* words to name the style features/items. Some candidates failed to use the information given on the insert.
- (b)(i) Poorly answered. Very few candidates had any idea about tartan fabric. Many gave cotton as the fibre it was made from and very few knew that it was a checked fabric.
- (ii) Some correct answers, but others gave responses that were too vague such as 'comfortable' or 'attractive'.
- (iii) Piqué was not too well known although many candidates did give cotton as the fibre. A number of candidates gave knitted as the structure and shiny or dull as the appearance.
- (iv) Some correct answers, but others gave responses that were too vague such as 'absorbent' or 'comfortable'.

- (c)(i) Reasonably well answered but some candidates failed to indicate inches/centimetres/yards/metres. Some candidates mixed up imperial and metric measurements and others made up amounts that bore no relevance to what was given on the insert. The buttons and bias tape sections were generally well answered.
- (ii) Many answers did not relate to the reasons for using the *type* of interfacing, but to why interfacing is used giving answers such as for stiffening or strengthening.
- (iii) Very poorly answered by most candidates as they did not relate the answer to tartan fabric but to a fabric with pile or a one-way design. Very few mentioned checked fabric or matching up the checks.
- (d)(i) Fold and selvages well answered but some candidates failed to answer the question.
- (ii) Well answered but some candidates confused the back and front.
- (iii) Few candidates gave the correct reason. Many said that the shaded part needed interfacing.
- (iv) Few correct answers. Some candidates knew it was a second sleeve piece but not that it had to be turned over.
- (e) Some very good answers of pattern markings but others were poor. Pattern markings did not always relate to the pattern piece such as darts, pleats and patch pocket. Buttons and buttonholes were sometimes in the wrong position and failed to allow for the facing to be folded over.
- (f) Reasonably well answered with many full marks, however some candidates had a few mistakes or failed to use all the words, or sometimes used the same word twice, or a word that was not in the list.
- (g) Some good answers of suitable care labels, but others did not relate to piqué fabric being a cotton fabric and gave answers including wool symbols, cool wash, cool iron. Some candidates drew paper pattern symbols or failed to attempt the question.
- (h)(i) Some correct answers but others were too vague and could be read as referring to a pattern of one size only.
- (ii) A number of candidates confused the advantages of having a multi-sized pattern with having clear pattern markings and clear instructions. They also referred to how easy it was to alter but that could be related to a one size pattern. Answers were generally not concise enough to gain full marks.
- (i)(i) Many candidates failed to see the word *tartan* and gave fabric finishes which did not always relate to tartan such as antistatic. Some candidates referred to how to finish a garment such as hemming and pressing.
- (ii) There were few correct answers to this question. Some candidates who had correct answers to the previous question gave a different finish here, others left the question blank.

Section B

Question 2

This was not a very popular question.

- (a) Reasonably well answered and candidates usually gave wool or cotton as a fibre that is carded.
- (b) Many candidates understood that in blending different fibres are mixed together. Polyester and cotton were often given as an example.
- (c) Reasonably well answered with a correct fibre given.
- (d) Some good, detailed answers but some candidates muddled synthetic and regenerated. Sometimes the correct fibre was given even though the explanation was incorrect.
- (e) Regenerated was confused with synthetic but the correct fibre was given.
- (f) Not well answered, and sometimes this part of **Question 2** was not attempted.

Question 3

- (a) Generally well answered. Some candidates gave very detailed answers, but a small number read shirt as skirt and gave the order of work of making a skirt.
- (b)(i) Some good answers but others confused facing and interfacing.
- (ii) Very few accurate answers. Candidates could put the collar on the neckline but failed to use the facing that was part of the pattern piece and just stitched the collar onto the shirt neckline and then hemmed or machined it a second time. Diagrams were not well drawn and failed to show the facing. Many candidates did not relate their response to the pattern pieces for shirt view D.

Question 4

Diagrams were not specifically asked for but some candidates illustrated their answers with some good drawings.

- (a) Well answered.
- (b) Generally well answered but some candidates confused the hoop with an embroidery needle.
- (c) Crewel needle was sometimes confused with a tapestry or darning needle.
- (d) Cutting shears were sometimes referred to as pinking shears, or as small scissors for trimming threads.
- (e) Well answered.
- (f) Well answered.

Question 5

- (a) Well answered with some good, clear labelled diagrams. Some candidates only showed two methods of neatening and not the making of a plain seam. Very few candidates mentioned the matching of the checks when using gingham fabric.
- (b) There were some good answers explaining how to make a French seam but a few candidates gave instructions for making a machine fell seam/double stitched seam.
- (c) Some good answers, many mentioning keeping the plain seam open, but some candidates failed to understand that the hem was to be machined and hemmed it by hand.

Question 6

This was a popular question.

- (a) Some good answers but few candidates mentioned the difference that pressing is an up and down action, whereas ironing is moving over the fabric to remove creases.
- (b) Reasonably well answered but some candidates confused the two stitches with each other.
- (c) Not well answered as candidates failed to explain the differences but mentioned that they could both be used to finish off armholes, necklines etc.
- (d) Few candidates could explain the difference between a worked loop and worked bar. Some had the worked loop as a neatening method, and others mentioned that the worked bar was a metal bar stitched onto fabric.
- (e) Very well answered – the majority of candidates could explain the difference between the two stitches.
- (f) Many candidates could explain what interfacing was, but very few could describe what lining was, and some said it was a line drawn on the fabric as a guideline when machining.

Question 7

This was not a popular question.

- (a) Some good sketches but they did not always show the stitches or label them. Some were not always decorative stitches and just had machining. The sketches were not always a logo but were appliquéd designs. Some sketches were very small and not clear. The question carried 6 marks and some candidates did very little and so lost marks.
- (b)(i) The working of the stitches was very poorly answered. Some candidates only gave vague instructions and no diagrams, while others just drew the finished stitch and no working of the stitch. Some diagrams were so small and unclear, especially if trying to show a French knot.
- (ii) Some good answers but others did not repair the machining but removed it and stitched it all again. Not all candidates used a diagram here as was asked for in the question. Some drew the shirt and not the vest top.
- (iii) Very few candidates understood how to attach the braid. Many described it as if it was a binding on the edge of the hem, turning part of it to the wrong side and hemming it. Again diagrams were not always used.

<p style="text-align: center;">Paper 6050/02</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Practical</p>

General comments

The 2005 practical test was in line with those of previous years. The test was within the standard expected of candidates at this level. The processes involved were straightforward and ones which the candidates should be able to achieve in the making of a simple garment. Most candidates were able to complete the right half of shortened trousers but there were several who did not get very far.

Comments on specific parts

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a shortened pair of trousers; this included making soft pleats in the front, a side pocket, a casing at the back and making and attaching a waistband at the front. It was a straightforward test using processes which were familiar to the candidates. The majority understood the pattern and the instructions. Once again the candidates tended to lose marks for inaccuracy. Many did not follow the instructions carefully when making and putting in the side pocket. There were only a few candidates who followed the instructions carefully for finishing off the top of the trousers. Candidates must learn to use the 1.5 cm seam allowance accurately.

Choice of fabric and interfacing

Generally fabrics were most satisfactory although one or two Centres used fabric that was a little too stiff on which it was difficult to work.

Cutting out

Marks were awarded for placing the pattern on the fabric accurately and for using the scissors carefully. The candidates showed that they had followed the instructions by placing the pattern pieces on the straight grain of fabric. However, several lost marks for badly cut edges round the curves at the centre front and centre back of the trousers. The majority made up the right hand side of the trousers although there were several muddled pieces.

Soft Pleats

The pleats were generally of the correct size, in the right position and direction. Most candidates completed this stage very well, but many left the tackings in at the end of the test.

Side Pocket

There were very few accurately placed pockets – measured from the side seam across the front and measured from the waist down the side seam. The faced edge of the pocket was seldom trimmed, but the top-stitching was quite well done. There were some very good curved pockets on the wrong side, but not many were well trimmed and neatened.

Waistband

The candidates who had not used iron-on interfacing found this process more difficult. Several candidates made a seam at the centre front of the band which they had not been asked to do. This meant losing marks for correct measurement.

Attaching the Waistband

Candidates did not always follow the instructions and turn the trouser centre front seam allowance to the wrong side before attaching the waistband. The waistband seam was not often well trimmed and seldom did candidates trim the last turning of the waistband, but generally the hemming was good (some candidates machine stitched the wrong side of the band).

Casing

In most tests the casing was the correct width and there were good lines of stitching along the top fold and along the lower edge. However, few candidates clipped the back seam allowance below the casing as the diagram in the instructions indicated and therefore found it difficult to neaten the waistband over the end of the casing.

Side Seam

This was quite a simple process, but not well done. Candidates must learn to use the correct seam allowance and to edge stitch an open seam on fine fabric. Just a line of zig-zag stitching is not very satisfactory.

Inner Leg Seam

On most tests the edges were together at the crotch and 1.5 cm seam allowance was used. Many candidates did not accomplish this process.

Presentation

The presentation of the trousers was better this year, although candidates had not always sewn the labels on single fabric by hand – some were machine stitched and therefore lost marks and others just pinned on. There were a number of tests with long loose ends of tacking and machine stitching. Some candidates lost presentation marks for writing on the fabric or leaving tracing wheel marks visible on the right side and some did not press and fold their work carefully at the end – time should always be allowed for this.

Paper 6050/04

Paper 4

General comments

It is recommended that individual garments are labelled clearly. In some cases, two garments were placed in a labelled envelope instead.

MS1 forms must be included with the coursework folders and garments.

The standard of work was mostly very good with imaginative use of decoration, whether by hand or machine. Candidates should choose two different fabrics for the two items. This will give the opportunity to show a different range of skills such as seam finishes.

It was pleasing to see that ICT is used more in folders and this helps the overall presentation of the written work submitted.

Some difficult fabrics were used, and credit should be given in marking, to allow for this.

Folders

Folders were usually well presented. A soft-card folder is adequate, and the cover needs to be labelled correctly on the front cover. Most folders included the required details about one of the items submitted. There is still confusion about the plan of work. This should be a brief list of the processes to be worked. This is normally written before the item is made, and should show forward planning. Many folders still write the methods carried out after the item has been made.

Garments

A range of garments was again presented this year. Some of the best work was beautifully finished and showed a very high standard of work. A range of fabrics was presented and some garments were made from difficult to handle fabrics. Machine and hand embroidery was usually well worked and showed a high level of skill in some cases. A wide range of decorative processes was shown – such as tucking, smocking, lace edging, piping, appliqué, hand embroidery and decorative machine stitching.

Some garments were inadequately finished – with raw edges visible and underarm seams untrimmed during sleeve insertion.

Some work was unpressed and was over-handled.

It was pleasing to see that some garments made very good use of the overlocker, for decorative edging as well as seam finishing.

Some machining was of poor quality, for example, different stitch lengths were visible on a double stitched seam. Even and regular stitching is an important aspect of making seams.

There was evidence this year of a comeback in crafts such as fringes, macramé and tassels.

Presentation varied – mostly it was good, but some garments had chalk lines showing on the right side of the fabric. It is recommended that, if chalk is used to mark fabric, it should be on the wrong side.