

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/01

Written

General comments

In general the scripts were well presented and handwriting was legible. A number of candidates produced some very good, clear, labelled diagrams but others lost marks because their diagrams were very small and not labelled. The separate answer sheets/books were attached to the back of the question book and only a very small number of Centres still included the Insert sheet – this is not necessary unless the candidate has written on it. There was evidence that some candidates had used correction fluid – this should not be used as indicated in the instructions on the front of the question paper.

Section A was attempted by all candidates and produced a wide standard of responses. Some candidates spent too long on this section to the detriment of **Section B**. A few candidates answered **Section A** in the answer book and not on the question paper.

The majority of candidates answered three questions in **Section B**, but some only attempted one or two. No candidate answered all six questions this year. **Questions 2** and **3** were the most popular and **Questions 4** and **5** proved to be the least popular. Candidates should be encouraged to read all questions carefully before they begin to answer. Some candidates gave information that was correct, but did not answer the actual question, which resulted in marks being lost. Candidates should be reminded that the number of marks for each question is clearly indicated in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question and this should give some indication of the amount of information that is required to gain full marks.

Candidates should be reminded to fill in the front of the question book with the numbers of the questions attempted in **Section B**. They should also be asked to start each question on a separate page, or at least leave a few lines between the end of one question and the beginning of the next. Answers should be clearly numbered.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Generally well answered, but not all features/items had two or more words to describe them. Some candidates failed to use the Insert to help them.
- (b) The fibre and weight was generally known for both fabrics, but appearance and feel/handle was not well known.
- (c) Some good reasons, such as hardwearing, fashionable and keeping shape, but many candidates repeated the same reasons instead of giving different ones.
- (d) Generally the care label was well known, but some candidates drew Skirt **D** from the Insert – an example of not reading the question carefully.
- (e) Generally well answered, but again some candidates failed to use the Insert and made up their own responses. A few candidates mixed up metric and imperial measurements.

- (f) (i) Folds and selvages were well answered, but a number of candidates failed to attempt this question.
 - (ii) On the whole this question was well answered.
 - (iii) Few candidates gave the correct explanation, many just said that they had to be cut twice.
 - (iv) Some candidates answered this question very well, but there were some very poor answers that did not relate to the pattern piece of Skirt D e.g. drawing and labelling the straight grain as well as place on fold. Darts were also labelled in some cases.
- (g) Tailor tacking and tracing wheel and carbon paper were the usual answers, but the explanations varied widely, from detailed well-drawn and labelled diagrams, to very poor small unclear attempts. There were also some candidates who failed to answer this question.
 - (h) This question was not well answered. Not all the words were used, some words were used more than once, words that were not in the box were included and the instructions frequently made no sense when they were read. There was a disappointing response, with very few candidates achieving maximum marks.
 - (i) There were some good responses, but some candidates failed to answer this question and others referred to trimming the edges, threads etc. – again this relates to not reading the question properly.

Section B

Question 2

This was a popular question that was generally well answered. It was ideal for candidates who had studied cotton in detail and found drawing diagrams difficult.

- (a) The word 'construction' was not understood. Most candidates listed three woven cotton fabrics, or fabrics that were not made from cotton. Very few mentioned knitted or other cotton fabrics.
- (b) The properties of cotton were known by many of the candidates.
- (c) There were some accurate answers given for each of the fabric finishes. A number of candidates confused brushing with cleaning the fabric and bleaching with removing stains.

Question 3

This was the most popular question on the paper.

- (a) This question was well answered.
- (b) The body measurements were often correct, although some candidates included hips and arm length.
- (c) This part of the question was poorly answered and not understood by many candidates. They could show how to alter the neckline, but it was not always on the paper pattern, but on the fabric/blouse. Many candidates referred to the facing being made in fabric and attached to the neckline, with no reference to the facing pattern being altered.
- (d) This question was well answered by the candidates.

Question 4

This proved to be the least popular question.

- (a) There were some good answers given, but a few candidates confused warp and weft knitting.
- (b) The garments named were not always suitable and some of the garments would not have been made from knitted fabrics.

- (c) Candidates did not refer specifically to knitted fabrics, but gave points that were for laying/cutting/machining any fabric, e.g. measuring straight grain, using a sharp pair of scissors, testing the machine stitch.
- (d) This question was reasonably well answered on the whole.
- (e) Some good answers were given to this question, but some candidates failed to give four different points.

Question 5

This was not a popular question with the candidates.

- (a) There were some very good sketches of a sleeve with a buttoned cuff, but there were a few candidates who drew a short sleeve with no cuff.
- (b)(i) Some very good, clear labelled drawings of working a continuous strip opening were presented, but there were also other answers that were very poor and a few candidates even failed to attempt this part of the question.
 - (ii) This question was quite well answered, with labelled diagrams included.
 - (iii) Again this part of the question was answered very well by some candidates, but others did not always include diagrams and if they did they were generally not of a good standard.

Question 6

- (a) A reasonably well answered question, although some candidates just repeated the question by saying that the interfacing could be sewed-in or ironed-on.
- (b)(i) There were some good answers that included clear diagrams, but some candidates did not read the question properly and described using iron-on interfacing.
 - (ii) Again some very good answers were given, but many candidates lost marks because their diagrams were not clear and labelled. Some answers were too vague to achieve full marks, saying only stitch to skirt and turn over, giving no details of measurements, RS and WS etc.
 - (iii) Generally this question was not well answered and many candidates failed to attempt this part of the question. Some candidates confused eye and bar and described a worked bar.

Question 7

- (a) There were some very good, clear sketches presented, but there were others that were so small the detail could not be seen and there was no explanation of whether hand or machine embroidery was being used. The pocket sketched was not always the one shown on skirt view **D** and in a few cases there was only a sketch and no pocket drawn.
- (b) Some candidates answered this part of the question quite well and did clear working drawings of the various stitches used. Other candidates only used one stitch in their design and therefore did not achieve full marks.
- (c) Not all candidates referred to the specific pressing of the embroidery, but to the general pressing of the garment.
- (d)(i) Three items of pressing equipment were mentioned, but no explanation of how to use them was included.
 - (ii) A few good answers were given, but some candidates just removed all stitching and completely top-stitched the pocket again.

FASHION AND FABRICS

<p>Paper 6050/02 Practical</p>
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General comments

The 2006 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 making a simple garment. Most candidates were able to complete the right half of a child's dress bodice.

Comments on specific questions

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a bodice; this included making a front opening, a neckline neaten with a crossway strip facing, making up and attaching a sleeve with pleats and working the sleeve hem. 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 working the front facing and attaching the crossway strip. Candidates must learn to use the 1.5 cm seam allowance accurately and to neaten seams unless asked not to do so.

Choice of fabric

Generally fabrics and colour were most satisfactory.

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 the fabric. However, several did not follow the instructions to place the front and back bodice to the selvedge. The majority made up the right hand side of the bodice although there were a few muddled tests.

Front edge

Most candidates followed the instructions and turned the front edge to the inside to form the interfacing, before turning the next front edge to the inside to form the front facing. In most cases the quality of tacking along the fold was good.

Shoulder and underarm seams

These processes were fairly well done – candidates must learn to use the 1.5 cm seam allowance accurately and all seams must be neaten unless otherwise instructed. A row of zig-zag stitching along the raw edge is not a satisfactory finish on the polyester/cotton fabric. Where French seams were used they were usually good.

Attaching the crossway

This process caused some candidates difficulty. Despite there being a diagram to help them, the crossway was placed up to the Centre front fold – hence when turned right side out, it left a very bulky corner and loss of marks. The 6 mm seam allowance was not always used and a number used the crossway as a binding not as a facing. The clipping and trimming of both turnings in many tests could have been better. In a number of tests the candidates cut off the crossway strip at the back edge although the instructions stated **not** to do so – again with loss of marks.

Sleeve pleats – sleeve

Most candidates were quite accurate in making and tacking the pleats in place – the majority were flat and lying in the right direction. The short sleeve seam was generally done accurately and well.

Setting in the sleeve

This process was generally well done, although some had cut the notches off, so lost marks for matching them to those on the bodice. Most candidates had eased the sleeve into the armhole and machine stitched on the fitting line – there were not too many puckers. A tricky process – generally well done.

Sleeve hem

Most hems were of the correct width but not always even. Slip hemming was better but not many hemmed the hem over the seam.

Presentation

Most candidates pressed and folded their work neatly and it was clean and in most tests free from tackings and markings. Several candidates lost marks by machine stitching on their label when they were asked to stitch it on by hand. In some cases the patterns were included in the envelopes – these are for the centres to keep and use afterwards.

FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6050/04

Paper 4

General comments

Administration.

Some Centres had omitted to send the MS1 mark sheets.

Centres are reminded that only whole marks (no half marks) are awarded when marking coursework.

Coursework

Centres presented work, which was well made, and there was some work of an excellent standard. Centres are now using the syllabus content as a guide for suitable techniques, which is to be encouraged.

Different seam finishes were used, ranging from edge-stitching, zig-zag and overlocking, to bound edges and double stitched or French seams. Seams were accurate, and very well neatened,

There was a variety of work presented. Some Centre had imaginative use of decorative techniques. These included use of hand and machine embroidery, smocking, beading, piping, use of lace and other trimmings and printing. One Centre even presented garments, which had screen-printed fabrics which the candidates had prepared themselves. This was an advanced technique for O Level, but local expertise had been used. Centres are to be commended where they encourage their candidates to use local traditional textile techniques.

Centres are reminded that they should read the Coursework requirements in the syllabus carefully, and should only send what is required for this paper. Marks will only be awarded for sections which are clearly listed in the syllabus.

Section 1: Folders

The folder should relate to one of the garments. An illustration or description was usually given. Reasons for choice were usually included although some candidates omitted one or more of the sections. Lists of requirements and costing can be presented together, but both should be included.

The Plan of Work has improved since last year. Candidates should write the order of making the garment, as a plan, before they start work. Samples can be included but these are not a requirement in the syllabus.

The presentation varied. Some candidates presented well mounted work, which was hand-written in a small notebook. Other candidates word-processed their work, which they presented in a simple card folder. Both are acceptable.

Section 2 and 3: Garments

The majority of candidates used suitable fabrics, Woven fabrics are far easier for candidates to use at Ordinary Level. A few candidates used jersey fabrics, and could not gain a good standard of work. This fabric is difficult to handle and unless the candidate is skilled at garment making, they may find the resulting processes disappointing. Choice of notions such as buttons and thread was usually appropriate. General appearance varied. Some work was very well pressed and neatly folded. Some work had poor finishing and was sometimes grubby in appearance. This was particularly evident on white fabrics. There were some very good colour and decorative effects.

Final pressing should be straightforward if the candidates have been pressing their work at all stages in the making of the items.

Some garments had poor finish on the inside, with unfinished raw edges on seams or neatening which had been carried out after the garment had been stitched. A more successful result would be to neaten seams on one section of the garment at a time. There was some very good hand stitching. Where self-binding had been used, it made a very good finish/or added to the overall good effect on the garment. Iron-on interfacing is widely used but care should be taken to gain a good finish on thin fabrics. Threads should be trimmed.