

FASHION AND FABRICS

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| <p>Paper 6050/01</p> |
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| <p>Written</p> |
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General comments

The scripts were well presented and in most cases the handwriting was legible. There were some very good scripts where candidates produced clear labelled diagrams, but others showed lack of practice in drawing and labelling diagrams. Some questions particularly asked for diagrams or labels and therefore marks were lost. The separate answer sheets/books were attached to the back of the question book but some Centres still include 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 with a varied standard of response. Not all candidates answered in the question book but on separate paper, and in a few cases repeated their answers in both. Some candidates spent too long on **Section A** and therefore failed to complete the last question in **Section B**. It is important that enough time is given to answering **three** questions in **Section B**.

In **Section B Questions 2** and **4** were the most popular, with **Questions 3** and **6** having the fewest answers. A few candidates attempted more than three questions, and some candidates answered parts of all six questions resulting in marks being lost. Candidates should be encouraged to read all questions carefully before they begin to answer. Marks were lost when candidates did not read the question carefully enough and gave information which was technically accurate but which did not answer the specific question. 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. All answers should be clearly numbered.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Generally well answered but not all candidates used the information on the Insert sheet to help them provide **two** words to describe the style features/items.
- (b)(i)(ii) The fibre, structure and weight was often correct for both fabrics, but some candidates did not read the question carefully and gave cotton for both fabrics.
 - (iii) Some good answers, although only one reason was sometimes given.
 - (iv) Some good answers, but others described the opposite – the meaning of ‘with nap’.
 - (v) Poorly answered with many candidates giving the advantages of having pockets on the dress. Many did not attempt an answer.
- (c) A number of very good answers, but some candidates either misread the Insert or failed to use any of the information that was provided.

- (d) Not well answered.
- (e)(i) Well answered, but some candidates failed to attempt this question.
 - (ii) Front and back sections known, but sleeve facing, collar and continuous lap not well answered.
 - (iii) Few candidates knew which pieces had to be turned around.
 - (iv) Pattern markings reasonably well known by the majority of candidates. They were drawn correctly although not always labelled.
 - (v) Not well answered, not as precise as was expected e.g. 'scissors' was given as an answer but a more descriptive answer such as dressmaking shears etc. was expected.
- (f) Some good answers, however others used all the correct words but in the wrong order, or made up their own words. If candidates had read through the passage after filling in their answers, they should have realised that the instructions they had written made no sense.
- (g) Care label symbols were quite well known, but some candidates were confused by the word symbols and gave four pattern symbols, or left it blank.
- (h) Stain removal was not well known – the answers were either very vague e.g. wash in warm/hot water or completely wrong and would have ruined the fabric.

Section B

Question 2

A popular question that was generally well answered. Candidates who had studied silk and were not keen on drawing diagrams were still able to give some good answers and gain high marks

- (a) Production of silk was sometimes muddled with cotton, nylon etc. but some Centres had obviously taught this well.
- (b) Properties were well known.
- (c) Uses of silk fabrics - well answered.
- (d) Some good answers, but warp and weft was sometimes confused, or not indicated clearly. Knitted fabric was also drawn in some cases.

Question 3

Not a popular question.

- (a) The order of work for making the lined bodice was not well answered and some candidates gave a list completing the making up of the dress.
- (b)(i) Most answers described trimming or neatening seams which did not answer the question. Candidates were expected to describe the grading of seams.
 - (ii) Clipping curves was generally well answered.
 - (iii) Many answers referred to reinforcing in general but not specifically to corners.
- (c) Some good explanations of making a machine buttonhole, but others either cut the hole first and then machined, or did a hand worked buttonhole.

Question 4

The most popular question with some very good responses.

- (a) Well answered.
- (b) Safety features were not understood - answers included consideration of the price, if it had a guarantee, what features the machine had and whether spare parts would be easily available.
- (c) (i) Machine zig-zag was reasonably well answered.
(ii) Attaching ric-rac braid had some good responses, but some candidates were attaching the floral appliqué, binding or straight braid.
- (d) Well answered but some candidates referred to checking the machine before beginning to sew and testing on spare fabric.

Question 5

- (a) Some good sketches with the correct collar drawn, but other sketches were poor, with an incorrect collar and no labelling.
- (b) (i) Application of iron-on interfacing was well known although a few candidates attached the interfacing by machining.
(ii) Some good notes and labelled diagrams of assembling the collar.
(iii) Some good notes and diagrams of attaching the collar to the top.

Question 6

Not a popular question and generally not well answered by those who attempted it.

- (a)(i) and (ii) Description of the fabrics was very vague and confused. Weaves were incorrect and appearance, feel and weight were not widely known.
- (b) and (c) Usually fibres and not fabrics were given as the answer, and it appeared to be more guesswork than actual knowledge. The reasons given were vague and not accurate.
- (d) A few good responses but generally the method of pressing was not accurate especially in relation to viscose velvet where candidates often failed to mention that it was a pile fabric.

Question 7

Not particularly well answered.

- (a) Some good designs, but many candidates drew three different hems with one of the stitches on each. Some incorrect stitches were drawn e.g. chain stitch.
- (b) Generally the notes and labelled diagrams for all the embroidery stitches, tacking stitch and slip hemming were poor. Diagrams were unclear and failed to show a working stitch and there was lack of labelling. Hemming was often drawn instead of slip hemming.

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Paper 6050/02

Practical

General comments

The 2007 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 a shortened girl's shirt.

Comments on specific questions

Comments on specific parts

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a shortened shirt; this included making a front opening, making and attaching a collar and making and setting in a short sleeve which had a tacked hem. It was a straightforward test using processes which were familiar to the candidate. The majority understood the pattern and the instructions. Once again candidates tended to lose marks for inaccuracy. Many candidates did not follow the instructions carefully when making and attaching the collar – collars were often made upside down and the centre front of the collar was not in line with the front seam of the shirt. 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 and interfacing

Generally fabrics, interfacing and colour were most satisfactory.

Cutting out

Marks were awarded for placing the pattern on the fabric accurately and for using the scissors carefully. Mostly the candidates showed that they had followed the instructions by placing pattern pieces on the straight grain of the fabric. However, several did not follow the instructions to place the front and back shirt pieces to the selvedge as instructed. The majority made up the right hand side of the shirt although there were several muddled tests.

Front facing

Most candidates attached the facing correctly, but very few trimmed the seam and worked the seam out to give a neat edge. The edge stitching of the unnotched edge generally could have been neater – not many candidates neaten the short shoulder unnotched edge (overlocking the edges was not very satisfactory).

Shoulder and Underarm seam

These processes were fairly well done - candidates must learn to use the 1.5 cm seam allowance and all seams must be neaten, unless otherwise stated. A row of zig-zag stitching near the raw edge is not a satisfactory finish on the polyester/cotton fabric. Where French seams were used they were usually good but not always pressed towards the back of the garment.

The Collar

This process varied – there were some very good size and shaped collars but quite a few were made upside down and a number joined the centre back seam, so lost marks when it came to measuring for accuracy. Candidates should realise that the notched edge of the collar matches the notched edge of the neckline. The trimming of the collar seams generally could have been better as some collars appeared very bulky especially at the point.

Attaching the Collar

Marks were lost where the candidate did not attach the centre front of the collar in line with the front seam of the shirt (it was very clear on the front of the pattern) and did not use the front facing correctly. Marks were also lost where the back of the collar was not in line with the back of the shirt. The seam was often uneven and puckered and in many cases the trimming was poor. Where the candidates had attached the collar correctly, the hemming was good and the hemming of facing to shoulder seam was well done.

Setting in the sleeve

This process was generally quite well done, although some candidates had cut the notches off or made up the sleeve for the wrong armhole, so lost marks for matching them to those on the shirt. Most candidates had eased the sleeve into the armhole and machine stitched on the fitting line. A lot of the easing stitching was not removed so made the head of the sleeve look untidy, there were not too many puckers.

Sleeve hem

Most hems were of the correct width but not always even all round. The tacking was not always along the fold so as to hold the first turning in place.

Presentation

Most candidates pressed and folded their work neatly and it was clean and in most tests, but not all, free from tacking and markings. Again several candidates lost marks by machine stitching on their label when they were asked to stitch it on by hand. In some cases the pattern pieces and the patterns were included in the envelopes. This is unnecessary as the patterns are for the schools to keep and use afterwards.

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Paper 6050/04

Paper 4

General comments

The documentation sent with the coursework was usually correctly filled out and had comments and marks awarded which were in general, appropriate for this level.

There were some candidates whose work was not adequately labelled, or had no label at all. The work was identifiable because it was with the accompanying coursework folder. However, Centres are asked to ensure that each item is securely labelled with the Centre number and candidate number, preferably stitched on with tacking or machined on near the hem or lower edge, where it does not obscure any process.

Centres, who package candidates work separately, are to be thanked, as it makes the marking process more straightforward for the Moderator.

In a few cases, marks awarded by Centres were a little too generous and had to be reduced. In most cases the marking was appropriate and not many changes needed to be made.

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

Comments on Coursework

Folders

These were usually well presented. The content normally closely followed the subject specification/syllabus. Pictures/illustrations were well sketched and presentation was often excellent. Where ICT had been used, the information was clear and easy to follow.

The main area for improvement is with the Plan of Work. In some cases this was too brief with a list of processes and or samples presented. The Plan of Work should usually be written in advance of making the item, showing an order of the processes to be carried out.

Some of the sections in folders were incomplete and marks were consequently lost.

Garments

The range of garments varied from children's dresses, skirts, shorts, dresses and jackets. The fabrics used also varied, with some candidates choosing cotton types such as twill, denim, and chambray. Printed Viscose fabrics were also used. Both of these types are normally straightforward to sew and handle. Other candidates chose difficult to handle fabrics such as slippery polyesters, satins and even stretch jersey fabrics. Centres are to be commended on the range of fabrics used for garments, as different processes and handling is required for different fabrics, and this gives candidates very good experience of garment construction. Some of the garments presented showed excellent finish. Hand and machine stitching was very accurate, with well-finished seams, hems and fastenings. In general, Centres are to be commended on the excellent standard of work presented for this level. Choice of notions such as buttons and thread was usually appropriate.

Denim was a widely chosen fabric. There was some imaginative use of decorative work using denim, in particular using the wrong side of the fabric to provide contrast on pockets, or fringing along seams and hems. Top stitching was also appropriate and a contrasting thread was often used.

In a few cases, seams edges were not well finished. The stitching may have been uneven, with differing stitch lengths, or seam widths not level. In a few cases, seam finishing was carried out after the whole garment had been otherwise finished. It is difficult to finish seams once hems, facings and sleeves have been stitched. Some candidates finished seams by hand.

Gathering was widely chosen as a textile technique. It was often worked to a high standard, with very even gathers and well pressed.

Decorative work was imaginative and a good variety was shown. Popular types were hand embroidery stitches, and the addition of ribbon, lace and piping. Embroidered motifs were often used. The decoration was included along edges, on collars or pockets.

A few garments were poorly finished or unfinished but this was in only a few cases.