

# 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

In general the scripts were well presented and handwriting was legible. Many candidates produced good clear labelled diagrams where these were needed to illustrate their answers. In almost all Centres the separate lined answer sheets/booklets were attached to the back of the question book. A small number of Centres also included the Insert sheet which is not necessary unless the candidate has written on it. Only one candidate had used correction fluid though a number of candidates appeared to answer the paper in pencil before overwriting the answers in ink.

**Section A** was attempted by all candidates and produced a wide standard of responses. A few candidates answered **Section A** in the answer book as well as on the question paper leaving them little time to answer **Section B**. The majority of candidates answered three questions in **Section B** but a few attempted only one or two questions. Two candidates attempted all six questions. **Questions 2, 4, 5 and 6** were the most popular questions with candidates showing confidence in answering questions relating to garment construction. **Question 7** was the least popular question with candidates from only a small number of Centres attempting this question.

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 that the questions in **Section B** may be answered in any sequence so that they choose to answer first those questions in which they feel most confident.

Candidates should be asked 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. It is helpful if answer numbers are clearly written in the margin even if a response is not offered. This may also help candidates to avoid missing the last section of some questions.

## **Section A**

### **Question 1**

- (a) Generally well answered, with most candidates offering two words to describe the style features.
- (b) The fibre and weight were generally known for both fabrics but some candidates offered two suggestions for weight. e.g. light/medium. Structure, appearance and feel/handle were not well known.
- (c) Some good reasons given but many candidates gave answers which related to the fibre rather than the type of weave. Some candidates did not refer to the insert in answering **Section (c) (ii)**.
- (d) Generally well answered with the majority of candidates using the Insert for their responses.
- (e)
  - (i) Folds and selvedges were well answered although a few candidates indicated that the selvedges were on the cut ends of the fabric lay. A small number of candidates failed to attempt this question, possibly as a result of not reading the question book carefully.
  - (ii) Generally well answered though a number of candidates did not indicate the type of garment. i.e. for Piece 1 they answered simply "front".

- (iii) Some candidates appeared to find it difficult to explain their answers to this question. The answer is either, that two pieces are needed and the fabric is only a single layer, or, that piece no. 2 is shaded because that pattern piece needs to be placed face down on the single layer of fabric.
  - (iv) Generally well answered.
  - (v) Many candidates struggled with this question although some were able to explain clearly that special instructions were needed and that the fabric should be opened out after all other pieces have been cut so that a single layer can be cut. A number of candidates thought the \* meant that pattern piece 4 should be used to cut interfacing.
  - (vi) This question was not well answered. Many candidates did not notice that the question asked what they could **make** and answers mainly focused on using spare fabric for testing or stuffing pillows.
- (f) This question was generally well answered. A small number of candidates incorrectly suggested a fold line on the side of the trouser leg in their answer. Some candidates lost marks because they did not label the pattern markings.
  - (g) A very small number of candidates answered by explaining how to make a single tailor's tack with the majority describing a loose method of tacking the seam line. A small minority misread the question and explained how to transfer markings using carbon paper and a tracing wheel.
  - (h) This section was generally answered well. Almost all candidates used all the words and did not use words more than once or insert other words this year. However, candidates rarely went back and changed words when they reached the end and did not have the correct word left to use; this would indicate that they did not read through to check that what they had written made sense.
  - (i) Although there were some good responses many candidates referred to methods of neatening the edges of the fabric rather than fitting a waistband, facing or binding. A few candidates confused interfacing with a facing.

## **Section B**

### **Question 2**

This was the most popular question on the paper and was generally well answered.

- (a) Almost all candidates knew the origins of both fibres but a small number were confused about the origin of nylon. The word 'origin' was not understood by a significant number of candidates who answered with the names of countries for both fibres.
- (b) Few candidates were able to correctly identify more than three properties of wool. Some suggested properties of other fibres and many candidates suggested that wool is susceptible to attack by mildew while the opposite is true.
- (c) This question was well answered by the majority of candidates.
- (d) The majority of candidates understood that the blending of wool and nylon fibres improves the performance of the blended fibre but few candidates could give more than two examples.

### **Question 3**

This was one of the most popular questions but answers were generally vague and lacking detail for all sections.

- (a) There were some good answers to this section but few candidates gained full marks because points did not relate specifically to choosing clothes for young people. e.g. 'must be good quality'.
- (b) The garments were not always interesting but some candidates offered reasons for their design decisions and a small number suggested original and interesting ways of using striped fabrics.

- (c) (i) This part of the question was not understood by some candidates who explained how to make a hem and then bind it after it had been turned up. Few candidates suggested cutting the fabric for the binding on the cross grain.
- (ii) There were some very good answers to this section but many candidates did not attempt to answer it. Some candidates did not understand what a rouleau loop was and gave detailed instructions for making a loop from thread.

#### Question 4

Overall this question was well answered with candidates giving good answers to all sections.

- (a) A reasonably well answered question but many of the points offered by candidates were related to obvious details of quality such as being blunt or rusty. A number of candidates gave two points and then went on to give points about storage and safe use of cutting tools.
- (b) This question was very well answered with good, clear, labelled drawings illustrating how to make a dart.
- (c) (i) This was generally well answered but a small number of candidates confused the order in which to make a buttonhole by machine and suggested cutting a hole in the fabric before machining.
- (ii) A number of candidates did not attempt this part of the question. Of those who did some answered quite well and did clear drawings of the stages of making the casing. Some answers were vague and others suggested machining elastic to the skirt top or threading elastic through the waistband.

#### Question 5

Again the majority of candidates who answered this popular question gave clear answers showing that they were familiar with the techniques.

- (a) (i) The majority of answers were correct and well illustrated but a minority of candidates did not read the question properly and described how to sew the sleeve seam and attach the cuff.
- (ii) This section was well answered with clear labelled diagrams included.
- (iii) Again, some good answers but some candidates failed to give two different points.
- (b) (i) Generally well answered with most candidates suggesting at least two correct pieces of pressing equipment.
- (ii) Generally this part was not well answered. Candidates often described the equipment instead of explaining how to use it. For example, few candidates suggested setting the iron to the correct temperature.

#### Question 6

This question was generally well answered but a large number of candidates did not attempt **part (c)**. Few candidates gave enough detail to achieve full marks in **part (b)**.

- (a) There were some good answers that included clear diagrams, but some candidates did not read the question properly and described making and attaching a patch pocket.
- (b) (i) A reasonably well answered question.
- (ii) A good range of answers showing understanding of the use of notches.
- (iii) Most candidates understood that raw edges may fray if not neatened but few candidates gave any further explanation. Some candidates just repeated the question by saying that the edges should be neat.

- (iv) A few good answers were given but most candidates did not understand the question.
- (c) This part of the question was poorly answered with few candidates being able to suggest more than one correct symbol for a care label. Many candidates failed to answer this section.

**Question 7**

This was the least popular question with candidates from few Centres choosing to answer it.

- (a) The response to this question was disappointing. Many drawings were small and untidy and lacked detailed information about fabrics, colours and techniques for the appliqué.
- (b)
  - (i) Few candidates achieved maximum marks for this question with most candidates simply stating that the appliqué shape would be cut out.
  - (ii) Answers to this section were generally poor. Most candidates suggested zig-zag stitch and machining but did not give the further detail needed for maximum marks e.g. stitch settings, fastening off ends securely.
- (c)
  - (i) There were some good answers to this section but again most candidates did not give sufficient detail to gain all 3 marks.
  - (ii) The term 'detached' chain stitch was not understood by many candidates. Most candidates gave instructions for a continuous chain stitch.

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Paper 6050/02

Practical

## General comments

The 2008 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 quite 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 the shortened trousers but there were several who did not get very far.

## Comments on specific questions

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a shortened pair of trousers; this included inserting a side front pocket, a dart in the back and making and attaching a waistband. It was a straightforward test using processes which were familiar to the candidate. The majority understood the pattern and the instructions. Again, this year candidates tended to lose marks for inaccuracy. Many did not follow the instructions carefully when making and putting in the pocket and making up of the waistband. 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 fine and stiff on which it was difficult to work this test. In one or two Centres candidates had been given more than 46 cm of fabric, as they were able to cut out a longer length of trousers (they did not shorten the pattern as requested) – this often meant losing accuracy marks.

### 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. Several placed the unnotched edge of the waistband to the fold which, when made up, was too wide. However, several lost marks for badly cut edges around 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 tests.

### Side Front 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 well trimmed and clipped. On the wrong side there were some very good curved pockets, but not many were well trimmed and neatened. Several candidates made up the pocket with the seam on the inside of the pocket.

### The Dart

The dart was generally worked well and the majority pressed it towards the back of the trousers.

### Side seam

This was quite a simple process, but not always well done. Candidates must learn to use the correct seam allowance and to edge stitch an open seam on fine fabric. French seams were a little bulky where the pocket was set into the side seam. Some of the seams were trimmed and pressed towards the back and overlocked, but more care needs to be taken with the overlocking, as it often over-runs the original line of stitching on the seam line.

#### Inner leg seam

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

#### Waistband

The candidates who had cut the waistband on the fold found this process more difficult and consequently found the band too wide when finished. The rounded end of the waistband proved difficult for some candidates – there were few with a good shaped curve at the waistband front. The seam around the curve was poorly clipped and trimmed. The seam along the top edge and around the curve was not worked out well and pressed. Generally the interfacing was ironed on flat and did not cause any problems.

#### Attaching the waistband

Candidates did not always follow the instructions and turn the correct trouser front opening allowance to the wrong side or the centre back seam allowance to the wrong side before attaching the waistband. This caused problems in attaching the waistband. The waistband was not often well trimmed and seldom did the candidates trim the last turning of the waistband, but generally the hemming was good (some candidates lost marks by machine stitching the wrong side of the band).

#### Presentation

The presentation of the trousers was good, although candidates had not always sewn the labels on single fabric by hand - some were machine stitched and therefore lost marks and one or two were pinned on. Some candidates lost marks for writing on the right side of the fabric, leaving loose ends from machine stitching and/or tacking and some did not press their work carefully at the end – time should always be allowed for this.

# FASHION AND FABRICS

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Paper 6050/04

Paper 4

## General comments

Most work was well packaged with secure labelling and relevant paperwork filled out clearly, showing how marks had been awarded. Centres are to be reminded that no half marks should be awarded, only whole marks.

It is pleasing to see that many more candidates are presenting work which shows the use of overlocking for seam finishes and the use of IT for written work in the folders.

## **Folders**

These were usually well presented. Many candidates are using IT and this is to be commended. Sketches and descriptions of the item to be made have usually been detailed and reasons for choice clearly written. Some folders had a very brief 'order of work' while others had detailed ones. It is helpful to have the order of work written in detail as it helps the candidate to carry out processes in the correct sequence when making up the item. Details of fabrics, costs and notions/requirements were usually included although more detail could have been included in some folders, for example, fabric width, length and colour of zipper, size and number of buttons, etc. In some cases, trial pieces of textile processes were included after the order of work and although not required in the syllabus, they are helpful to candidates.

## **Garments**

The usual choice was one garment for a child and one garment for the candidate. A variety of fabrics were normally used which gave the candidate the opportunity to handle two different fabrics. This can therefore reinforce knowledge and understanding needed for the theory paper. Common choices were skirts, shorts, trousers, dresses, and blouses. A few candidates presented jackets, which showed a wide range of processes. In most cases the items were well-made, showing well finished seams, even stitching and well pressed darts and pleats. Decorative processes were often included on at least one garment, usually the item for a child and popular techniques included hand or machine embroidery, application of ribbons and lace, top-stitching and smocking. Some candidates could have improved the finish on the wrong side of the garments, so that stitching was secure, seams were even and hems were neatly stitched. Many items could have been pressed more carefully so as to improve presentation. Where pressing was done at regular intervals throughout the making of the garment, the overall finish was of a higher standard, and higher marks could be awarded.