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## FOREWORD

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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

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## GCE Ordinary Level

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

Candidates completed the Question Paper, generally answering all parts of **Section A** and attempting 3 questions in **Section B**. Where candidates lost marks there was a lack of detail in their answers or not answering the questions set, rather than not completing the Paper. Some candidates did not differentiate between fibres and fabrics and therefore lost marks where questions on these subjects were required.

### Comments on specific questions

#### **Section A**

#### **Question 1**

Some candidates did not read the insert carefully enough or use the information given in the insert as answers for a number of the questions, in particular parts **(a)**, **(e)**, and **(f)**.

- (a)** Precise locations are required, using the information on the insert, a common error was saying *h* was appliqué whereas the insert gives details of a number of trimmings for view **C**.
- (b)(i)** Structure and appearance were poorly answered. Details for cotton chambray were not well known by the majority of candidates.
  - (ii)(iii)** Where candidates distinguished between fabric and fibre, this question was well answered.
  - (iv)** Few candidates gave the correct answer of matching up the checks of cotton gingham by using the notches in the side seams.
- (c)(i)** This was well answered.
  - (ii)** Candidates did not know the type of elastic required, although the other parts of this question were answered well.
- (d)** Few candidates drew and labelled six appropriate pattern markings.
- (e)(ii)** Few candidates gave the correct answer to part 4 as the tie.
- (f)(i)(ii)** Structure and appearance were poorly answered.
  - (ii)** This question was poorly answered by most candidates, with very few candidates giving the stitch length and width and stating the stitch type as zig zag. The Examiner considered most candidates guessed at this question and just gave any numbers as the answers.
  - (iii)** Most candidates did not answer this question correctly and merely copied the diagram of view **C** as shown in the insert.
- (g)** Well answered by the majority of the candidates who gained high marks.

**Section B**

**Question 2**

- (a) For this question candidates did not state how nylon was made and what it was made from, instead they wrote where the name came from or that it could be made in the chemistry lab.
- (b) This was well answered.
- (c) Poorly answered due to candidates not giving precise information, for example some candidates said that nylon should be washed. This was not enough information to gain a mark.
- (d) Where candidates attempted this question they were successful in gaining good marks.

**Question 3**

Too few responses to make general comments.

**Question 4**

A very popular question where candidates gained high marks. Where candidates lost marks this was due to them not giving the *specific* use of *small equipment*, for example it was not sufficient to say scissors are used to cut fabric. A better answer to gain marks would have been “cutting out shears to cut out dressmaking fabric”.

Similarly the question asked for small pieces of equipment. An ironing board, thread and a sewing machine are not small equipment and therefore marks could not be given.

**Question 5**

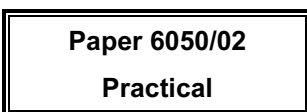
- (a) This question was answered very well by those candidates who attempted it.
- (b) Some candidates did not know the meaning of blend and instead confused fabrics with weave.

**Question 6**

Too few responses to make general comments.

**Question 7**

This question was answered very well by the few candidates who attempted it, although the Examiner wondered whether all candidates turned over the last page and saw this question on the back page.



**General comments**

The overall performance of candidates this year was not as good as in previous years.

The candidates were required to cut out and make up the right half of a boy's shirt, this included making up and attaching a collar using a facing, putting in a short sleeve and turning up the sleeve hem. The test was straightforward and included processes which were familiar to the candidates. The majority understood the Question Paper and the pattern. Once again this year it was apparent that candidates did not read the instructions carefully before making up the shirt, as the step by step details for attaching the sleeve were not followed. The instructions stated the sleeve should be attached to the armhole *before* working the entire underarm and sleeve seam. The candidates who did not do this did not achieve a good finish and inevitably lost marks. Candidates must read and follow the test instructions more carefully.

### **Choice of fabric**

Generally most satisfactory as was the iron-on interfacing.

### **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 some candidates did not place both sides of the collar accurately on the straight grain. The majority of candidates made up the right half of the shirt, a few the left side and there were one or two muddled scripts where it was evident that the candidates did not understand the instructions.

### **Pattern marking**

The use of a tracing wheel to mark balance marks often spoils the appearance of the work and candidates then lose marks for clean presentation.

### **Shoulder seam**

The shoulder seam was of varying length as candidates were not accurate in taking up the correct seam allowance setting on the collar and attaching the sleeve. Very few neaten this seam.

### **Facing**

Very few candidates neaten the free edge of the facing and did not tack it in place along the fold line.

### **Collar**

There were very few accurately sized collars and most were of poor shape. Unfortunately little care had been taken to ensure the point was pulled out, the stitching on the edge and the seam well trimmed. There were a number of shirts with upside down collars. Candidates must look at the markings on the pattern pieces more carefully in order to obtain more accurate results.

### **Attaching the collar**

Very few candidates used the facing correctly to attach the collar, the majority did not place the front edge of the collar to the centre front of the shirt, generally it was placed to the fold line - hence no extension. The centre back of the collar was not often in line with the centre back of the shirt. The stitching line of the collar on the right side was poor often uneven with puckers. Very few candidates trimmed this seam and did not hem the wrong side of the collar to the line of stitching. Many marks were lost in this process.

### **Attaching the sleeve**

As candidates did not follow the instructions for this process, they lost marks through not matching notches and stitching and inaccurate stitching on the seam line. Many trimmed the seam when they were instructed not to do so.

### **Underarm and sleeve seam**

Only one or two candidates worked this seam as one, and none strengthened the seam at the underarm - again very few neaten the seam, so marks were lost.

### **Sleeve hem**

Where the hem was worked only a few turned up 3.2cm hem as instructed and generally the hems were badly tacked and uneven in width. The tacking was poor.

### **Presentation**

Unfortunately not many gained full marks as they did not securely attach the label to single fabric (one Centre stuck their labels to the outside of their envelopes). Some of the tests had not had unnecessary tackings removed, had tracing wheel markings showing and machine ends not fastened off. Most had pressed their work and folded it before placing it in the envelope.