

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
SEC**

**TEXTILES & DESIGN
May 2012**

EXAMINERS' REPORT

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

SEC EXAMINERS' REPORT MAY 2012

Sec Textiles & Design May 2012 Session Examiners' Report

Part 1: Statistical Information

Twenty-seven candidates registered for Textiles and Design. Table 1 shows the number of candidates registering for the subject during these past seven years.

Table 1: Number of candidates registering for Textiles and Design from 2006-2011

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of candidates	34	30	25	29	25	27	27

Table 2 shows the distribution of grades for the May 2012 session of the examination.

Table 2: Distribution of grades

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	Abs	Total
Paper A	1	3	3	2	1	-	-	2	1	13
Paper B	-	-	-	5	3	2	1	1	2	14
Total	1	3	3	7	4	2	1	3	3	27
% of Total	3.7	11.1	11.1	25.9	14.8	7.4	3.7	11.1	11.1	100

Part 2: Comments on the candidates' answers

2.1 General comments

The examination consisted of two parts:

- Part 1: Written papers consisting of Paper I (Garment making) and Paper IIA/ Paper IIB.
- Part 2: Coursework consisting of prepared practical work (one simple garment and an item from the chosen option), investigation, portfolio and a practical assignment. **The written papers' minimum mark required is 45% of 60%, that is 27**, as Paper I and Paper IIA/Paper IIB each carry 30% of the total mark of the examination. **The coursework minimum mark required is 45%, which is 18.**

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2.2 Comments on the candidates' answers in Paper I, IIA and IIB

2.3 Candidates' answers in Paper I

Candidates were required to answer all five questions.

Question 1: This question was related to two variations of a woman's loose-fitting jacket.

Very few obtained high marks and the average mark scored was 18/40. The highest total mark obtained was 33/40 and the lowest total mark was 3/40. Most candidates did well in several parts of the question. However wrong answers were provided by many for parts b (ii), d (ii) and g (i) and vii).

Question 2: This question was about altering the pattern of the loose-fitting jacket, setting-in the sleeve and making the appliqué on the front.

The average mark obtained for this question was 6.5/13.5. The highest total mark was 11.5/13.5. Two candidates sitting for Paper B failed to obtain any marks for this question. Some candidates gave incorrect answers to parts a (i) and c (iii) of the question. Attaching the *bondaweb* seemed difficult for a number of the candidates.

Question 3: This question dealt with trousers.

Few candidates obtained very high marks for this question but most gave correct answers. The average mark scored was 6/12.5. The highest total mark was 10.5/12.5 and the lowest was 3/12.5. Parts (c) and (d) were answered incorrectly by most candidates.

Question 4: Pleats were the main theme of this question.

A very low average mark of 6/15 was obtained by the candidates. The highest total mark was 9.5/15 and the lowest was 2/15. Most marks were lost for the first two parts of the question where the candidates had to name and describe the different pleats. Some candidates answered part (c) incorrectly as they failed to provide a correct diagram of a topstitched pleat.

Question 5: This question was related to school uniforms.

The performance of the candidates in this question was good with an average of 11/19. The highest total mark was 16.5/19 and the lowest was 4/19. Parts (ii) and (iv) of the question were incorrectly answered by the majority. Some failed to name the collar used on the shirt and others did not know the reason for ironing the facing on the wrong side of the undercollar piece.

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2.4 Candidates' answers in Paper IIA and Paper IIB.

In this Paper candidates had to answer all questions both in section A and section B.

Table 3 shows the average mark obtained by the candidates in the various sections of the examination paper.

Table 3: Average marks obtained by candidates in Paper IIA/IIB.

	Section A	Section B
Paper A	21.5/40	44.3/60
Paper B	21.04/40	43.4/60

Section A

This section included questions related to the natural fibres, fleece fabrics, fabric finishes and the choice of style of clothing. Most candidates failed to gain a lot of marks in this section as is shown in Table 3. Difficulties were encountered in various parts of the questions by candidates opting for Paper IIA, particularly in 1b (iii), 2a, 3b and 3f. In question 1b (iii), the majority of the candidates did not know the reason why the polo shirt needs to be thoroughly dried before storing. The majority found question 2a fairly difficult. Only one candidate knew that polyester is used to make fleece fabric. In question 3b, only about half the candidates knew that brushed cotton is highly flammable if it is untreated. Very few candidates gave a detailed definition of mercerizing for question 3f. The candidates who opted for Paper IIB found questions 1a - b/c, d (v), 2a-b and 3d quite challenging. In question 1a, the majority failed to match the structure to the name of the natural fibres. In part 1b, very few candidates knew why a knitted fabric construction method is used to make the polo shirts and in part 1d (v), more than half of the candidates knew the name of the insect which feeds on wool. In question 2, part b-c, very few candidates knew that polyester fibres are used to make fleece and almost none knew the property obtained from brushing polyester fibres to make fleece. In part 3d, only one candidate knew that brushed cotton is highly flammable if left untreated.

Section B

Candidates obtained more marks in Section B than in Section A. The highest total mark achieved by the candidates opting for Paper IIA and IIB were 55.5/60 and 51.5/60 respectively. The lowest total mark for this section was 31/60 by a candidate opting for Paper IIB. This section included questions related to the sewing machine, the choice of clothing for specific

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occasions and creative work. Candidates opting for Paper IIA and paper IIB did very well in questions 6 and 7 respectively. Candidates scored an average of 17.3/20 in question 6 while an average of 14.8/20 was obtained by candidates in question 7. Difficulties were encountered by all the candidates of Paper IIA and Paper IIB in question 5b (i) and (ii) when they were required to match or name the different parts of the sewing machine and to solve the problems encountered while sewing. In question 6, the majority of the candidates failed to label the outfit sketched on the templates to show the different style features. A good number almost gained full marks for the various parts of this question. The various parts of question 7 were answered well by the majority. Very few candidates opting for Paper IIB labelled the decorations on the sketch of the clutch bag in part a (ii). In part b (ii), most candidates of Paper IIA failed to describe well how to test the fabric for colour fastness. Some confused it with the flame resistance test.

Part 3: Coursework

The moderation of coursework was conducted in three schools in Malta. The creative component reached an excellent standard. Most investigations were of a high standard, and included all the details required by the SEC syllabus. The level of the practical work was good and only in some occasions rather poor. Some of the garments were presented unfinished. Every effort should be made to enable candidates to finish the garment in time. It is important to note that a detailed breakdown of marks should be presented together with the work for moderation. Some problems were encountered when incorrect computation was done by the teacher and in this instance the moderator had to mark the coursework component for all the candidates in the school.

There were six private candidates who registered for the Textiles and Design SEC exam. The coursework presented by these candidates was good.

**Chairperson
Board of Examiners
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