

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
SEC**

TEXTILES & DESIGN

May 2014

EXAMINERS' REPORT

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

SEC EXAMINERS' REPORT MAY 2014

Sec Textiles & Design May 2014 Session Examiners' Report

Part 1: Statistical Information

The table below shows the distribution of grades for the May 2014 session of the examination.

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	3	3	4	4	4			9	0	27
PAPER B				0	3	7	2	2	4	18
TOTAL	3	3	4	4	7	7	2	11	4	45
% OF TOTAL	6.67	6.67	8.89	8.89	15.56	15.56	4.44	24.44	8.89	100

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.

Part 2: Comments on the candidates' answers in Paper I, IIA and IIB

Candidates' answers in Paper I

Candidates were required to answer all questions.

Question 1:

Part 1 (1 a to f): This part was about Pattern and layout. Candidates found this question very difficult to tackle, especially the part where they had to draw pattern pieces and layout. It might have been better if they were given the pattern pieces and asked to draw the layout. Candidates find it difficult to visualize pattern pieces of a complex dress with so many pieces, as their experience at school is not vast in this area. The pocket was especially challenging as they are usually familiar with a simple square or round patch pocket, and a gathered pocket could not be visualized as a shape. In fact only one candidate came close to drawing this pattern piece as it should be. Highest mark was 12.5 and lowest 0.5.

Part 2 (1 g to i): This part was about pattern markings. Not many candidates could identify notches (g) but many answered (i) correctly, naming different methods of transferring markings. Highest mark was 5.5 and lowest 0.

Part 3 (1 j): Questions in this part were about making up the sleeve. Candidates did not perform well in this question; especially the part regarding working the pleat (iii) and giving pleats a more lasting edge on worsted wool (iv). Most candidates could tackle the rest of the question even though they did not score high marks. Highest mark was 15.5 and lowest 0.

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Part 4 (1 k): This part was about gathering and shaping the pocket. Fifteen candidates did not get any marks for this question. The pocket was challenging as it was not a normal pocket but the top part was gathered into a band. Highest mark was 7.5 and lowest 0.

Part 5 (1 l): Questions in this part were about hems. Most candidates did not know exactly what a false hem was and how and where it is used. Highest mark was 3.5 and lowest 0.

Part 6 (1 m): Last part of question 1 dealt with pressing. This question was relatively easy for some candidates while some others did not understand it at all, with some leaving it out completely. Highest mark was 6 and lowest 0.

Question 2

Part 1 (2 a): This part of the question was about fashion features of the tunic. Most candidates replied to this question positively and could describe the features of the tunic. Highest mark was 2 and lowest 0.

Part 2 (2 b): Second part of the question was about pattern alteration. The candidates found this question difficult and some candidates had no idea how to explain the alterations using diagrams. Highest mark was 4.5 and lowest 0.

Part 3 (2 c): This question was about embellishing the tunic. The performance of the candidates in this question was very good with above average marks. Some candidates did not know the use of an embroidery hoop. Many candidates failed to name the needle used for embroidery. Highest mark was 6 and lowest mark 0.5.

Part 4 (2 d): This question was about openings. Only one student got full marks. Some candidates did not know what an opening was. It was very difficult for candidates to name two other openings. Highest mark was 9 and lowest 0.

Part 5 (2 e): This question was about collars. Most of the candidates did well in this question; however some of the pictures were difficult for them to identify with the process. Some candidates did not know the proper reason for the use of interfacing. Highest mark was 7 and lowest 0.

Paper 2

Candidates' answers in Paper IIA and Paper IIB.

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

Section A

This section included questions related to fibres focusing on natural fibres such as wool, yarns, fibre blends, care label symbols and fibre testing. Difficulties were encountered in various parts of the questions by candidates opting for Paper IIA, particularly in 1b(ii), 1d, 2a(i), 2b(iii), 2g(ii) and (iii). In question 1b(ii), most of the candidates named cotton as an example of filament fibre, while in question 1d various candidates answered incorrectly the two ways how yarns can be twisted. The majority found question 2 fairly difficult. In fact, only five candidates managed to achieve more than 20 marks. In question 2a(i) few candidates knew that the crimp in wool gives its natural elasticity. In question 2g(iii), only three candidates knew one example of a trade name of the crease resistant finish. Very few candidates knew how to wash a fabric with crease resistant finish, as asked in question 2g(iii).

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The candidates who opted for Paper IIB found questions 1d, 1e, 2d, 2g(iii) quite challenging. As in Paper IIA, in question 1d, the majority of the candidates named cotton as one example of filament fibre. Besides, nearly all the candidates failed to name the two ways how yarns can be twisted. In question 2d, candidates also found difficulty in naming and describing accurately the wool symbol. Yet, nearly all managed to identify the diagrams of the four natural fibres as seen under the microscope. Almost all candidates failed to answer question 2g(ii) when giving the trade name of the crease resistant finish.

Section B

In this section candidates were asked about the types of weaves and knitting, laundry products, fashion and colouring fabrics. Difficulties were encountered by all the candidates of Paper IIA and Paper IIB in question 3 where various candidates managed to give the name of the weaves but found it difficult to give an example of each. Most of the candidates did not know the two types of knitting. In question 4b, the majority of the candidates failed to name or match the different types of detergents with their characteristics. Question 5 was fashion related and some of them did not know all the fashion terms and found it challenging to name one local fashion designer. In question 5e(i) few candidates managed to recognise the type of body figure, yet the majority managed to draw a suitable outfit. In question 6, a good number almost gained full marks for the various parts of this question. Nearly all candidates managed to draw one item and label the decorations and embellishments used.

Coursework

The moderation of coursework was conducted in five schools in Malta which were all state schools. The creative piece of work presented by these schools was quite good in general. However, certain schools lacked originality since various designs were copied from printed pictures. Candidates have to use the selected picture as their main idea but then they need to develop their own creative piece of work by adding other ideas. The investigations and portfolios were of good quality and had all the sections and samples requested by the SEC syllabus.

There were no private candidates who registered for the Textiles and Design SEC examination.

Chairperson

2014 Examination Panel