

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
SEC

TEXTILES AND DESIGN

May 2007

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SEC Textiles and Design
May 2007 Session
Examiners' Report**

Part 1: Statistical Information

Only 30 candidates applied for Textiles and Design in 2007. There was an overall decrease in the number of candidates who applied for Textiles and Design, of whom 1 was absent. The number of candidates opting for Paper IIB was 7, much less than last year. This could indicate that candidates are taking the challenge and choosing Paper IIA instead of the other paper.

Table 1 shows the distribution of grades for the May 2007 session of the examination.

Table 1: Distribution of grades.

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	Abs	Total
Paper A	2	3	8	3	3	-	-	3	1	23
Paper B	-	-	-	1	3	0	2	1	0	7
Total	2	3	8	4	6	0	2	4	1	30
% of Total	6.7	10	26.7	13.3	20	0	6.7	13.3	3.3	100

Part 2: Comments regarding candidates' performance**2.1 General Comments**

The examination consisted of two parts:

- Part 1: Written papers consisting of Paper I 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.

It should be noted that the written papers' minimum mark required to qualify for grades 5 or better was 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 was 45%, that is 18.

A few candidates resorted to Maltese when answering questions. Some were unable to write a reason when this was required. It is essential for candidates to use proper English language syntax. When describing processes, candidates did better than previous years but there is still room for improvement. Very often candidates fail to read the question well and leave out certain detail, such as label or use diagrams.

The candidates' overall performance in 'Textiles and Fashion' was lower than expected, especially in parts related to the interpretation of symbols and knowledge of the nature and property of fibres. However, candidates did well in parts related to 'Consumer Awareness'.

2.2 Comments regarding Paper I

Candidates were required to answer all six questions. Most candidates attempted all questions.

Question 1: This structured question was related to a safari style jacket.

- Q a i and ii: These questions were answered well.
- Q b i: Few candidates knew the function of a yoke.
- Q b ii and iii: Most candidates named two pattern markings. However, only a few gave a correct reason why there was no straight grain line on the pattern of the yoke.
- Q b iv: Answered well by most candidates.
- Q b v and vi: Only few candidates gave a correct reason why a fairly large stitch (size 3 or 4) is needed for top-stitching. Most knew that parallel top-stitching could be achieved by using the multi-purpose presser foot or the throat plate.
- Q c i and ii: Both questions were answered well by the majority.

Question 2: This question was about a pencil skirt with a pleat at the back.

- Q a: Answered well by the majority.
- Q b and c: Most candidates gave correct answers to these questions.
- Q d and e: Answered correctly by the majority of the candidates.
- Q f: Very few candidates knew the answer to this part of the question. Some stated that the reason for ironing along the grain of fabric was to keep the pleats pressed, which is incorrect.
- Q g: Most candidates knew the reasons for using a pressing cloth when ironing the skirt.
- Q h: Nearly half of the candidates answered well this question. The candidates had to work out by how much each pattern piece needs to be enlarged, that is, 1.5cm ($6\text{cm} \div 4$).
- Q i: The majority knew how to enlarge the back pattern piece of the skirt. Sometimes sketches were unrecognisable. Clear sketching is recommended so that candidates can get a fair mark.
- Q j: Most candidates knew the name of the two types of hand stitches shown in the diagrams, but lost marks for failing to mention 'blind' in both cases. Both stitches could be used on the hem of the skirt but a valid reason such as 'more skilful in sewing it' or 'neater' were expected as answers. When asked for the reason why hems of frills and circular skirts are worked by machine, very few answered that it will save time and are often neater. Few candidates knew the meaning of a false hem.
- Q k and l: Both questions were answered correctly by most candidates.

- Q m and n: Most knew the benefits of drawing the foldline but some candidates gave only one tip for achieving a neat finish when applying iron-on interfacing.
- Q o: Some candidates, especially the candidates who sat for Paper B, had problems when explaining how to sew the waistband to the skirt. Although the diagrams were there to guide the candidates, these were sometimes ignored.
- Q p: This question was answered correctly by most candidates. However, some failed to give a correct disadvantage of lining the skirt.

Question 3: This question was about buttons and buttonholes.

- Q a: Most candidates knew the functions of attaching a button over a flap of a patch pocket and onto a waistband.
- Q b: The majority answered this question well. Various correct reasons were given for attaching the various types of buttons.
- Q c: Answered correctly by most candidates.
- Q d: Nearly all candidates drew a correct pattern marking for a horizontal buttonhole.
- Q e and f: All candidates answered correctly part (e). The majority of candidates named the correct attachment to be used when working a buttonhole.
- Q g: Some candidates failed to answer this question correctly.
- Q h: There were few candidates who were not familiar with the term 'bar tacks'. This resulted in incorrect answers.

Question 4: This question was related to darts.

- Q a and b: Answered correctly by most candidates.
- Q c: Some candidates failed to identify the difference between a contour dart and a single-pointed dart. Most were unfamiliar with the term 'contour dart'.
- Q d: The candidates who answered part (c) incorrectly were also unable to answer this part of the question.
- Q e: Candidates explained well the working of the dart. It seems that the given diagrams provided a good guide.

Question 5: This question was related to Peter Pan collar or Flat collar.

- Q a and b: Answered correctly by nearly all candidates.
- Q c: Only a couple of candidates were able to put the diagrams in the correct sequence. The rest mixed up the sequence completely.
- Q d: Most candidates knew the name for the type of fastening shown in the diagram.
- Q e and f: Some candidates were unfamiliar with the type of stitches shown in the given diagram and therefore were unable to state their function. Part (f) was answered correctly by the majority of the candidates.

Question 6: Renovating a fabric handbag using decorative stitches.

Q a and b: Most candidates got part (a) correct. In part (b), some candidates used the word 'imsella' too often.

Q c: Answered well by most candidates.

Q d: Some candidates mixed up the stitches, while others did very well.

2.3 Comments regarding Paper 2A

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

Question 1: This question was related to fabric construction and properties.

Q a: Most candidates identified the correct method of fabric construction but some failed to give a correct property and fabric.

Q b: Almost all candidates answered this part correctly.

Question 2: This question was about cotton and polyester blends.

Most candidates gave a correct advantage of having overalls made from cotton and polyester. However, the majority failed to give a valid disadvantage.

Question 3: This question was about silk.

Q a: Most candidates answered this question correctly.

Q b: Very few candidates named the correct type of silk, with the result of obtaining the rest of the question wrong.

Q c: Most candidates gave good properties of silk.

Q d: Nearly all candidates answered this question correctly.

Q e: Very few candidates obtained full marks for this question. Some described only how to wash without mentioning the way how to dry the scarf made from 100% silk.

Question 4: This question was about cotton and wool.

Q a: Few candidates knew the meaning of 'cotton-rich'. Candidates should be aware of new labelling on clothes.

Q b: Some candidates misinterpreted the symbols of 'pure new wool' and 'wool rich blend'. Those candidates who answered correctly gave also a good explanation of each symbol.

Question 5: This question was related to the identification of fibres.

Q a and b: None of the candidates answered both parts of the question correctly. Very few described the proper way of identifying wool.

Question 6: This question was about fabric finishes.

- Q a and b: Most candidates gave correct answers to these questions. Some candidates lost marks for failing to name a suitable commercial treatment according to the required finish.
- Q c: The majority of the candidates interpreted well the given symbols.
- Q d and e: Most candidates gave correct answers.

Question 7: This question was related to different sewing tools, the sewing machine and overlock machine.

- Q a: While most candidates knew the use of a double-ended pen, none knew the use of a bodkin.
- Q b i - v: Most candidates gave correct reasons for the choice of the advertised sewing machine. Some candidates gave incorrect answers to the part of the question related to the blindstitch foot. Candidates should use attachments available with most sewing machines so as to gain hands-on experience. The other parts of the questions were answered correctly by most candidates.
- Q b vi: Some candidates lost marks for giving similar answers.
- Q b vii: Some candidates confused the 'use' with 'example'. Candidates need to be trained to define a 'use', e.g. to prevent..., to decorate.... When giving an 'example', candidates need to specify the place or part of a garment or whatever the situation is.
- Q b viii: Some candidates repeated the given statement. Few candidates mentioned that an overlock machine increases efficiency and speed, and combines the separate process of machining a seam, neatening and trimming all into one.
- Q b ix: Most candidates gave correct answers indicating that they are aware how to operate an overlock machine.

Question 8: This question was related to the reuse of textiles and the recycling of garments.

- Q a: Many candidates confused 'dispose' with 'recycling'.
- Q b: Good options were given by most candidates.
- Q c: Some candidates' answers lacked detail but most suggested good alterations. Some sketches were rather poor and candidates would have gained more marks if the sketches were labelled.
- Q d: Some good examples and ideas were given by the candidates.

Question 9: This question was related to fashion, consumer awareness and clothing for people with special needs.

- Q a: Most candidates gave good reasons why bespoke clothing is popular.
- Q b, c and d: The majority answered these questions correctly.
- Q e and f: Most candidates gave correct answers to these questions.
- Q g: Only few candidates were not aware of the factors that must be considered when planning clothes for a wheelchair user.
- Q h and i: Most candidates answered these questions correctly.

2.4 Comments regarding Paper IIB

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

Question 1: This question was related to fabric construction and properties.

Q a: Most candidates answered correctly this part of the question. Some mixed up the fabrics.

Q b: Almost all candidates answered this part properly.

Question 2: This question was about polyester.

The majority of the candidates failed to give a correct advantage of polyester.

Question 3: This question was about silk.

Q a: Almost all candidates answered 'spun silk', which was incorrect.

Q b: Answered well by most.

Q c: Some candidates mixed up the statement.

Q d and e: Half of the candidates sitting for this paper gave a wrong answer for these questions.

Q f: Mostly answered well.

Question 4: This question was about cotton, wool and leather.

Q a: Few candidates knew the meaning of 'cotton-rich'. Candidates should be aware of new labelling on clothes.

Q b: Some candidates misinterpreted the symbols of 'pure new wool' and 'wool rich blend'. Only two candidates recognized the real leather symbol.

Question 5: This question was related to the identification of fibres.

Q a: Very few candidates answered this question correctly.

Q b: Answered correctly by most candidates.

Question 6: This question was about fabric finishes.

Q a: Most candidates gave correct answers to these questions.

Q b: Some candidates left out or answered incorrectly the second symbol which referred to dry cleaning using any solvent.

Q c and d: Only one candidate answered these questions well.

Question 7: This question was related to sewing tools, the sewing machine and overlock machine.

Q a: While most candidates knew the use of a dressmaker's pencil, only one candidate knew the use of a bodkin.

Q b i - v: Most answered correctly. Those who answered incorrectly seem not to have understood the question well. Some candidates gave incorrect answers to the part of the question related to the blindstitch foot. The other parts of the questions were answered well by most candidates.

Q b vi - ix: Answered well by most students.

Question 8: This question was related to the reuse of textiles and the recycling of garments.

Q a and b: Good options were given by most candidates.

Q c: Some candidates' answers lacked detail but most suggested good alterations. Some sketches were rather poor. Some diagrams were not labelled.

Q d: Some good examples and ideas were given by the candidates.

Question 9: This question was related to fashion, consumer awareness and clothing for people with special needs.

Q a: Most candidates gave good reasons why bespoke clothing is popular.

Q b and c: Only a few confused fashion centres with famous shops.

Q d: The majority answered this question incorrectly.

Q e, f and g: Most candidates gave correct answers to these questions.

Q h: Some candidates were not sure of the reasons why fabrics and clothes bought from open markets are cheaper than those bought from shops.

Q i - k: Most candidates answered these questions correctly.

Part 3: Coursework

The moderation of coursework was conducted in three schools. The work presented by two schools was of a very high standard, especially the creative component. Different ideas were presented, very often involving 3D effect. Various techniques were used, such as appliqué, embroidery, batik and painting. Some investigations lacked detail, such as the research about the topic being investigated. The level of the practical work was good. For various reasons beyond the teachers' control, some candidates tend to leave some parts of their work unfinished. Teachers are to present a detailed breakdown of marks so that the moderation process can be conducted in a proper manner.

Chairperson
Board of Examiners
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