

FASHION AND TEXTILES

Paper 6130/01
Written

Key messages

It is important for candidates to answer the correct number of questions. This information is stated in the instructions on the front cover of the question paper. There were a high number of responses which did not answer all the questions required.

Having an understanding of basic textiles vocabulary is essential.

General comments

Answers were legible, neat and tidy. The questions about school shirts and internet shopping were both answered well, indicating that both these topics were familiar to candidates.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Many candidates did not attempt to answer some parts of **Question 1**.

- (a) (i) Most responses described the feel/handle of seersucker, but few could describe its appearance.
- (ii) Most candidates knew that seersucker is woven, though some did not gain a mark because they gave an incorrect weave (e.g. twill weave).
- (iii) Lightweight and drapes well were the most popular responses to this question.
- (iv) This question was answered well.
- (v) This question was answered well.
- (b) (i) Lace was the most common correct answer. A significant number of answers did not appear to understand the meaning of the term 'trimming' and offered zig zag as a response.
- (ii) Many responses were vague, giving responses such as 'the sides'. The waist was an incorrect answer as it is a gathered waist which would not take a trimming.
- (c) A small number of answers correctly identified that the only pocket which would not change the appearance of the skirt was an inseam pocket. An 'invisible' pocket is not a textiles term.
- (d) (i) This question was well-answered with candidates showing a good understanding of the advantages of using an elasticated waist finish.
- (ii) Correct answers explained how to pull a length of elastic through a casing using a needle or pin. Many answers did not appear to understand what a casing is and gave responses that attempted to explain how to add elastic during construction of a waistband.

- (iii) Most candidates who answered correctly gained one mark for stitching the hole in the casing. Many incorrect answers explained how to construct a waistband.
- (e) This question was answered correctly by most candidates. A small number of candidates suggested using a sewing machine.
- (f) Many answers stated methods of recycling waste instead of suggesting the steps a manufacturer can take to reduce waste. The most popular correct answers were to lay out the pattern economically and to order the correct amount of fabric needed.
- (g) Understanding of the term 'smart textiles' was limited.
- (h) A few candidates were able to explain what a seam allowance is. Most answers did not explain the meaning of the terms used in commercial patterns.
- (i) Most candidates gained 4 marks for this question, although many answers incorrectly suggested using acrylic paint.
- (j) Most answers suggested tie dye, but could not suggest a second method of dyeing.
- (k) Time saving was known by most candidates, with most getting a second mark for another advantage.

Section B

Question 2

This was not a popular question, and answers showed a lack of knowledge about the properties of synthetic fibres.

- (a) (i) Polyester or nylon were correctly given by some candidates.
 - (ii) The majority of answers to this question were incorrect.
 - (iii) Most answers to this question simply stated felt, which is too vague.
 - (iv) Few responses suggested fabric finishes appropriate for synthetic fibres.
 - (v) A small number of answers gained one mark for this question, suggesting either not biodegradable or not renewable.
- (b) The majority of answers simply listed performance characteristics of synthetic fibres. There was little discussion within the context of sportswear.
- (c) Most candidates gained one mark for 'stretchy'. Answers did not show any in depth knowledge of warp knitting.

Question 3

This was a popular question and appeared to contain items about topics with which candidates were familiar.

- (a) Most candidates were able to correctly identify an ironing board and a needle, so gained 2 marks.
- (b) Most answers were not about safety issues, but instead discussed using the correct temperature or using a pressing cloth etc. A lot of answers incorrectly suggested that an iron can be safely left on an ironing board if it is in an upright position. Some responses did not appear to know the meaning of the term 'pressing equipment.'
- (c) Most candidates were able to explain two methods of transferring pattern markings to fabrics. There was little or no evaluation of the two methods.

- (d) Candidates showed knowledge of different types of cutting equipment and their care.

Question 4

- (a) This question was answered very well, with most candidates correctly identifying four hand embroidery stitches.
- (b) Candidates found this question challenging, with few responses appearing to know what quilting is. Candidates gained one or two marks if they described appliqué.
- (c) This question was answered quite well. Although answers described two embellishment techniques, little evaluation was offered.
- (d) Most answers understood that printing is quicker and less costly, but did not discuss the advantages to the manufacturer.

Question 5

This was the most popular question.

- (a) (i) Almost every candidate got one mark for answering button correctly. Patch pocket was known by some candidates, but few answers were able to identify a set in/inset sleeve.
- (ii) Most candidates got two marks for absorbent and durable.
- (iii) Fewer than half of responses referred to the chest or bust measurement. A lot of answers suggested shoulder length.
- (b) This appeared to be a topic with which candidates are familiar. Responses were detailed.
- (c) This was also well-answered, with candidates appearing to know about this topic from personal experience.

Question 6

This question was popular and generally well-answered.

- (a) (i) Most responses were correct, with the majority of candidates gaining four marks.
- (ii) This question was answered well, with candidates showing a good understanding of hand stitches used in garment making.
- (b) Most candidates showed a good understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of different ways to neaten a seam. A number of responses mentioned trimming the seam allowance and some answers suggested French seams as a method of neatening a seam.
- (c) Answers tended to be disorganised and repetitive, but showed a basic understanding of the two methods with some justification of opinions.