

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI

EGCSE

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR

FASHION AND FABRICS

6904

YEAR

2020

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EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6904/01

Theory

General Comments

A total of 1 368 sat for this paper, showing an increase in the enrolments in 2020. Scripts were well presented and easy to read. Overall, several questions on this paper were answered well, but many responses sat on the lower mark band. Questions were answered in the appropriate spaces and most candidates answered all the questions that were required. However, many answers lacked detail in direct relation to the context of some questions. Careful reading of the questions and planning of answers would help the candidates structure their responses in a better and effective way. For candidates to get full marks in Section C, asking for a discussion, they needed to include reasons for points made and examples in order to get full marks. They should have been instructed to use the correct terminology when answering questions.

Section A

All candidates attempted Section A and produced a wide range of responses with most answering every question.

Question 1

- (a) Required candidates to demonstrate knowledge about the style features of a garment. Most candidates failed to get full marks in this question, they could not identify these style features: A, C and E. Some candidates used one word to describe the style features, yet the question stated that two or more words must be used. The expected responses were as follows: A- sleeveless armhole; B. Faced/slit opening; C-Single pointed dart/ bust dart; D-Side seam zipper/lapped zipper; E- Dress front.
- (b) This question was not answered well by most candidates. Most could state the structure of the fabric, but not the appearance and appropriate fabric finish.

The correct answers were:**(i) Cotton seersucker**

- Structure – plain weave
- Appearance – puckered parallel stripes in the warp direction
- Weight – light/ medium
- Fabric finish – mercerized/ crease resistant/flameproof/wash and wear

(ii) Polyester crepe

- Structure – plain weave
- Feel/handle – bumpy although soft
- Weight – light/medium
- Fabric finish – durable press/heat setting/ antistatic

- (c)** The majority of candidates were able to answer this question correctly. They were able to state the reasons why cotton seersucker is suitable; i.e. it is lightweight, hardwearing, and easy to launder.
- (d)** Some candidates suggested using a French seam for the dress, this was wrong because you cannot attach a zipper accurately on a French seam. The correct answer was to use a plain open seam, because it lies flat, easy to neaten using different methods and it is strong.
- (e)** Most candidates failed to give details when answering this question. They were expected to outline steps to follow when applying an iron-on interfacing to a cotton fabric. They did not state that you have to trim seam allowances to reduce bulk, place shiny/adhesive side on the wrong side of the fabric, press until fused. Wrong answers included: Do not iron the interfacing on to fabric or use a hot iron which responses did not earn them any credit.
- (f)** This question proved challenging for most candidates. Few candidates gained a mark for stating that a zipper footer should be attached. The machine stitch has to be set on a straight stitch. An additional point would be: Change machine needle position to the left or right.

- (g) Candidates showed a good understanding of the correct care symbols for a polyester crepe. A few candidates could not state the meaning of the care symbols.
- (h) Answers to this question were often vague, simply referring to the name of the marking with no detail on its importance.

The expected answers were:

Straight grain line – ensures that pattern piece is straight and the fabric is correctly cut on grain of the fabric

Notches – accurately match pattern pieces when making a garment

Fitting line – shows where the stitching is to be made.

- (i) This question was completely misunderstood, most candidates just listed points to consider when choosing fabric for children's clothes, yet the question wanted a discussion on choosing styles for childrens' clothes.

The correct answer expected was:

- The style should be simple - easy to put on and off
- The style should be semi fitting - for comfort/easy movement/allow for growth
- Embellishment should be firmly attached - to avoid accidents/ safety

- (j) This question was answered very well with most candidates gaining full marks. The fabric construction shown was knitting and the advantages of using this fabric are that it stretches, retain shape after wearing, comfortable, warm and does not crease or sheds creases easily.

Section B

Question 2

- (a) (i) This question was chosen by a majority of the candidates. However, knowledge on how to choose the sewing tools was generally weak. Few candidates gave enough details to gain more than 2 marks.

Expected answers were:

Pins should be long, sharp, thin rustproof or made from stainless steel. The tape measure should be made from fibreglass/does not stretch, have metal tips on both ends and marked on both sides.

- (b) This question was answered well with most candidates knowing the three methods of neatening a waistline: waistband, facing, casing and elastic/stretchy waistband.
- (c) Most candidates answered this question correctly. They understood what comparing meant. They stated that woollen fabrics were measured before and after laundering; yet cotton fabrics weren't. Use knead and squeeze for washing woollen and friction method for cotton fabrics. Dry woollen flat and hang cotton fabrics on washing line, etc.
- (d) There were very few good answers, most candidate could not explain why the underlined words were odd ones in the given set:

Expected answers were:

Fitting line - not used during the layout while all others are important during layout.

Crotch length - measurement used when making pants; yet the others are related to a shirt.

Button - does not have a buttonhole and is a fastener.

- (e) Most candidates did not give enough details to get more than 1 mark which was generally for saying "press". Most explained how to attach the sleeve, while the few who attempted to explain, did not state how the puff in the sleeve was achieved or could not present the steps sequentially. Few mentioned sewing and neatening the underarm seam and sewing the sleeve hem.

The expected procedure was:

With right sides together, pin, tack and machine stitch the underarm seam. Neaten and press seam flat. Sew two rows of gathering stitches/running stitch below and above the fitting line on the sleeve head between the notches. Pull gathering threads

to make gathers. Distribute gathers evenly between notches. Neaten lower edge of the sleeve with hem/cuff/casing. Press.

Question 3

- (a) Answered well by a majority of the candidates. Most could identify the warp, weft, type of weave and could give denim, gabardine and tweed as examples of fabrics made by this weave and got the maximum marks allocated to this question.
- (b) This question was fairly attempted by most candidates. They understood the difference between trimming and grading, tacking and tailor's tacking. The challenge was with clipping and notching. They answered in general terms i.e. cutting outward or inward curve without mention where the cutting should be done. **The correct answer was:** clipping is cutting slashes on the seam allowance close to the stitching line, while notching is cutting wedges/triangular shapes on the seam allowance to allow the fabric to lie flat.
- (c) There was little understanding of the functions of parts of the sewing machine. Most candidates knew that the feed dog pushes the fabric forward while sewing. Most did not know that the stop motion screw stops the movement of the needle when winding the bobbin. The slide plate covers the bobbin and bobbin case, not just the bobbin. Some candidates mistook the slide plate for the throat plate and lost marks.
- (d) This question proved challenging for candidates who generally did not give enough detail to gain full marks. Knowledge of the preparation of an unlined pocket was very weak. Most candidates explained the attaching of a pocket. Those candidates who gained half marks used few labelled sketches to explain the preparation of a patch pocket instead presenting complete sketches. **The correct response was:** neaten the top edge of the pocket facing by folding 0.5 cm to the wrong side, machine stitch. With right sides together, fold the top on the fold line, machine stitch from the top of the folded edge to where facing ends. Trim corners diagonally and turn to the wrong side. Sew easing stitches on curved edges of the pocket, pull stitches so that seam allowance can be folded on the wrong side. Trim and notch the seam allowance. Press.

Question 4

This question was the least popular.

- (a) (i) Most candidates could identify the dart, but did not state what type of dart it was. The correct answer was double pointed dart. Most could not identify the tucks in Fig. B.
- (ii) Most answered this question correctly. They identified all the positions where darts and tucks could be sewn/used.
- (b) This question was not well answered, most candidates gave vague answers like the size of the stain and colour of the fabric as points to consider when removing stains which were incorrect. The **correct answer** was: Remove stain as soon as possible, consider the type of stain, try simple methods first, consider the type of fabric, etc.
- (c) There were some excellent answers to this question with some candidates demonstrating a good understanding of advantages of blending synthetic fibres with cotton.

The expected responses included: reducing costs, improve serviceability of fabric, makes the fabric more durable, gives fabric desirable properties, etc.

- (d) This question sought for an explanation of characteristics of a good hem.
- (i) Most candidates found this question inaccessible. They could not explain, but listed the characteristics of a good hem. The right answer was: a good hem should not pucker-so that it lies flat; have an even width-so that garment hangs evenly and gracefully; hem should be suitable for style - the wider the flare the narrower the hem; should be inconspicuous - unless decorative.
- (ii) Several candidates answered this question incorrectly. It required them to explain how to make a curved (flared) hem on a skirt made of polyester. There was no mention of neatening the raw edge and sewing easing stitches on the hem. No diagrams were used to clarify the explanation. The correct answer was: neaten the raw edge of the hem, sew easing stitches on the edge, fold hem on hemline and press, ease in the hem, pin, and tack into position then

remove pins. Tack, draw easing threads where fullness is evident - small gathers will be formed. Secure hem using slip hemming stitches. Remove tacking and press.

Section C

Question 5

Guidelines for selecting readymade clothes

This question was challenging for most of the candidates who chose it. The answers were vague and lacked details. Most candidates could only mention two or three points namely size, colour and price. Reasons were not adequately explained and no examples were given. There was generally a poor understanding of the topic.

The following points were expected in the answer:

Quality - this is evident in the external appearance of a garment and the details that are not seen from outside such as interfacing, lining and construction techniques. These affect how the garment looks and retains shape and how it will wear.

- (a) **Quality of fabric** – is made from fibres with particular characteristics e.g. absorbent, resilient, light or heavy, fibre content, etc.
- (b) **Finishes applied** – for specific purposes e.g. wash and wear
- (c) **Figure type** – suitability
- (d) **Colour of the garment** - suitability to the complexion, mix and match with garments in the wardrobe
- (e) **Price** – affordability
- (f) **Occasion** – appropriate
- (g) **Care of garment** – easy and cheap to care for
- (h) **Construction details** – seams, darts, sleeves, hems, collars, fasteners, decorations, etc. are they well sewn and secured. Thread the same colour. Fit well with room for movement.
 - (i) **Seams** - have a good width/seam allowance (SA): to withstand stress of wear /pulling/fraying no puckering - which might be a result of poor sewing technique and pressing will not correct - it should be pressed open unless design detail indicates otherwise knits may have small SA.

- (ii) **Hems** - invisible from right side of garment-width depends upon fabric and style.
- (iii) **Sleeves** - set in smoothly without sign of gathers unless puffed-comfortable ease - will not pull across upper arm-armhole large enough so arms can move.
- (iv) **Collars** - place so both sides are symmetrical unless indicated otherwise by design-under collar not visible from right side- collar should have well defined edges and good shape.
- (v) **Designs** - such as stripe, plaids, check or distinctive motifs must be cut and sewn together so that design is not distorted especially in the Centre Back, Centre Front, side seams.
- (vi) **Bias cut** - should be made to chevron or match where they join
- (vii) **Plaids** - must match horizontally or vertically in order not to break the continuity of design.
- (viii) **Motifs** - e.g. flowers intended to be whole must not be quartered or halved
 Pattern should flow in one direction.
 - Fabric il.e. Velveteen, corduroy grain should run in same direction for all pattern pieces to prevent change in colour.
 - Stitch length - should be appropriate to fabric used.
- (ix) **Thread** - colour should match fabric unless decorative
- (x) **Fit** - overall fit should leave adequate room for movement
- (xi) **Fasteners and openings** - should be properly placed and securely attached, buttonholes properly placed and correct size to accommodate buttons. Machine made buttonholes should have closed stitches and thread secured to prevent ravelling
- (xii) **Decorations and trims** - keep with quality of garment, should add to beauty of garment and should be securely attached
- (xiii) **Lining** - should be securely attached to prevent pulling and showing below hemline a pleat approximately 20mm deep at CB to provide extra fullness needed for movement

Question 6**How to use the information on the pattern envelope as a shopping guide?**

Most candidates knew the information found on the front and back of the pattern envelope; however, they did not understand how this information relates to shopping.

On the front of the pattern envelope, there is:

- (a) (i) **The size** – helps one to choose a suitable size for the figure.
- (ii) **Price/barcode** – shows the cost for affordability.
- (iii) **Illustrations with different views** – select a suitable style for figure type and give ideas on garments to make.
- (iv) **Company name** – for identifying pattern suitable for the level of skill

Back of pattern envelope has:

- (b) (i) **Body measurements** – to help one compare with actual body measurements to select the correct size and buy the correct amount of fabric.
- (ii) **Brief description of the garment** – allows one to choose or alter the style
- (iii) **Suggested fabric** – allows one to choose a suitable and affordable fabric
- (iv) **Width of fabric** – gives an idea of how much fabric to buy since it is indicated for different fabric widths.
- (v) **Special advice on** - nap, stripes, plaids and diagonals fabrics – calculate the amount of fabric to buy.
- (vi) **Notions are suggested** – gives the type, size, and amount- allows choice.
- (vii) **Diagrams of the back of garment** – shows more of construction details- allows altering of the design.

EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS**Paper 6904/02****Coursework****Introduction**

A total of 1368 candidates registered for the year 2020 an increase of 100 candidates from 2019 where 1268 candidates sat for Fashion and Fabrics Paper 2. The overall performance of the candidates was more or less the same as in 2019. However, the degree and standard of performance of selected processes of both garments 1 and 2 had a slight drop. Some of the submitted articles did not have some of the required processes.

Most centres submitted completed garments. There were; however, few cases where candidates did not have either garments 1 or 2 or even the folder. A majority of the Candidates still had a difficulty in relating reasons for choice in the folder for garment 2 to self.

PACKAGING AND PRESENTATION

There was a great improvement even this year on packing of garments, folder and paperwork. Only a few centres packaged the paperwork together with the garments. Some centres presented garments without labels or if included, the labels were poorly secured. There were also some centres with garments that were not well presented. These garments were not well pressed and had loose threads on the inside.

Centres are reminded that pins and staples are very inappropriate and are not permissible for reinforcing labels on the garments!

FOLDER

All folder requirements were met by most candidates except a few. The majority of them were able to describe garment 2 in detail. However, some gave very brief explanations with an omission of important style features such as the hem. The reasons for choice were well explained by many and they were able to relate to self. However, some candidates jumbled up the reasons for choice with the description of the garment. A few Candidates did present folders for Garment 2 with some of them who had incomplete ones. It was also noted that candidates wrote the information about the list of requirements and costing in the same page,

instead of presenting them in different ones. Those who managed to give the list of requirements had missing details wherein some items were not specified e.g. colour of thread and fabric. The list of requirements should exclude sewing and include notions, e.g. type of fabric, sewing threads, fasteners, interfacing, etc. Candidates should avoid duplication of folder information. Some Centres included pictures of candidates laying out and cutting out which is not in the 2020 syllabus guidelines. This will be expected in the 2021 examination.

GARMENT 1

For garment 1, almost all candidates made garments with all the required processes. There were few instances where candidates presented articles that were deficient of some processes, such as pockets or hems. The workmanship has shown some improvement. Most centres presented completed skirts for garment 1; However, some of them had few flaws where there was no balance as the front part was overlapping to the back skirt.

SEAMS - Generally, seams were well sewn and neatened by most candidates, but some presented seams that were not even. The majority commonly presented the plain seam on their garments, but a few made French and machine fell seams that were bulky. Some who made pants had the crotch seams that did not align very well. These resulted in them losing points. Very few candidates neatened their seams using bias binding. The majority neatened used zig zag which was well done.

WAISTBANDS - Waistbands were attached on garment 1 as per the requirements of the syllabus. Generally, the waistbands were made well except that some articles were gaping at the centre back of the zipper area. Straight waistbands were a common feature for most centres, but candidates had difficulty attaching these, such that the waist bands were bulky, twisted and joined at wrong points. Some were cut on wrong grain and joined using the flat method. Kindly refer to *focus on Fashion and Fabrics Book 1 how to attach waistbands*.

The commercial waistband made on the inside of the pants by some candidates, made the work look even more professional. The majority of those who used the facing for finishing the waist edge had a challenge with alignment of the seams at the sides as well catch stitching the facing. They; however, did under stitch the facing to give the work a professional finish.

CONTROL OF FULLNESS - Candidates applied a variety of the methods of controlling fullness on garment 1 such as pleats, darts, tucks and gathers. The gathers made were evenly distributed and the fabric used was also suitable. Darts were most commonly used, but most candidates did not fasten or reinforced them. The lengths of the darts were uneven, with some darts facing wrong directions. Some candidates had a challenge with pressing and tapering of the darts.

POCKETS - There were a variety of pockets made, from the simple patch to the more complex bound pockets. Some centres presented patch pocket that was unbalanced and not reinforced. There were common cases where the 'Patch pocket' was sewn into the seam which was contrary to the syllabus guidelines. In seam and faced hip pockets were generally well done, but not under stitched by some.

FASTENERS - Almost all the candidates applied a zipper fastener on garment 1 securely, with some who had theirs gaping, wrongly attached and visible. The candidates that made pants for garment 1, applied the lapped, centred or fly front methods. Button holes were worked, but not professionally and to the highest standard. The candidates who made the hand worked buttonhole, failed to neaten these using a blanket stitch. Some of them also used hook and eye/bar as well as press studs, but the stitch was not the required one e.g. buttonhole stitch / blanket stitch.

HEMS - Most candidates were able to apply a hem on garment 1, with an exception of a few who used close hemming, slip hemming, blind hem with some who opted for herringbone to finish off. Some candidates still had the tendency of sewing close hem on an over locked edge instead of a blind hem. A few candidates used a hem finish instead of a hem e.g. binding, lace, etc. which were not required by the syllabus. Few had challenges with the hem width being uneven which was tantamount to a loss of marks.

GARMENT 2

Generally, the garments were of a good standard and worked well. In general, most processes were employed in the garments as required by the syllabus assessment guidelines. The majority of candidates made shirts and jackets for Garment 2. Very few made dresses which lacked one or two processes such as embellishment.

COLLAR - The collar was attached well by most candidates. The collars were trimmed, flat with matching points. Others presented collars that were bulky, not aligned nor balanced. Some did not finish the collars well, mostly used self-finish, binding and facing. This was due to the type of fabric used which resulted in a bulky outcome.

SLEEVES - Most candidates used set - in sleeves and were well attached. However, a wrong approach was noted with candidates that applied the flat, instead of the round method. The sleeves and underarm seams were mostly aligned well. When compared with the previous year, there were fewer candidates that opted to apply cuffs and placket openings to finish the sleeves. The hems used on the short sleeves were even and well sewn. However, there was poor distribution of the fullness on the sleeve head. Some candidates also had gathers applied even on the under arm which was not expected, and could not attain maximum marks for this process.

CONTROL OF FULLNESS - For Garment 2, most candidates used double - pointed darts for their shirts and jackets. They were worked well by most candidates except for a few cases where the darts were not positioned nor reinforced well and of unequal length and width. Those who attempted to apply the darts in the correct positions; however, pressed them in the wrong direction. Other methods of fullness, pleats and tucks were not popular with many candidates.

FASTENERS - A variety of fasteners were found on garment 2. Candidates made buttons and buttonhole, zippers, hooks and eyes and press - studs. These were done well by most candidates, except for a few cases where a wrong hand stitch was used on the hooks and eyes and press studs. Commonly done were buttons and buttonhole and were worked well. A few made button holes that were either too wide or smaller than the button. Some made the placket opening, but had a challenge with its reinforcement and attachment. Covered buttons were also used by some candidates and these were done well.

EMBELLISHMENT- Most candidates embellished garments 2 to a good standard. They used varied types of embellishment; e.g. motifs, piping, ribbons, embroidery applique and trimmings. They were some who used contrasting fabrics that blended well with the colour scheme of the garment. Those who did applique used a wrong stitch. They used a chain instead of a blanket stitch, whilst others used the sewing machine stitches which are also

acceptable. Some candidates did not have any form of embellishment at all except for embroidery stitches, yet there are separate marks to be awarded for both processes (hand stitch and embellishment). There were those that applied low quality hand and machine stitches and lost marks.

SEAMS - Candidates generally used a plain seam (closed and open) and were mostly done well except for a few candidates who made seams that were too wide. Some candidates used French and a Flat fell method. These were also done well with good widths and stitching. Most centres failed to neaten curved areas, e.g. armhole seam. There were more candidates this year who used zigzag to neaten the seams instead of an overlocker. A few candidates used a different instead of a matching colour of thread to fabric for both sewing and neatening e.g. white thread for black or navy-blue fabric which is not acceptable as the thread becomes visible. Candidates are encouraged to sew and neaten seams appropriately to achieve a professional finish of the garments.

HEMS - Most candidates had suitable hems for their garments, even and curved hems. A few made hems that were rather too wide, which resulted in twisted and uneven widths. Most hems were machine stitched and done well, but some did not use a blind hem on the over locked hem edge. A variety of stitches were applied with some which were not to standard.

MACHINE STITCHING SKILLS - Very good machine stitching was done by most candidates and the stitch length was suitable for most fabrics used. However, there were some candidates that completed their garments using hand stitches like backstitch, which was not expected for this level. Centres are encouraged to use the sewing machines to make permanent stitches on their projects. The use of the over locker was still a challenge for some candidates. They presented overlocked work that was inappropriately done with a loose tension. For some, it was due to the type of fabric used. It is important for Centres to assist candidates choose fabric that they would find easy to handle.

HAND SEWING SKILLS - A few candidates demonstrated excellent work on hand sewing skills. They made a wide variety of the stitches which were worked to a high standard. However, a majority of the candidates did not include a selection of stitches (permanent and

embroidery) according to the syllabus requirements. They were expected to use at least at **three** or more hand stitches. Some candidates used double thread for hem stitch instead of a single thread.

REMINDERS TO CENTRES:

The choice of fabric is very critical with regard to manipulation. Some candidates were disadvantaged by the type of fabric used which was difficult to handle. The approach to packaging needed improvement. It is important that each candidate's work should be packaged in such a way that: garment 1, garment 2 and the folder are bundled together and the garments neatly folded and flatly. The candidate individual assessment forms should not be included in the packaging, but should be in a separate envelope together with the summary assessment form. A well-marked attendance register should be checked and packaged together with the summary assessment form and candidate mark sheets.

Teachers assessing the garments are reminded to indicate the total marks for the individual mark sheets and summary sheet. They should ensure to enter the candidates' names into the summary sheets according to the ECESWA attendance register or the chronological candidate number order. Centres should write marks in whole numbers, e.g. no half marks (0.5). Centres are advised to seek assistance from the ECESWA Subject Officer whenever they face challenges with coursework assessment or the packaging.