

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI

EGCSE

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR

FASHION AND FABRICS (6904)

YEAR

2022

Table of Contents

<u>Subject Code:</u>	<u>Name of Component:</u>	<u>Page No:</u>
6904	Fashion and Fabrics P1	3 - 18
6904	Fashion and Fabrics P2	19 - 22

EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6904/01

Theory

General Comments

A total of 1169 candidates sat for the 2022 examination, showing a decrease in enrolment as compared to 2021 where 2242 candidates sat for the examination. This was a drastic drop of 1073 Candidates.

The scripts were well-presented and easy to read. All questions were responded in the spaces provided and most candidates responded all required questions. It was also evident that candidates had sufficient time to response all the questions as most of the candidates worked their way through the entire paper.

There was an improvement in the number of candidates who obtained higher marks compared to previous years. Most candidates were able to evaluate information and gave facts with justification or reasons. Candidates should be encouraged to use the correct terminology when responseing discussion questions. Diagrams were generally neat but were not clearly labelled. Candidates can gain higher marks by applying knowledge rather than just recalling information.

A careful reading of the questions and planning of responses would help the candidates structure their responses better and more effectively, for candidates to get full marks. The marks awarded for each question are indicated in brackets [] at the end of each question and that should indicate the amount of information that is required to gain full marks for each question.

Comments on specific questions**Section A****Question 1**

Most candidates attempted to response all the part questions in **Question 1**.

(a) (i) Candidates were required to identify the style features shown on the drawing of the skirt.

Most candidates gained some marks for correctly identifying most style features of the skirt; some candidates wrote “belt hooks” instead of “belt loops/ carriers” for **A**. Most also lost marks for identifying **D** as “crouch seam” instead of “fly zipper”.

Expected response include:

- A.** Belt carrier/ belt loops
- B.** Skirt waistband/ waistband
- C.** Faced hip pocket /pocket facing
- D.** Fly zip/ Zip fastener/Fly opening
- E.** Centre front seam/seam

(ii) Candidates were required to Identify two pattern pieces used to make the skirt in Fig. 1.

Most candidates gained full marks for this question with responses such as skirt back, skirt front, waistband, pocket and pocket facing. Some candidates however did not know the proper terms for the different pattern pieces. They incorrectly labelled the front skirt as “front bodice” or “back bodice”.

Expected responses include:

- Skirt front
- Skirt back
- Pocket
- Pocket facing
- Waistband
- Belt carriers/ belt loops

(iii) Candidates were required to describe denim fabric: Fibre, Structure, Appearance and Weight

This was generally well responded with most candidates showing a good understanding of fibres. Most candidates could not describe the appearance of a fabric made from twill weave.

Expected responses include:

Fibre: Cotton

Structure: Twill weave

Appearance: White weft threads, woven with blue warp threads and they are closely packed, forming diagonal ridges on the right side/ right side is coloured, and the wrong side is pale / white. (Any one of these would be worth a mark).

Weight: Medium weight/heavy weight

(a) Candidates were required to give three disadvantages of using commercial patterns to make garments.

This question was not responded well with some candidates giving advantages instead of disadvantages of using a commercial pattern.

Expected responses include:

- The tissue pattern pieces can be easily torn
- Some design details on the pattern may not suit the figure
- Pattern may need adjustments in some areas
- It inhibits creativity
- It is more expensive

- (c) (i) **Candidates were required to state one reason for covering seam rippers should be with the shields when not in use.** There was either no response or incorrect responses were offered for this question. Most candidates stated that seam rippers should be covered to prevent rust.

The expected response was: to protect the sharp edges or points and for safety.

- (ii) **Candidates were required to state one reason for always sharpening pinking shears.**

Generally, well responded.

The expected response was: so that they do not chew/spoil/damage the fabrics.

- (iii) **Candidates were required to state one reason for not using fabric scissors to cut paper.**

The question was well responded by most of the candidates.

The expected response was: - To prevent the scissors from becoming blunt.

- (d) **Candidates were required to describe how each of the following sewing machine attachments is used.** Responses did not demonstrate knowledge of sewing machine attachments. Some candidates gained one mark for explaining that a zipper foot is used when attaching/ inserting zippers not necessarily how it is used.

The expected responses were as follows:

Button foot.....holds a flat button in position for attaching with a zig-zag stitch.

Zipper foot.... Used to stitch cording, insert zippers/to stitch tiny seams that have more bulk on one side than the other.

Narrow hem foot...automatically turns the raw edge of the fabric under and over while stitching.

- (e) **Candidates were required to explain certain terms used in the processing of fibres and give an example.**

Mark was lost by many candidates who did not explain the terms but instead gave examples only.

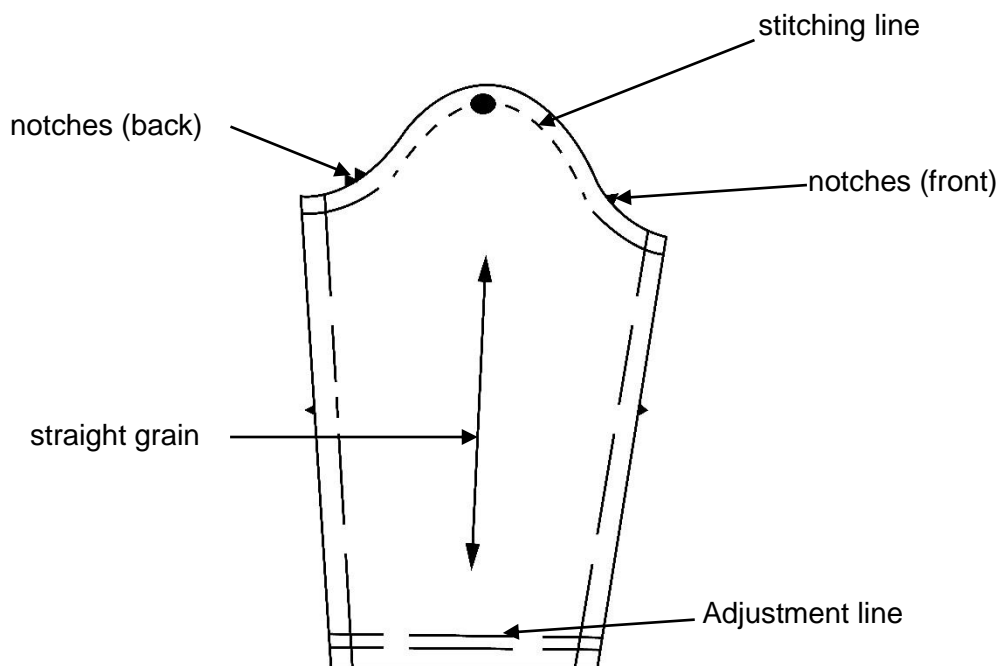
The expected responses were as follows:

- (i) **Retting** - flax stalks are soaked in natural water or water tanks – to allow the woody part to soften and rot making it easy to remove the fibres **e.g.** linen/flax

- (ii) **Carding** - Fibres go through a carding machine- to remove remaining impurities/disentangle the fibres and arrange them in parallel **e.g.** cotton, wool

- (f) **Candidates were required to draw four pattern markings you would expect to find on the sleeve pattern below.** This question was generally well responded with candidates drawing the correct marking on the correct position on the pattern. Few candidates could draw a balance point correctly.

The expected response was:



- (g) **Candidates were required to explain how to attach a print patch on a boy's pair of trousers.** Candidates who responded with instructions for attaching a print patch mainly gained two marks or less for stating that the fabric should have the same weight and colour as pants and machine stitch the patch. Some candidates incorrectly described how to attach a patch pocket or discussed printing as a method of applying colour to fabrics.

The correct response was as follows:

- Cut out a piece of fabric-square or rectangle to cover the tear.
- the piece should be the same weight and colour as the pants.
- position the patch on the right side, matching the pattern.
- tack in position- with WS of patch facing RS of pants.
- fold raw edges under onto WS and Pin and tack on the pants.
- machine stitch around the edge. Neaten raw edges on the WS of the patch with blanket stitch. Then press.

- (h) **Candidates were required to identify given hand stitches used in garment construction and state one function of each.**

Responses showed a lack of understanding about stitches. Most candidates understood that a blanket stitch is used to decorate or neaten but could not identify or state the functions of the other stitches stated.

The expected responses were as follows:

- (i) **Diagonal stitch** – Used to tack one part which has a fullness to another part/ to hold interfacing in position.
- (ii) **Blanket stitch** – Used to neaten raw edges/ as a decorative edge finish for raw edges of fabric pieces.
- (iii) **Over sewing/top sewing** - Used for sewing together two edges after the raw edges have been folded in.

Section B

Question 2

This question was the most popular, yet candidates scored low marks.

(a) Candidates were required to define the following terms:

- (i) **Accessories** There was a very small number of correct responses, most candidates gave examples of accessories and did not explain what accessories are.

The expected response was: Accessory refers to items used to complete an outfit worn and chosen to complement the wearer's looks e.g. shoes, bags, earrings, etc.

- (ii) **Workmanship** – Very few candidates knew the response to this question.

The expected response was: it is the standard that shows how well the sewing processes have been sewn. It is one way of assessing the quality of a garment.

(b) Candidates were required to state two characteristics of a well-sewn hem. There were good responses to this question. Most candidates understood that a hem should lie flat/ not pucker/ hangs evenly/ stitches should not show on RS unless decorative and the thread used should be the same colour as the garment.

The expected responses were:

- No puckering in the hem
- width is appropriate for garment and even
- Hand stitching is uniform in size and does not show on the RS
- Well pressed
- Hangs straight when the garment is worn

- (c) **Candidates were required to explain why it is important to know their figure type when choosing clothes. Give examples to support their response.** Most candidates managed to get at least two marks for the examples in this question, they gave incorrect responses e.g. size and “....to suit your body”.

The correct responses were:

It is important to know your figure type so that you can:

- (i) Choose/construct styles that accentuate/ complement your body e.g. avoid clinging fabric if you are a heavy figure as they increase the size, a short well - proportioned heavy figure should choose vertical lines
- (ii) to disguise figure faults e.g. a short, thick neck should choose V- necklines and long pointed shirt collars. Thick upper arms- choose long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves.

- (d) **Candidates were required to explain the importance of Information found on garment labels other than care symbols** There were some good responses to this question, but many simply gave points without explaining the importance of this information.

The correct responses were:

Fibre content – will determine the price and care/laundrying of the garment.

Size – helps one choose an appropriate fit.

Manufacturer/ trade name – provides brand name, helps one to go with the trend.

Quality mark – gives surety to the quality of the garment.

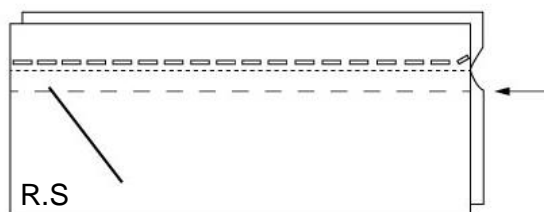
Fabric finishing processes – help during laundrying.

- (e) **Candidates were required to explain how the mercerisation of fabric and yarn is achieved.** The few candidates who responded this question gained one mark for the ammonia solution. They could not explain the mercerising in full. In mercerising, the fabric is treated with ammonium solution under uniform tension and moderate heat conditions.

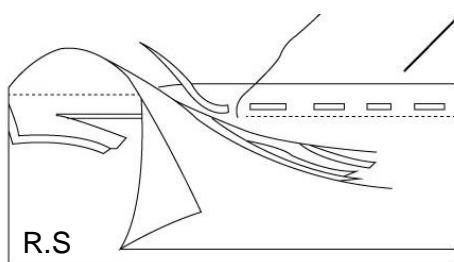
The expected response was: fabrics are treated with sodium hydroxide/caustic soda under uniform tension and moderate heat conditions.

- (f) **Candidates were required to explain how to sew a French seam.** Candidates who responded with instructions on how to sew a French seam mainly gained 4 or more marks. Candidates omitted important information in their description such as which sides of the fabric face each other and pressing. Candidates should be encouraged to use appropriate terminology i.e. machine stitch on fitting/stitching line rather than saying sew the seam.

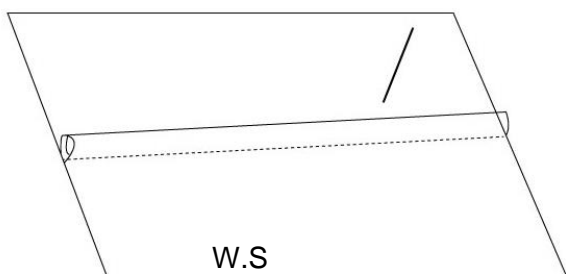
The correct responses were:



- With W.S. together, tack 5mm above the fitting line and stitch below the line of tacking
- Remove tacking and trim raw edges to 5 mm
- Press seam with raw edges turned the same way



- Turn the garment to W.S.
- Pin and tack on fitting line with right sides facing/ together.
- Machine stitch in W.S. Remove tacking and press.



Question 3

This was the second most popular question in Section B

(a) Candidates were required to define the term fashion fad. Well-responded question.

The expected response was: it is fashion that is short-lived and accepted by a certain group.

(b) Candidates were required to identify the method used to control fullness in each of the following garments.

(i) Few candidates knew the correct response to this question, responses showed that candidates were not familiar with this method of disposing fullness.

The expected response was: - Smocking

(ii) Most candidates identified tucks even though they did not state the type. The correct response was dart/ release tucks.

The expected response was:

- Dart /release tucks

(c) Candidates were required to Give three advantages of using a fabric made from a blend of polyester and cotton rather than a fabric made from 100% cotton.

A minority of candidates were able to give the advantages of using a fabric made from polyester and cotton. Other candidates gave the general advantages of using blends and mixtures of fabrics.

The expected responses were:

- Fabric will not crease easily
- Fabric does not soil easily/does not absorb stains
- Ironing ability is improved
- The shape of the garment is improved
- Appearance and comfort are improved

(c) Candidates were required to explain why the following guidelines are important when removing stains. The guideline for stain removal was well understood by most candidates.

(i) Remove stains as soon as they occur

The expected response was: - to prevent stains from fixing on the fabric or to make it easier to remove the stain.

(ii) test the stain remover on a similar piece of fabric or seam allowance.

The expected response was: to prevent damaging the fabric or determine the effectiveness of the stain-removing agent.

(e) Candidates were required to explain why care labels are important in garments. This question was responded well with most candidates able to explain the importance of care labels.

The expected responses were:

- to give information on the care or laundering of the garment, e.g. washing, ironing, drying or dry cleaning.
- so clothes will last longer - to maintain the quality/appearance of a garment
- so garments do not shrink - so garments are not burned /melted.

(f) Candidates were required to explain how warm colours affect the appearance of garments.

Most candidates managed to get at least one mark on this question. They stated that warm colours make the object seem larger/ bigger and draw attention. Some misunderstood the warmth of these colours and thought it meant they could be worn in winter, yet this was a feeling of warmth.

The expected responses were:

- they catch the eye and draw attention
- make the object seem bigger and closer
- create a feeling and appearance of warmth
- create a cheerful feeling for the wearer

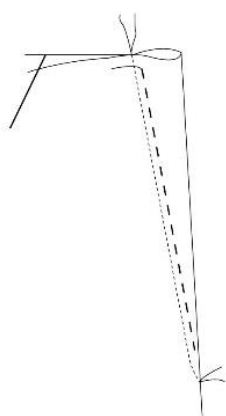
(g) Candidates were required to explain how to sew a single pointed dart on a thick fabric.

Several candidates were able to explain how to sew a single pointed dart generally without explaining what to do if the dart is sown on thick fabric. Top marks were awarded to those candidates who were able to relate their responses to thick fabric.

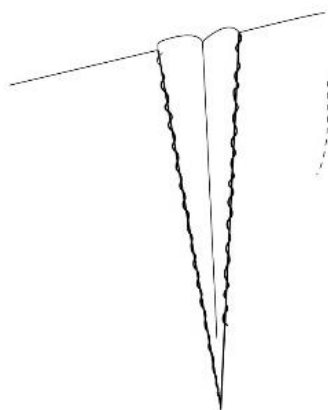
The expected responses were:

fold along the fold line with R S together

- match balance points
- pin and tack on the stitching line
- machine stitch from the wide end tapering to the point



- secure and press
- cut dart open along the fold, press open
- neaten the edges and press open



Question 4

This was the least popular question.

- (a) (i) Candidates were required to define the term “easing”.** Most candidates knew that easing is a method of disposing fullness but could not explain what it is. Easing is shortening the length of an edge of fabric without any apparent reduction of fullness/ making a large piece of fabric fit into a smaller piece without gathers showing on the right side.

The expected response was:

Shortening the length of an edge of fabric without any apparent reduction of fullness makes a large piece of fabric fit with a smaller piece of fabric as a seam is sewn. Gathers do not show on the right side.

- (ii) Candidates were required to state one position on the garment where easing may be applied.** Candidates could state at least one position on the garment where easing can be applied. The sleeve was not credited because it is vague, the correct response is sleeve head/cap.

The expected responses were:

- waist
- sleeve head
- princess line seam.
- hip
- bust

- (b) Candidates were required to list points to consider when deciding on the type of opening needed in a garment.** Most candidates got marks or more in this question. The position of the opening and type of fabric were popular responses.

The expected responses were:

- Position of opening e.g. - Continuous wrap opening, - on sleeves, children's clothes etc.
- Fabric/material - weight and type e.g. zipper on pants, skirt
- Garments on which it will be made e.g. Faced opening- used on the neckline
- Length of opening
- Faced opening- used on the neckline
- Bound opening - used on neckline, side skirt
- Types of openings and where they might be used

(c) Candidates were required to State two types of embellishment suitable for a child's dress.

Few candidates got this question correct. Judging by the responses it looks like a few candidates did not know the meaning of embellishment.

The expected responses were:

Ribbon, Embroidery hand stitches, Piping, Applique, Ric rack, Sequins, Smocking and Lace.

(d) Give one reason for each of the following guidelines for attaching a pocket.**The expected responses were:**

- (i) Reinforcing top edges** – to strengthen and secure pockets
- (ii) Attach on pocket placement line** – to make sure pockets serve their purpose

(e) Candidates were required to state factors that influence the selection of thread and interfacing.

This question was responded well by most candidates. They knew that the colour of the thread needs influence the choice of thread. Most did not know that thickness is considered also in the choice of thread.

Most candidates knew that the type, weight, and suitability of interfacing influences selection.

The expected responses were:

- (i) Thread** - the colour of the thread should match the colour of the fabric
 - thickness of the thread should match the weight of the fabric
- (ii) Interfacing** - buy the same weight as the garment
 - buy suitable interfacing, whether woven or fusible
 - buy the closest colour to the fabric

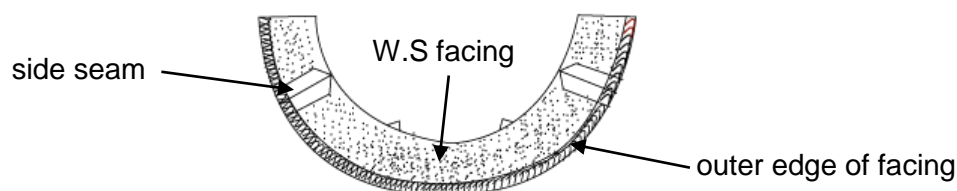
- (f) **Candidates were required to explain, using notes and/or diagrams, how to prepare and attach a waistline facing on a polycotton skirt.**

Even though most of the candidates knew the method of attaching a facing, they did not follow the correct sequence. Some skipped the preparation of the facing together. Candidates need to be encouraged to separate the preparation and attaching of a process so the sequence can be followed easily. Techniques e.g. trimming, under stitching and pressing are important and should be stated in the response. Drawings should be properly labelled to complement/clarify the written discussion.

The expected responses were:

Preparation:

- Apply interfacing on W.S of facing
- With R.S together, match raw edges, notches of facing
- Pin, tack and machine stitch facings on side seams
- Open the seam and press

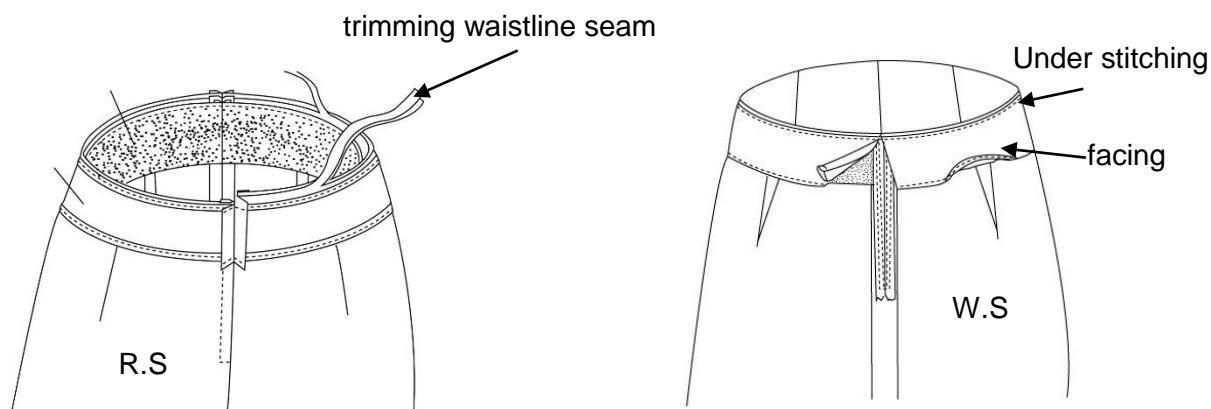


- Neaten the unnotched/outer edge of facing

Attaching:

- With R. S. together, matching notches and raw edges of waistline and facing
- Pin and tack and machine stitch on F.L, Press
- Trim and grade the waistline seam
- Turn facing to W.S and under stitch
- Sew catch stitches on side seams to secure facing.
- Press

under stitching



Section C

Question 5

(a) Least popular question

Candidates were required to discuss factors to consider when evaluating the fit of a garment – Very few candidates chose this question. They could only discuss comfort in very general terms. Very few stated anything about what a well-fitting garment should look like e.g. dart position, seams, and fasteners. The design was not discussed by almost all the candidates who chose this question. It was generally a poor attempt.

Expected responses were:

All garments are supposed to fit the body comfortably. When evaluating whether a garment fits or not, one should consider the following points:

The appearance of garment darts and seams fall in the proper positions.

- Shoulder seams should rest smoothly at shoulder tops.
- Darts should taper towards and stop just short of the fullest part of the area they shape e.g. bust area and hip line.
- Hems should hang evenly and parallel to the floor.
- Waist seams should rest on the natural waist or fit according to style e.g. drop waist style.

Comfort

- A comfortable garment should allow one to sit, bend, walk and reach without restricting him /her or straining the garment.
- The design of the garment should be kept in mind when the garment is fitted.
- Make sure close-fitting designs are not too tight generally or in certain areas.
- Clinging fabrics tend to define the shape of the body even if the garment is loose fitting.

Design

- It is important not to over-fit close-fitting design as this can result in strained seams and wrinkles on the garment.
- Close-fitting garments tend to stay near the body and hug it more in some areas.

Fabric - Important in the fit of a garment- follow suggested fabrics.

- Styles for 'stretch knit only' rely on 'give', and have a clinging tendency even if the garment is loose fitting e.g. knitted fabric

A garment which fits well should have:

- **Well-fitting shoulder seams** - they should lie smoothly without wrinkles.
- **Well-fitting bust** - the bust line should lie over the bust line of the body. All darts should point towards the bust and the fullness they provide should accommodate the curve of the bust.
- **Underarm seams** - should lie straight and smoothly without strain.
- **Position of waistline** - will depend on fashion and the style of garment e.g. some dresses have a drop waistline, whilst others have a high waist.
- The garment should fit fairly tightly at the hip but should not be too tight and wrinkled across the front and side seams (2cm bigger than the body) to allow for ease.
- Fasteners that overlap should have enough room to prevent gaping and evenly distributed.

(b) Candidates were required to discuss the choice, use and care of;

(a) Measuring equipment

(b) Cutting equipment

(c) Pressing/ironing equipment

It was the most popular question in this section. Most candidates scored more than ten marks on this question. Most candidates could state the name of the equipment, its choice, functions, and care. Some could not state the equipment but could discuss the other relevant points e.g. function and care. Candidates should be encouraged to use the appropriate terminology to achieve maximum marks e.g. Dressmaker's shears instead of fabric scissors etc.

Expected responses were:**Measuring tools**

- include a tape measure, measuring card, adjustable sewing gauge, hem guide, ruler and hem marker

Tape measure - choose one made with glass fibre and metal tips at each end - does not stretch or fray, the cm divisions should be shown on both sides, starting from opposite ends.

- Used for taking body measurements and for fabric.
- Do not fold the tape, but coil it or hang it in the needlework cupboard

Measuring card - used to measure seams and hems.

Adjustable sewing gauge - should have a sliding marker: used for measuring short distances such as the width of hems, pleats and tucks, and for placing buttons and buttonholes.

Hem guide - a marked transparent, plastic guide on which different hem depths for curved and straight hems are marked.

- Store in a dry place

Ruler- choose a 15cm to 30cm transparent ruler which will easily fit in the sewing box. Always keep a sewing kit.

Pressing /ironing tools

- include iron, ironing board/ironing table, sleeve board, press mitt, seam roll, pressing cushion, muslin press cloth.
- used to remove creases and to give a professional look

Steam /dry electric Iron

- Unplug before filling with water, do not overfill.
- Clean the sole plate with a non-abrasive agent to prevent scratching.
- Never leave the iron on when not in use.
- Empty before storage to avoid water from becoming stained with rust and spoiling the fabric.

Ironing board

- used for ironing on
- Should be adjustable to various heights, have a padded surface, and cover with a clean detachable cotton fabric.
- Check that the padded surface is dry before storing the ironing board.
- Wash detachable covers regularly.

Sleeve board

- choose one that is 10cm wide and 55cm long with a padded surface and a rounded point.
Have detachable covers to replace soiled ones.
- Do not store while damp.

Muslin press cloth

- used for pressing garments, should be made from muslin, cotton or unbleached calico, use when damp.

Press mitt

- used for pressing small, curved areas where pressing cushion cannot reach.

Cutting tools

- includes dressmaker's shears, pinking shears, seam rippers, embroidery scissors, paper scissors, thread cutters, buttonhole scissors, and trimming scissors.

Dressmaker's shears - used to cut fabric. Buy one that is between 18 - 20cm long, has a bent handle, made from stainless steel or surgical steel - to prevent rust - Use for the intended purpose; Always choose sharp, good quality shears, - Sharpen Regularly-Right and left-handed scissors are available - Protect against rust, dust and dirt - keep in a sheath when not in use, occasionally apply a drop of oil to tension screw to ensure scissors cut smoothly and easily

Pinking shears - used for neatening fray-resistant fabrics.

Buttonhole scissors – are used for cutting hand-worked buttonholes and can be adjusted for cutting different sizes.

Seam ripper - used for undoing seams and cutting machine-made buttonholes.

- Keep the shield on when not in use.

Embroidery scissors - used for embroidery and unpicking seams.

Thread cutter - for snipping tacking stitches, clipping into corners and trimming loose frays.

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

A total of 1179 candidates registered for the year 2022 and 1172 were actual candidates which resulted in a low number of absentees (7 candidates) and this was a drastic drop of 930 from 2021. However, some centres showed a slight improvement in the quality of the work done on the garment. As an abnormal year, the syllabus was slightly amended to suit the abnormality and only one garment was submitted by a centre which was garment two. An extra process to cater for the waistband was added which was the cuff or sleeve band. All required processes for the garment were well done. Most of the candidates still had difficulty in relating reasons for choice in the folder for the garment to self; those who gave good explanations outperformed the previous year's cohort. All candidates had folders except for only one candidate who had the garment only it was a huge improvement.

Packaging and Presentation

There has been a great improvement yet again in the packing of the garment, folder, and paperwork this year. Only very few centres packed all garments in one box, and a folder in another, which makes it very difficult to find the work for each candidate. Otherwise, almost all centres packed the garments well as the folder per candidate and the paperwork in a separate envelope which was commendable. Centres were provided with MS1 mark sheet to enter and shade then ECESWA instructed them to return unshaded to ECESWA with candidates' work. There were a few centres that did this correctly.

Labelling

This was done well by most candidates and some candidates did the labelling exceptionally well on pieces of cloth using a stencil for writing and sewing on these clothes and their garments. However, a few candidates did not label at all some attached the labels to garments using pins and staplers which are not acceptable as this can cause injury to anyone handling those articles. Some candidates sew their labels on double fabric which is discouraged. A few candidates attached their labels using a single thread and did not secure the ends well, and these labels were coming out. Those centres are urged to have their candidates' work labelled. All centres are still urged to label the ECESWA plastics accurately with all the necessary information e.g. Centre number. When a centre has two plastic bags the labelling should indicate 1 out of 2. A few centres wrote 1 of 1 even though they had 2 ECESWA plastic bags. Those using boxes should put paperwork in an envelope and then put it in the box.

Folder

All the requirements for the folder were met by most candidates except for those few. Most candidates were able to describe the garment in detail with a few of them giving very brief explanations with an omission of some style features such as the hem, pockets, and embellishment. The reasons for choice were well explained by a good number of the Candidates and they related to self. However, some candidates had reasons for choice not relating to self. Most Candidates had folders, and some had incomplete ones,

folders must be arranged in chronological order as per the syllabus. Some candidates had well-drawn coloured and labelled illustrations. Very few candidates did not label their illustrations. Some candidates mixed costs and a list of requirements. They also did not quantify the list of requirements, and those who did, however, calculated wrongly. Some included sewing equipment which should be discouraged. Plans of work were done well, but most candidates wrote too detailed plans of work instead of well-articulated summaries. This time around three photos were to be included in the folder, one for layout, one for sewing of processes and the last one for fitting. Most centres had all the photos a few had at least one photo present. Centres are encouraged to follow the syllabus well and encouraged to write on separate pages the different items.

Choice of Fabric for The Project

There was a great improvement in the choice of fabric for the garment this year. However, some centres still had fabrics that gave the candidates challenges during sewing, like scuba, and the final pressing of the garments. Candidates should be assisted to choose fabrics that are easy to handle. Also, avoid too dark colours.

Garment

In general, the garment was well done overall and had all the required processes for most candidates. However, a few candidates lacked one or two processes i.e. cuff or band, pocket. A few used bindings on cuffs and hem. And a few candidates submitted two garments. Most candidates this year made shirts and dresses.

Manipulation**Collar**

The collar was attached well by most candidates, their collars were trimmed, flat and collar points matched. However, a few had their collars bulky, not aligned and out of balance. A few finished the collar using a crossway strip as binding instead of using it as a facing on the inside.

All types of collars were observed: the roll collar, the flat and the stand collar, as per the syllabus. The flat collar challenged most candidates it was not well aligned and not well finished.

Sleeves

Most candidates used set-in sleeves and they attached the sleeves very well, except for those who used the flat method. The sleeves were mostly aligned well on the underarm seam though some did not neaten the sleeve seam. Most candidates who went the extra mile to apply a placket on the sleeve edges of their shirts were done to an excellent standard those who did the bound opening it was not well done. However, some candidates did not confine fullness on the head but it was found in some cases almost at underarm, indicating a poor distribution. All sleeves were expected to have a band or a cuff which was not the case with some and it had to be attached the right way, some went to the extent of finishing with a binding.

Control of Fullness

The Garment for most candidates had double-pointed darts, box and knife pleats as they were mostly shirts and dresses. This time around most candidates used pin tucks on the shirts. The shirts with double-pointed darts worked well for most candidates and there were a few cases where the darts were not positioned well and not of an equal length. A few candidates applied gathers and some of these were evenly distributed and well pressed.

Fasteners

A variety of fasteners were found on the garments. Candidates made buttons and buttonholes, 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 as well the press studs. The correct placing of the buttons and buttonholes at the centre front was done by most candidates and few even made hand-worked shanks on their buttons and did them well. Covered buttons were also used by some candidates and these were done well. The buttonhole stitch was done well this year by some. Other candidates made vertical buttonholes on the collar bands instead of horizontal ones. The button band was folded and not joined by most candidates and it was also well-stitched.

Embellishment

Most candidates embellished their garments to an excellent standard as they used varied types of embellishment e.g. motifs, piping, contrasting, ribbons, embroidery, appliqué and trimmings. Most candidates embellished using embroidery stitches which ended up being graded twice. There were those, however, who did low-quality stitches and they seemed not well planned for. Piping was common this time around a few used beads and sequins.

Seams

Candidates generally used a plain seam (closed and Open) and were mostly done well except for a few candidates whose widths were too wide. A few 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, such that they were left with no neatening. They were some candidates who used zigzag and clean finish also some centres used binding as a method of neatening seams.

Hems

Most candidates had suitable hems for their garments even on curved hems, a few had wide hems on curved hems which made twisted and uneven widths. Most hems were machine stitched on the shirts, some were finished using bias binding and done well. A variety of stitches were used for sewing the hem e.g. hemming, slip hemming, blind hemming and herringbone. A few candidates presented their garments without hems.

Machine Stitching Skills

Very good machine stitching was done by most candidates and stitch length was suitable for most fabrics. There were fewer imbalances in the tension of the machines this year. The centres are urged to use sewing machines to sew the project as this is a requirement at this level. The overlocker was still a challenge even this year as the tension was loose and sewing curved areas was also a challenge, and inappropriately done by some candidates, some were affected by their choice of fabric. The sewing of straight stitches was greatly improved this time.

Hand Sewing Skills

A few candidates did excellent work on hand sewing skills, that is, they made a selection of the stitches and they worked to a high standard. However, a majority of the candidates did not have a selection of stitches as the syllabus requires (both permanent and embroidery) at least use three or more. They had mostly one stitch repeated on different parts of the garment e.g. hemming stitch on the cuff, collar and on hem edge. Some of the hem stitches were wide and loose while some centres used double thread for hem stitches when they have to use a single thread. Some candidates used single thread for embroidery yet two or more strands are required. Candidates are encouraged to use a stabilizer where the embroidery is done and to avoid the use of brand names when applying embroidery.

Reminders to Centres

The individual assessment forms should not be included in packaging but should be in a separate envelope together with the summary assessment form, attendance register and MS1 mark sheet (lozenges). Centres are reminded that the MS1 mark sheet should be done in HB pencils only. Centres are advised to seek assistance from subject specialists whenever they face challenges related to the assessment of the coursework or its packaging or any kind of clarity on instructions sent to centres. All individual marked sheets and summary sheets should be totalled and registers should be completed well. Avoid the use of pins during packaging its dangerous to the examiners. Do not convert marks to percentages. Use appropriate columns when filling in marks. Centres are encouraged to use blue pens when writing or filling in forms.