



# **EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI**

Eswatini General Certificate of Secondary Education

## **Fashion and Fabrics (6904)**

**Examination Report for 2023**

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## EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6904/01

Theory

**General Comments**

When comparing the 2022 and 2023 examinations, they were of the same standard. The overall performance in the current examination was not satisfactory. Several questions on this paper were answered well, but many responses were on the lower mark band. In some questions, a good knowledge of the subject was demonstrated by the candidates, even though most of them showed limited skills in responding to high-order questions. Most of the candidates attained fair marks in section A, as they could identify the style features without using two words. In Section B some had a challenge in explaining sewing processes/ techniques clearly, thus they could not be awarded full marks on most questions. Some gave information that was correct but did not answer the actual question which resulted in marks being lost. For candidates to get full marks in Section C, asking for a discussion, they needed to include reasons for points made and examples to get full marks. They should have been instructed to use the correct terminology when answering questions.

Diagrams continue to be a challenge to most candidates, most are not clear and not properly labelled.

Candidates should be reminded that the number of marks for each question is indicated in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question and this should give some indication of the amount of information questions required to get full marks.

Candidates should be asked to fill the front part of the question paper with the number of questions attempted in Section B.

**Section A**

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

**Question 1**

- (a) (i) Required candidates to **demonstrate knowledge about the style features of a garment by identifying the style features of the given garment.** Most candidates failed to get full marks in this question, they could not identify these style features: D and E.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

**A-** Belt carrier/loops.

**B** – waistband.

**C-** Faced hip pocket/Faced pocket.

**D-**Top stitching.

**E-** Fly zipper.warp

**(ii) Candidates were required to explain how a denim fabric is constructed.**

This question was not answered well by most candidates. Most could state that denim is made by a twill weave but could not explain how it is constructed.

**The correct response was** – one weft thread goes over and under two warp threads, in the next row the weft yarn skips one warp thread and continues as before forming a diagonal ridge. The threads are tightly packed together.

**(b) Candidates were required to identify three secondary colours.** This question was well answered. Orange and purple/violet were common answers.

**The correct responses were** Orange, purple/violet, and Green

**(c) (i) Candidates were required to state the properties of polycotton.** Few candidates answered this question correctly. Most could only state strong and durable.

**Expected answers include**

- creases less,
- resilient,
- resists abrasion,
- dries quickly, and
- does not soil easily.

**(ii) Candidates were required to identify ways in which a polyester cotton blend fabric can be produced.**

Answers to this question lacked details. Most candidates understood that two fibres were mixed to produce a polyester cotton fibre but did not know at what stage and how this process was done.

**The correct responses were:**

- Mix and blend two or more different types of staple fibres, namely polyester and cotton before spinning.
- Spinning together two different yarns to obtain a blended yarn
- By using yarns of one fibre for the warp and another fibre for the weft to weave a blended fabric.

- (d) **Candidates were required to draw and explain the meaning of one care symbol for washing and one care symbol for drying polycotton fabrics.**

This question was generally answered well by most candidates. Few candidates combined hand wash with water temperature.

**The correct responses were:**

**Candidates were required to describe how the following fabric finishes are achieved for fabric made from polyester.**

This question was poorly answered and only a small number of candidates could describe how a **durable press/heat-setting finish** was achieved. A good number had an idea of how **antistatic** was achieved even though the description was not always detailed.

**The correct responses were:**

**Durable press** – fabric is treated under heat to ensure it retains shape and sheds creases after washing without ironing.

**Antistatic**- The fabric is treated with chemicals to prevent static electricity buildup. Usually, ammonium compounds are used, however, they are not permanent and thus they need to be re-applied regularly during laundering. The use of fabric softener in the last rinse helps to prevent static build-up.

- (d) **Candidates were required to state the advantages of using a knitted fabric to make a garment.**

Almost all candidates answered this question well.

**The correct responses were:**

- They stretch easily making it easy for fabric to follow body contours with ease preventing restriction in movement.
- They are warm to wear as air pockets form when they are constructed.
- They are resistant to wrinkles and creases.
- They can retain their original shape after being stretched.
- They are absorbent, resilient and comfortable.

- (e) **Candidates were required to give differences between natural and chemical dyes.**

This question proved challenging for most candidates. Few Candidates managed to get half the marks for knowing the difference between natural and chemical.

**The correct responses were:**

- Natural dyes are extracted from natural sources.
- chemical dyes are extracted from chemical substances.
- Natural dyes are difficult to apply.
- chemical dyes are quick to apply.
- The colours produced by natural dyes are generally pale.
- Natural dyes fade more easily.
- Natural dye is dyed with the use of mordants.
- Natural dyes are usually more expensive than chemical dyes.

**(f) Candidates were required to explain how a satin weave is constructed.**

This was a very challenging question for most candidates, they could not explain how a satin weave is achieved.

**The correct responses were:**

- Satin weave is created when each warp yarn floats over four or more filling [weft] yarns across the weft before it goes under the next weft thread.
- The cycle is repeated and will interlace with a different filling yarn on each float.
- The warp may float over as many as 12 filling yarns.
- Satin is made with shiny filament yarns that produce a lustrous soft finish. ....

**(g) Candidates were required to describe the difference between darning and patching.**

Responses were generally more confident and correct.

**The correct responses were:**

**Darning** is repairing a torn garment with a hole by using strong threads from the garment to cover the opening whereby you weave by interlocking strong threads e.g. when repairing socks.

**Patching** is repairing a hole in a garment using a fabric that is the same colour/weight as a garment to cover a tear e.g. patch print or plain calico patch.

**(h) Candidates were required to describe how to take each of the following body measurements: Crotch depth and Hip measurement**

There was little understanding of what a crotch is.

**The correct responses were:**

- (i) **Crotch depth** – sit on a hard chair on level ground and use a ruler to measure at the side from the waist to the chair.
- (ii) **Hip measurement** – place tape measure around the widest/ fullest part of the hip, place 2 fingers inside the tape measure for ease.

## Section B

### Question 2

This was a popular question. Some parts were answered well but few candidates were able to achieve full marks in all sections.

**(a) Candidates were required to define (i) Filament and (ii) Selvedge**

- (i) This question was answered well with most candidates

**The correct response was:**

A thin long smooth continuous fibre and is generally a manmade fibre.

- (ii) Well answered by most candidates. Some stated that it was the finished edge of a garment instead of fabric.

**The correct response was:**

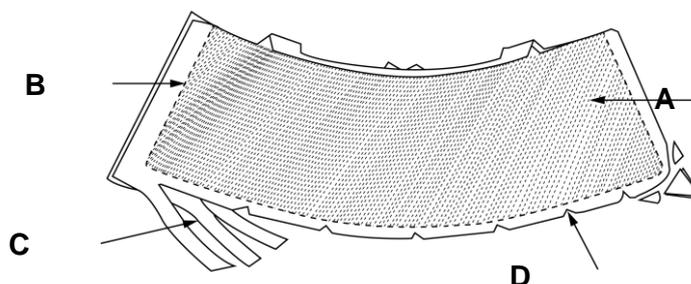
It is the finished edge of the fabric.

**(b) Candidates were required to state positions where single-pointed darts can be made in garments.**

Most candidates could have scored more marks if they had used the correct terminology and identified all the positions where darts could be made. Most were writing the wrong terms like blouse or waistband.

**Expected answers were** waist, bust/underarm, elbow and shoulder.

**(c) Candidates were required to explain each labelled process for making a flat collar shown on the diagram below.**



This question proved challenging for most candidates who generally did not give enough detail to gain full marks. Knowledge of the preparation of a flat collar was very weak. Those candidates who gained half marks gave vague explanations on the preparation and sewing of a flat collar e.g. interfacing instead of explaining all the labelled processes in detail.

**The correct response was**

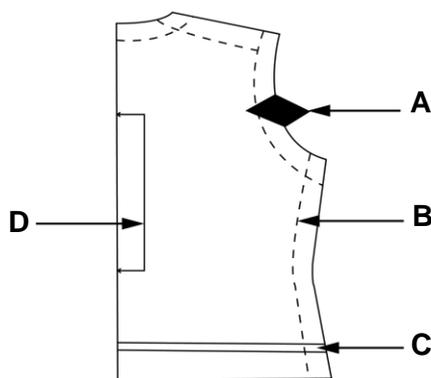
**A** - Apply interfacing on the wrong side of one piece of collar/ under-collar.

**B** - With right sides together, match notches, pin and tack on the fitting line. Machine stitch the two pieces of the collar together leaving the neck edge open.

**C** - Trim and grade the seam allowances of the collar to reduce bulk.

**D** - Notch the curved edges to allow the collar to reduce bulk.

**(d) Candidates were required to identify and explain the meaning of the four pattern markings labelled A – D on the pattern piece below:**



Most candidates fairly attempted this question. They could name the pattern markings but did not know what they meant.

**The correct answer was:**

**A** - Single notch - helps to match two pattern pieces during garment construction

**B** - Stitching line – this is where the seam on a garment is made.

**C** - Lengthening/ shortening lines or Adjustment lines - a position where a garment can be altered.

**D** - Place on the fold – indicates that the pattern piece should be cut on the fold so that there is one piece obtained.

- (e) **Candidates were required to explain how to sew a two-hole button on a garment made from a medium-weight fabric. You must use diagrams to support your answer.**

This question proved challenging for candidates who generally did not give enough detail to gain full marks. Knowledge of the sewing of a two-hole button was fragile. Most candidates explained the sewing of a buttonhole. Those candidates who gained half the marks give an incomplete explanation of how to make a shank.

Few candidates presented diagrams. These were poor and not properly labelled. Some candidates did not make any diagrams even though the question stated that they must use diagrams to support their answers.

**The correct response was:**

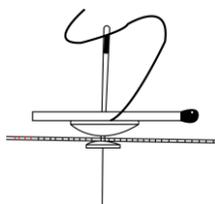
Sew the backstitch in position to secure threads.

Bring the needle in through a hole in the button and let the button slip into position.

Make sure the stitches will lie in the same direction as the buttonhole slit.

Place a matchstick between the button and the garment to make a shank.

Work stitches over the matchstick and through the holes of the button as well as through layers of the garment.



Remove the matchstick and pull the button away from the garment, bring the needle between the garment and the button, and wind thread tightly around the strand until it forms a firm stem/shank.

Bring the needle through the wrong side and sew blanket stitches over the bar of stitches, end neatly.



**Question 3**

This question was the least popular.

- (a) **Candidates were required to define haberdashery and give an example of haberdashery.**  
Most answered this question correctly, some even gave examples.

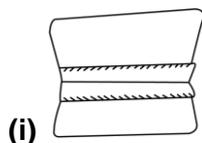
**The correct answer was:**

notions/materials used in garment construction besides fabric e.g., interfacing, threads etc.

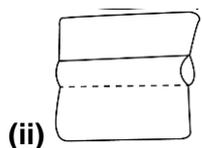
- (b) **Candidates were required to identify the following seams and suggest the type of fabric each seam would be used for.**

Most candidates found this question inaccessible. They could not identify the seams. For the suggested fabric most stated the name of the e.g. cotton fibre instead of the fabric.

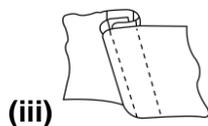
**The correct answer was:**



Plain open seam – suitable for most fabrics but best with light to medium-weight fabrics.



French seam – mainly used in thin sheer and very light fabrics.



Flat fell seam – mainly used in medium to heavy fabrics.

- (c) **Candidates were required to explain reasons for fitting garments during sewing.**

Several candidates answered this question incorrectly. It required them to explain two reasons for fitting garments during sewing. Most simply stated that it is to get the right size, without explaining why this is important.

**The correct response expected was:**

- To get the right size- to ensure the garments fit comfortably around curves with no loose or tight places/ to see if there are any adjustments to be made.
- To avoid thigh/loose-fitting garments- to ensure enough ease is allowed.

**(d) Candidates were required to explain the difference between under-stitching and topstitching.**

This question was answered well with most candidates showing a good understanding of the sewing processes.

**The correct response was:**

**Under stitching:** Stitching through the facing and seam allowance very close to the seam line on the right side, after the seam allowance has been trimmed and graded. It is done to prevent facings from showing on the right side.

**Topstitching:** Sewing technique whereby the line of stitching is designed to be seen on the outside either decorative or functional. It is commonly used on garment edges such as necklines, and hems where it helps the facing to stay in place.

**(e) Candidates were required to explain how to attach a yoke to a gathered skirt back made from lightweight fabric. Use diagrams to support your answer.**

This question proved challenging for candidates who generally did not give enough detail to gain full marks. Knowledge of attaching a yoke to a gathered skirt was not understood. The candidates could not present the steps sequentially. Those candidates who gained half marks used a few labelled sketches to explain the gathering of the skirt instead of how to attach the gathered skirt to the yoke. Some did not present diagrams at all.

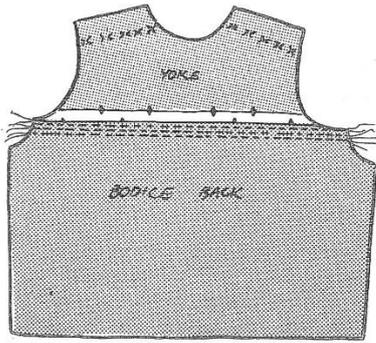
**The correct response was:**

Gather the skirt back, pull gathers to fit the yoke and distribute gathers evenly.

With the right sides of the yoke and skirt back together, matching notches and raw edges.

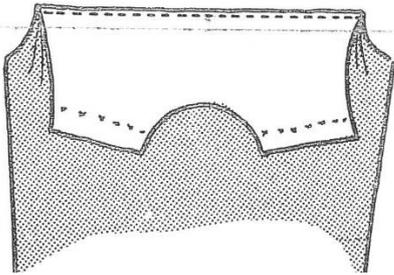
Pin and tack on the fitting line.

Machine stitch on the fitting line.

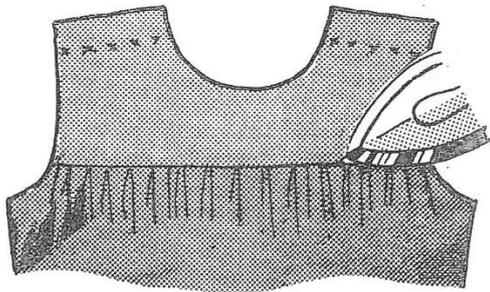


Trim the seam allowance and neaten the seam.

Press the seam upwards towards the neck, turn the garment and press the seam on the R.S.



- Topstitch

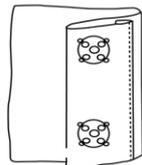


#### Question 4

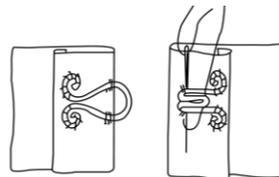
This was one of the most popular questions and candidates appeared confident in their answers.

(a) Candidates were required to identify the types of fasteners below.

A.



B



A - Most candidates could not identify the **press studs**.

Those who could identify it wrote the wrong spelling.

B - **Hook and eye**, some identified it as hook and bar.

**(b) Candidates were required to state the characteristics of a well-sewn seam on a garment.**

Most candidates found this question accessible. They listed the characteristics of a well-sewn seam.

**The correct response was:**

Seams will lie flat/ not puckering.

Should be easy to press flat.

Stitches will not be visible.

Stitches will be even.

thread will match the fabric.

The width of the seam allowance will be even.

**(c) Candidates were required to state the function of each of the Pinking shears and Feed dog.**

- (i)** Almost all candidates were able to state the functions of a pinking shear, however, some forgot to add that a pinking shear is used to neaten fabrics that do not fray easily, not just for neatening.

**The correct response was**

Used to neaten closely woven fabrics/ neaten fabrics that do not fray easily or even decoration.

- (ii)** Most candidates knew that a feed dog

**The correct response was**

to push the fabric forward while sewing/move the fabric forward while sewing.

**(d) Candidates were required to Identify a thermoplastic fibre and a non-thermoplastic fibre. State how each type of fibre reacts to a burning test.**

Most candidates managed to get half the marks, they could either give an example of each or state their reaction to the burning test.

**The correct responses were:**

- (i) Thermoplastic** – polyester/acrylic/nylon etc.

**Reaction to burning test** – they will melt but will not burn when they catch fire.

- (ii) Non- thermoplastic** – rayon/viscose/acetate

**Reaction to burning test** – catch fire and burn rapidly.

**(e) Candidates were required to describe how they would launder a silk blouse.**

This question proved challenging for candidates who generally did not give enough detail to gain full marks. Some stated the wrong method of laundering and drying a silk blouse.

**The expected response was:**

Do not soak as prolonged exposure to moisture weakens the fibre,  
use the knead and squeeze method in lukewarm water.

Use soap-less detergent. Remove excess water by rolling in a towel and squeezing excess moisture out.

Hang to dry in the shade.

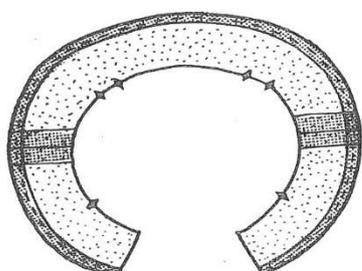
Iron on the wrong side while damp with a medium-hot iron.

**(f) Candidates were required to explain how to prepare and attach a facing on a round neckline of a dress made from Lightweight fabric. Use a diagram to support the answer.**

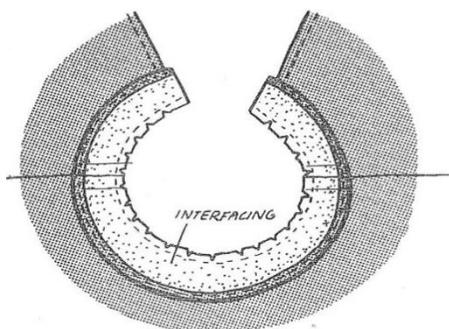
Most candidates fairly attempted this question. Most candidates did not give enough details to get more than half the marks. Most explained the preparation of a facing very well but could not do the same with the attaching of a facing or could not present the steps sequentially. Most diagrams were poor and not labelled properly. A good number of candidates did not include diagrams in their answers. It would be helpful if candidates could separate the preparation and attaching of any process when answering questions that require both.

**The correct response expected was:**

**Preparation-** Fuse interfacing on the wrong side of the facing. With right sides together, notches matched, join the front and back facing. Pin, tack and machine stitch along the fitting line. Press the seam open. Neaten outer edge of facing.



**Attaching** – With the right side together, notches and shoulder seams match, pin, tack and machine stitch along the fitting line. Remove tacking, trim and grade the neckline seam allowance. Notch curved areas to make the facing lie flat. Under-stitch the seam. Turn facing to the wrong side. Press.



## Section C

### Question 5

**Candidates were required to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of buying ready-made clothes instead of making their own.**

This question was a little confusing for most candidates as they did not understand whether to compare making their own clothes versus buying ready-made ones.

This question was challenging for most of the candidates who chose it even though it was popular. The answers were vague and lacked details. Most candidates could only state two or three advantages of buying ready-made clothes, namely: it is quick/cheap, and one can try them on before buying. There were also a few disadvantages of buying ready-made clothes namely: can wear the same garment as peers and lack of creativity. Reasons were not adequately explained, and no examples were given. There was generally a poor understanding of the topic. Those who showed understanding spent a lot of time comparing buying ready-made clothes and making your own.

**The following points were expected in the discussion:**

#### **Advantages**

- It is cheap- depending on the garments you want e.g. white shirt- by the time you have bought all the materials and spent time on making it, the shirt will cost you more than a ready-made would cost.
- You can fit the garment for suitability/ size before buying it something you won't be able to do when you make it.
- Usually, you can change or get a refund if not satisfied.
- There is a variety of shops to choose clothes from
- Bought garments have a fashion label attached- a sign of prestige/ bragging rights/quality.
- Can have a good buy of synthetic/ cheap and decorated underwear.
- More clothes/ styles made at mass production thus tend to be cheaper – making garments can be expensive because you have to buy fabric and notions.
- Can always get the latest styles.
- Can wear the same garment as peers.

**Disadvantages**

- Lots of people have the same garment on the same occasion and it will not be exclusive anymore.
- Cannot improve sewing skills.
- Sizes may be limited.
- Colours may not suit your complexion.
- Cannot choose decorations.
- Fasteners are usually not well-secured.
- If you are not a good size e.g. top and bottom parts of the body have different sizes it may be difficult to get a good fit for a dress/ coat.

**Question 6****Candidates were required to discuss factors that influence fashion change**

Most candidates stated one or two factors and discussed them at length giving general information. Few candidates had a good introduction to the topic discussed e.g. few defined 'fashion' and why it changes so frequently.

**The discussion was expected to include the following points:**

**Introductions** - definition of fashion- refers to the latest style in clothing, hair and accessories that people follow at a given time, Fashion is dynamic, and ever-changing in response to trends and demands of that particular time, Fashion changes stimulate the sale of fabrics, garments and accessories.

**(a) Social influence**

- Religion- most churches demand formal wear and /or uniforms rather than traditional wear e.g. Methodists, Catholics etc. have church uniforms that are worn regularly.
- Level of education- the more educated, the more people go for Western clothes e.g. wear suits. Influence from other cultures exposes one to a variety of styles. Some people use foreign fabrics to imitate certain clothes e.g. East African attire.
- Changing role of women – women work and are professionals so dress accordingly with clothes that suit their lifestyle.
- Awareness of physical fitness – requires clothes that will allow for movement e.g. leggings/ sportswear.
- Emergence of teen groups – brings youthful trends e.g. unisex wear.
- Social events e.g. royal weddings/ SAMA's etc. inspire fashion change.
- Visit to other countries – copy fashion styles and bring them home,

**(b) Political factors**

- During political upheaval fashion tends to be more practical, serviceable and long-lasting e.g. cargo pants sewn using durable fabrics/ boots etc.
- When a country encourages travel, business expansion and interaction with other nations, people are exposed to foreign fashion.

**(c) Technology**

- Mass production makes a wider variety of goods available to more people in greater quantities in a short space of time.
- Has led to the development of synthetic fibres and finishes which changes fibre characteristics to facilitate easy care and handling.
- Mass media and transport systems have accelerated the speed of advertising/ marketing which stimulates demand.

**(d) Economic**

- Availability of resources, consumer income and the use of credit card facilities by the consumer has influenced fashion change.
- In highly developed countries there is a greater demand for fashion wear because there is disposable income
- When money is scarce, the style becomes simpler and more practical. But when money is in abundance, opulence and elegance return to fashion.

**(e) Environmental/Seasonal changes**

- Changing seasons and the rise and fall of temperatures have aroused a desire and a need for fashion change.
- Apart from normal seasons, manufacturers have created other seasons e.g. back to school/holiday wear/leisure wear - these are artificial seasons to stimulate sales.
- Traditional wear is expensive – most people improvise.
- Environmental laws- animals used for traditional attire are now protected by laws as a result they are unavailable – synthetics are used instead.

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

A total of 1439 candidates registered for the year 2023 and 1416 were actual candidates which resulted in a low number of absentees (23 candidates) and an increase of 260 entries compared to last year 2022. However, some centres showed a slight improvement in the quality of the work done on the garment. It was a normal year as the syllabus was also back to normal with the two garments. All required processes for the garments were well done. Most of the candidates still had difficulty in relating reasons for choice to self in the folder; those who gave good explanations outperformed the previous year's cohort. There is however a Centre that had some candidates who did not have either garment 1 or 2 and some did not have folders.

**Packaging and Presentation**

There has been a great improvement yet again in the packing of the garments, folders, 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 as well as the folder per candidate in the same envelope or box and the paperwork in a separate envelope which was commendable. Individual mark sheets should be packed in separate envelopes, not to be bundled in the folder.

**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 a 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, even though 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 of garment **one** and garment **two**. Most centres had all the photos a few had at least one photo present and some centres only fitted garment two and not garment one. 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 in choosing fabrics that are easy to handle. Also, avoid too dark colours.

## Garments 1 and 2

In general, the garments were well done overall and had all the required processes for most candidates. However, a few candidates lacked one or two processes i.e. the hem. Most sewed an edge finish instead of a hem. A few used bindings on cuffs and hem. A few candidates submitted unfinished garments. Most candidates this year made skirts for the garment one and there was also an increase in pants both long and short. For garment two, the majority made shirts and dresses.

## MANIPULATION

### Collars

The collar was attached well by most candidates, their collars were trimmed, and 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 and stand 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.

## **Control of Fullness**

The Garments for most candidates had single-pointed darts in skirts and pants, double-pointed darts in shirts and dresses, and box and knife pleats as they were mostly shirts and dresses. Some 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, not tapering well and not of an equal length. A few candidates applied gathers, especially on the skirts and some of these were evenly distributed and well pressed. The elastic casing was common among most candidates it was well sewn by some, but some candidates used it instead of a hem.

## **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 as the press studs it was most preferred for those who used the hook and bar. The correct placing of the buttons and buttonholes at the centre front was done well 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 well done. The hand-worked buttonhole stitch was poorly done 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.

## **Waistband/ facing**

The waistband gave them challenges, it was not well aligned, and for some, it was twisted and not cut on grain. For the waistband, some centres used very thick interfacing on the waistband. On the waistband, the extended part should be the one with the button. The zipper tape should be concealed in the waistband. Finishing off the waistband must be folded and neaten using a hem.

## **Pockets**

A variety of common pockets were sewn in seams, patches, and hips mostly in garment one. Most were challenged by the positioning of the pockets and the size, especially of the patch pocket. Centres are urged to avoid the three-in-one pocket and be guided by the syllabus. The pockets that challenged them the most were the seam and hip they were not well worked.

## **Embellishment**

Most candidates embellished their garments to an excellent standard as they used varied types of embellishment e.g. motifs, piping, contrasting colours, 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. For closed seams, the width of the seam was not well neatened and the size was too wide. Most centres failed to neaten curved areas e.g. armhole seam, such that they were left with no neatening. Some candidates used zigzag and clean finish also some centres used binding as a method of neatening seams, pinking shears were not considered as a method of neatening seams as they showed very little skill.

## **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, most of the candidates did not have a selection of stitches as the syllabus requires (both permanent and embroidery) at least three or more. They had mostly one stitch repeated on different parts of the garment e.g. hemming stitch on the cuff, collar and hem edge. Some of the hem stitches were wide and loose while some centres used double thread for hem stitches when they had 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. They must not sample the garments. All individual marked sheets and summary sheets should be totaled and registers should be completed well. Avoid the use of pins during packaging it is dangerous to the examiners. Use appropriate columns when filling in marks. Centres are encouraged to use blue pens when writing or filling in forms. Centres are advised to use simple patterns with all the required processes and stick to the syllabus.