



# **EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI**

Eswatini General Certificate of Secondary Education

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

**Examination Report for 2024**

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## EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6904/01

Theory

**Introduction**

A total of 1650 candidates registered for the year 2024 and 1621 were actual candidates, resulting in a low number of absentees (29 candidates) and an increase of 205 entries compared to the last year 2023. However, some centres showed a slight improvement in the quality of the work done on the garment. All required processes for the garments were well done. Most of the candidates still had difficulty relating reasons for the choice to self in the folder; those who gave good explanations outperformed the previous year's cohort. This year folders were marked externally.

**General Comments**

There was a slight improvement in candidates' performance compared to last year's paper, although the scores are not high there are a few candidates who obtained very low marks. Most candidates did not fill in the grid on the cover page whereas it's a requirement expected from candidates. Some candidates were using different colours of pens for answering the questions whereas the instructions on the cover page specify that only a blue or black pen may be used for answering the questions.

Some candidates still answer all questions in section B whereas the instruction is to choose only **two**. Some candidates answer only one question in Section B instead of two. Some candidates do not attempt the questions on processes in Section B. Most candidates do not label the diagrams they use when answering questions whereas the questions specify that candidates should use labelled diagrams. That resulted in the loss of marks because an unlabelled diagram does not have a meaning.

**Section A**

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

**Question 1****(a) Candidates were required to identify the style features indicated on the shirt in Fig. 1**

The question was well attempted. Most candidates have improved in identifying the style features. Candidates failed to identify style feature A, B and D. They were giving wrong answers like stand collar for A, set in sleeve for B and decorative stitch for D.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- A. – Roll collar
- B. – Long raglan sleeve
- C. – Button and buttonhole
- D. – Topstitching
- E. – Sleeve cuff

**(b) Candidates were required to state two body measurements that are needed to make the shirt.**

This question was fairly attempted by most candidates. The common wrong answers were shoulder, breast, and arm and some were even listing measuring tools.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- back length / from nape to waist
- bust/ chest
- neck measurement
- wrist measurement
- shirt length
- Waist
- arm length

**(c) Candidates were required to study the back of the pattern envelope and fill in the details of fabrics and notions needed to make the shirt above View 1, size 10.**

Most candidates did not attempt this question well. Candidates were giving correct answers with no units which resulted in loss of marks, for example on the fabric width they wrote 44/45. Some calculated the amount of fabric and number of buttons using certain formulas.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

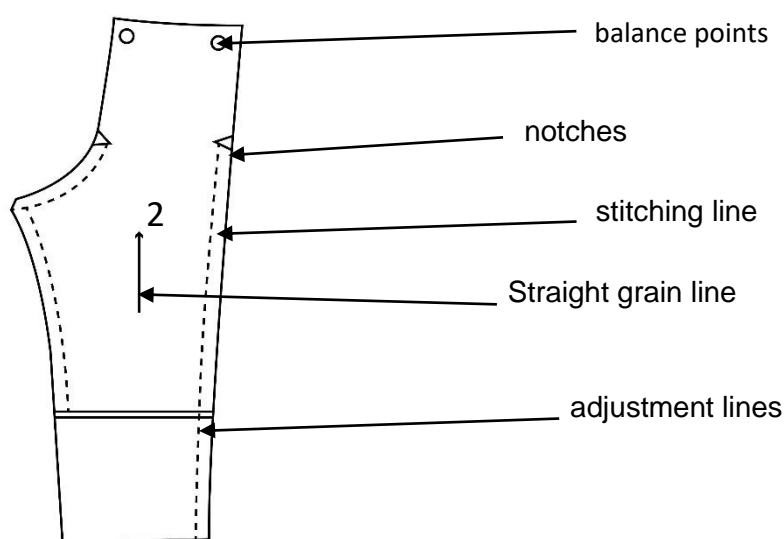
Fabric width – 44”/ 45”	Amount – 2 ½ yds
- 58”/60”	- 2 yd
Button: Size – ½”	Amount - 9
Interfacing - 5/8 yds	

**(d) The question required the candidates to draw four pattern markings on the correct position on the pants pattern below:**

This question was well answered by most candidates. Common wrong answers were the wrong position of pattern markings, adjustment line too close to the hemline, and not reaching the cutting lines.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Balance points, - notches, - stitching line, - Straight grain line, – adjustment lines



**(e) Candidates were required to explain the purpose of each clothing label shown below.**

This question was fairly attempted but incomplete. Most candidates were naming the clothing label without explaining its purpose. Some common errors made by candidates were writing fabric content instead of fiber content.

**The correct responses were:**

- (i) Fiber content - to suggest the care/laundrying of garment
- (ii) Manufacturer/ Brand/Designer – shows the quality of the garment
- (iii) Country of origin- shows the country where the garment was made.

**(f) The question required candidates to define the one-way design and with a nap.**

Good definitions were given by a majority of candidates except that in one-way design most candidates were writing garments facing the same direction instead of fabric with a design facing the same direction.

**The correct responses were:**

**(i) One-way design** – fabric with designs that face the same direction

**(ii) With nap** – fabric with raised texture/surface or some kind of pile

**(g) Candidates were required to draw and interpret the correct care symbol for ironing a cotton seersucker fabric in the space below.**

This question was challenging to a majority of candidates. Candidates thought seersucker was ironed using a hot iron which was incorrect. Candidates saw the word cotton and thought it needed a hot iron.

**The correct answer was:**



Do not iron

**(h) Candidates were required to suggest two methods of finishing the raw top edge of a patch pocket.**

Most candidates did not understand this question. They were giving answers like overlocker, rectangle and triangle.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Bias binding/crossway strip
- hem
- Facing
- Self-facing
- Edge stitching

**(i) (i) Candidates were required to identify two stages of production at which colour can be added to textiles.**

Very few candidates were able to answer this question correctly. They gave answers such as dyeing, and printing.

**The correct answer was:**

- Fiber
- Yarn
- Fabric

**(ii) The question required the candidates to suggest two methods used to colour fabric.**

This question was not well attempted. Common answers given by most candidates were potato printing, tie and dye, hackling.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Dyeing
- Printing

**(iii) Candidates were required to explain one reason for using synthetic/ chemical dyes instead of natural dyes in textile production.**

Responses to this question were fairly good although candidates did not compare the two types of dyes. Instead they were writing two points on one type of dye.

**The correct answers were:**

- Synthetic dyes are readily available; natural dyes can be scarce- so not enough might be available for large-scale dying.
- Synthetic dyes are more reliable – the colour will always be the same, whereas natural dye will depend on the dye materials/fabrics available and may not be the exact colour each time
- Synthetic dyes are colourfast/ do not fade when washing whereas natural dyes are non-colourfast.
- Synthetic dyes are available in a wide range of colours whereas natural dyes are available in a limited range of colours.
- Natural dyes are expensive to use on a large scale whereas synthetic dyes are cheaper on a large scale.

**(j) Candidates were required to explain the importance of the following techniques in garment construction.**

Most candidates could explain these techniques however they were not able to give two points for each technique.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- (i) Under stitching**
  - prevents facings rolling to R.S. during wear
  - ensures a flat finish to the neckline
- (ii) Neatening seams**
  - prevents fraying of seam edges
  - Improves appearance/ professional look

**(k) This question required candidates to describe how to transfer pattern markings using tailor's tacking. A diagram may be used to illustrate the answer.**

This was the most challenging question to the candidates. Candidates were writing about transferring pattern markings using a carbon paper and a tracing wheel. Most candidates were not giving any diagram.

**The expected response was as follows:**

- Thread needle with double thread
- Stitch by hand from one side to the other through both layers of fabric,
- Make even stitches through the pattern and the double fabric - leaving a loop after each stitch
- Separate the two pieces of fabric, and pull them apart until the thread is taut on top of the paper



- Snip the loops between the layers of fabric with sharp scissors and cut through the stitches on top of the paper, cut the tailor's tack so that there is a thread on both pieces of fabric.

## **Section B**

### **Question 1**

**(a) This question required candidates to identify the group of fibers to which polyester belongs.**

This question was well done by a majority of candidates.

**The correct answer was:**

Man-made/ thermoplastic fibers /synthetic

**(b) Candidates were required to state one use for each of the following decorative stitches.**

The uses of the stitches were well-known by the candidates.

**The correct answers were as follows:**

- (i) Blanket** - neatening raw edges
- Used to attach raw-edged applique.'



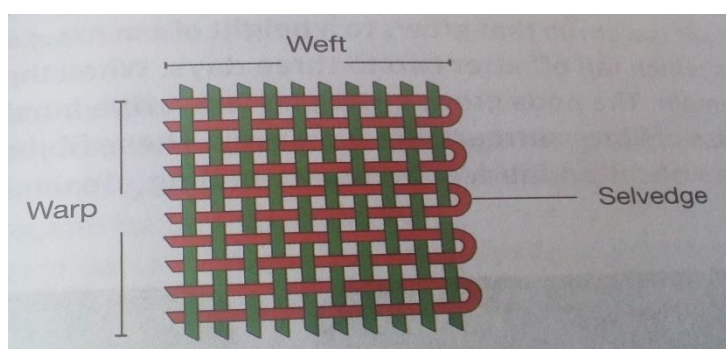
(ii) **Satin** - is a good filler stitch that fills up shapes, and some letters and creates a smooth appearance e.g. fills leaves and hearts.

(c) **Candidates were required to explain, using a labelled diagram, how a plain weave fabric is constructed.**

This question was not well attempted. Most candidates did not label the diagram. Even those who drew a correct diagram did not explain how a plain weave was constructed.

**The correct answers were as follows:**

- Each weft yarn passes alternately over and under each warp yarn



(d) The question required candidates to give a reason why pressing is important in the following stages of garment construction:

This question was well explained by most candidates.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- (i) **Seams** – to make them lie flat and neat.
  - to identify faults
- (ii) **When applying fusible interfacing to the neckline facing** –melt resin so the facing can attach.
- (iii) **Darts** – to be flat and the face right direction.

(e) **This question required the candidates to describe how to carry out the following processes using a sewing machine**

This was another challenging question for most candidates. The common response was selecting the stitching such as zigzag stitch/ buttonhole stitch, after that they could not describe further.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

**(i)Set the machine to zigzag**

- select the zigzag using the stitch selector
- Adjust stitch length and width using a stitch length regulator depending on the fabric

- using an appropriate presser foot with space for a swing needle stitch

**(ii)Sewing machine worked buttonhole**

- insert buttonhole foot attachment.
- Adjust the stitch length regulator to the buttonhole stitch.
- Begin and follow the notification numbers on the machine.

If there is no automatic buttonhole function- Adjust the zigzag stitch to suit the fabric

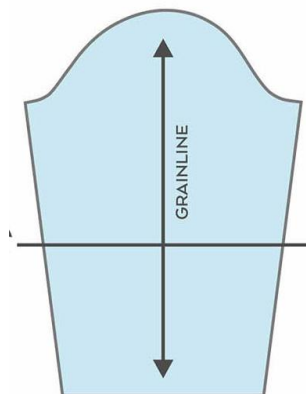
- Sew one line of zigzag stitches on the left of the buttonhole.
- Sew another line on the right of the buttonhole.
- Sew another line of zigzag stitch on the top and bottom of the buttonhole to complete it.

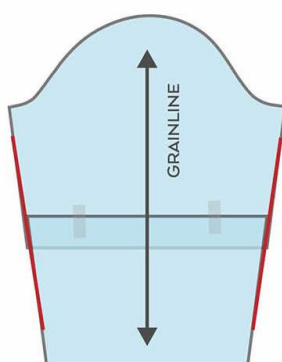
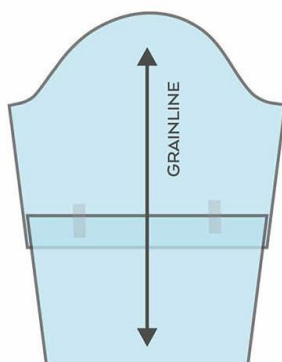
**(f) Candidates were required to explain, with the aid of labelled diagrams, how to shorten a sleeve by 2 cm.**

This question proved to be very difficult for most candidates. They left blank spaces. Those who attempted were explaining how to attach a set-in sleeve.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Find lengthening and shortening lines on the paper pattern for the sleeve. If your pattern does not have shortened lines, you'll need to draw one.
- Measure and draw a line 2cm from the shortening line and parallel with the line.
- Fold the pattern along the shortening line.
- Fold should be 1cm wide- half the width of the amount to be shortened (2cm).
- Stick/ pin the fold down.
- Redraw side seams if no longer straight.





### Question 3

(a) The question required candidates to identify any two hand stitches used when sewing hem.

Most candidates were able to identify the two hand stitches. The common wrong answers given were sleep hemming, close hemming, and hemming.

**The correct answers were:**

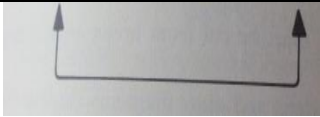

- herringbone stitch
- slip hemming
- Hemming
- Blind hemming

(b) This question required candidates to complete the table identifying each pattern marking and stating one reason for using each on a pattern.

This question was well attempted, however candidates failed to state the reasons.

Common errors were cutting on the fold instead of placing on the fold, double pointed darts instead of notches.

The expected responses were as follows:

Pattern Marking	Name of Pattern Marking	Reason for use
	Place on fold	<p>-To show that the pattern piece must be placed on folded fabric.</p> <p>-To come up with a complete pattern piece since the pattern is only half the garment.</p>
	Notches	Makes it easy to match pattern pieces

**(c) Candidates were required to describe two fabric finishes to improve the performance of cotton and linen.**

There was a wide range of responses given by candidates that were confusing. Common wrong answers were beetling, hem, sleeve, and cuff.

**The correct answers were:**

- **Crease resistance** – fabric is treated with special synthetic resin to make them more resilient.
- **Preshrinking / sanforising** – fabric is immersed in an alkaline solution to ensure that fabric will not shrink more than 2% in future washing
- **Flame resistance** – fibers are treated with propane chemicals to make fibers unable to produce fuel vapours that normally fuel flames. Fibers treated this way smoulder rather than burns
- **Bleaching** – fabric is treated with chemicals such as hydrogen peroxide or chlorine to remove all natural colour making them whiter

**(d) This question required candidates to discuss two benefits of using thermoplastic fabrics for a pleated skirt.**

Most candidates failed to discuss the benefits of using thermoplastic fabrics for a pleated skirt. Instead, they just listed the properties of thermoplastic fabric without relating them to the pleated skirt.

**The correct answers were:**

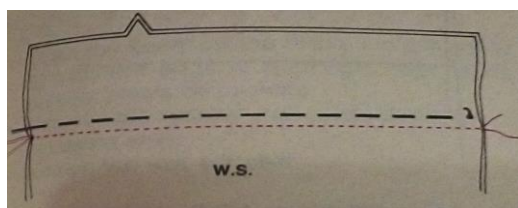
- Pleats stay in place because the fabric is heat set, and its resilience is improved. It will neither shrink nor stretch. If a pleat is incorrectly pressed, the unsightly crease will be permanently set into the fabric
- Easy care – no need to iron after washing and resist and recover from wrinkles caused by normal wash. Clothes must not be twisted or wrung after washing

**(e) The question required candidates to explain, using notes and labelled diagrams, how to sew a plain open seam on cotton fabric.**

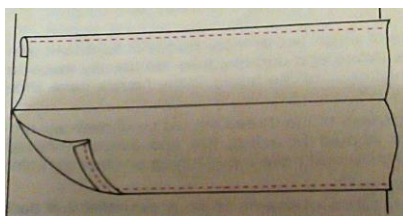
Good explanations were given on how to sew a plain open seam. Although they were forgetting one point, that of reinforcing at the end. Some were trimming the seam allowance. Some were not explaining the steps in detail. Some when sewing were joining the wrong sides together. Diagrams were not clear and not labelled.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Place R. S. of fabric together, match notches and raw edges.



- Pin and tack on the fitting line
- Set the machine on straight stitch and machine stitch on the fitting line
- Secure stitches at both ends
- Press the seam open
- Neaten with zigzag/ overlock/ clean finish/ overcasting/ binding

**Question 4****(a) (i) This question required candidates to identify the dart shown below.**

Most candidates could identify the type of dart shown.

**The correct answer was:**

- single-pointed dart

- (i) This part of the question required the candidates to name two positions where this dart can be sewn on the bodice.**

This question was fairly attempted except for the wrong spelling. The majority of candidates were writing burst instead of bust.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

bust/underarm  
waistline  
shoulder line

- (b) The question required the candidates to describe how to remove perspiration stains on a white cotton shirt.**

This question was challenging to most candidates. The candidates did not outline all the steps. Some candidates did not specify the water temperature. Most candidates were writing wash accordingly which was an incomplete statement.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Boil/bleach
- Wash in lukewarm soapy water using a friction method.
- rinse
- Soak in a white vinegar and water solution, and apply a paste of baking soda, salt and hydrogen peroxide. Scrub with an old toothbrush. Wash in hot water.

- (c) Candidates were required to list two types of fasteners commonly applied on a faced neckline opening.**

This question proved to be difficult for most candidates. The popular wrong answer was button and buttonhole.

**The correct answers were:**

- Hook and eye
- Button and loop

- (d) This question required candidates to explain how the following stitches are used to embellish garments.**

Most candidates were unable to explain how the stitches were used to embellish garments. They knew these were decorative stitches but could not explain their specific uses.

**The correct answers were:**

**(i) Stem stitch** – used for stems of flowers/ vines/branches and  
outline and used to write letters

**(ii) Cross stitch** – filling stitch in bands and borders/ edging  
on shapes/lines and arrows

**(e) Candidates were required to discuss any two social factors that have influenced change in fashion styles.**

Most answers to this question were either incorrect or incomplete. Candidates were just listing any factor that influences changes in fashion style. e.g. advertising and social media. Some stated correct answers such as religion and changing role of women but they could not discuss them.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

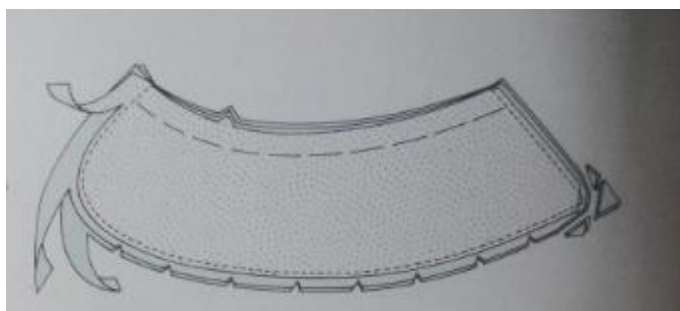
- changing role of women – now they are professionals, not homemakers therefore use fabric that is easy to maintain.
- Education- increases aesthetic values and fashion taste- with more money to spend and
- Increasingly sophisticated interest in fashion – the educated customer looks for new ideas and new fashion thus accelerating fashion change
- visits to other countries/ influence of other cultures
- awareness of physical fitness - people buy sneakers and tracksuits for exercising
- Social events require a certain way of dressing e.g. formal wear for launchings, weddings, etc.
- religion – individuals are influenced by religion which affects their attitude towards fashion
- economy of society as this can mean less money available so the cost of materials and production are reduced, which is a design constraint.
- The emergence of the teenage group as an important sector of the consumer market has brought with it a trend towards a youthful, unisex look.

**(f) This question required candidates to explain, using labelled diagrams, how to prepare and sew a flat collar using poplin fabric.**

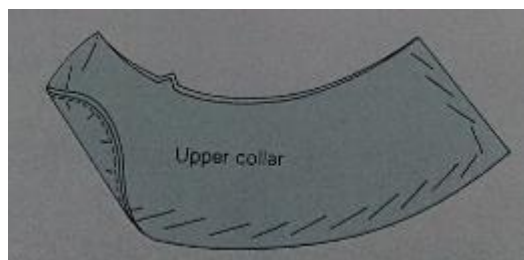
This question was fairly attempted by most candidates although some further explained the attaching of the collar. Candidates who chose this question were able to score full marks but there is still a need to improve the diagrams and the labelling. Some did not logically discuss the points.

**The expected responses were as follows:**

- Iron on /apply interfacing on W.S. of under collar just inside the F.L.
- Place R.S. of collars together, matching notches.
- Pin, tack on F.L
- Machine stitch on F.L.
- Trim S.A. – if the collar has corners, trim corners diagonally.
- Grade/layer the S.A.



- Clip the curved edges all around the outer edge of the collar
- Turn collar to R.S., roll edges until seam line is along the edge
- Sew diagonal tacking along the outer edges.



- Press and remove the tacking

## Section C

### Question 5

**This question required candidates to discuss reasons why cotton is blended with other fibres and give examples of cotton-blended fabrics.**

This question was not popular among the candidates. The very few candidates who chose this question were just listing the properties of cotton instead of cotton blends.

#### **The expected responses were as follows:**

A blended yarn/fabric is made by mixing two or different fibers.

#### **Blending can be done by**

- mixing and blending two or more types of staple fibers before spinning the blended yarn
- By spinning together two yarns each made of different fibers to obtain a blended yarn
- Using yarns of one fiber for the warp and yarns of another fiber for the weft to weave a blended fabric

#### **Reasons for blending**

- This gives prominence to the fibers with more desirable properties when producing blended fabrics
- The best properties of different fibers can be combined, resulting in an excellent fabric
- The influence of less desirable properties can be reduced e.g. a polyester cotton blend is stronger- will crease less, dry quicker, drip dry, need very little pressing and is easier to care for than pure cotton fabric.
- Cotton blends do not shrink
- they are colourfast
- have smooth surfaces and therefore will not soil easily
- have a fresh crisp appearance and do not need starching



- Resilient and does not tear easily
- resistant to abrasion  
moth and mildew resistant.
- Mild alkalis and acids have no marked effect on them.

### **Properties of cotton blended fabrics**

- On the other hand, because of cotton in the blend, the fabric will absorb moisture more readily and be cooler to wear than a pure polyester fabric
- A blend of cotton and polyester will retain colour better and will be less likely to fade
- Natural and synthetic fibers have different textures and take dyes differently
- Cost can be reduced when an expensive fiber is blended or mixed with a cheaper synthetic fiber without losing out on the favourable properties, but even improving the finer quality.
- When sewing using a polyester/cotton blend thread, seams do not pucker because they do not shrink easily – stronger, more resilient and less fluffy than cotton thread
- Blends are of a much higher quality than pure cotton fabrics
- Cotton fabrics that are blended with lycra stretch. Cotton/ polyester fabrics have a smooth surface and will therefore not soil easily

### **Examples of cotton blended fabrics**

- polyester and cotton
- cotton and flax
- cotton and lycra

### **Question 6**

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

This question was the most popular among the candidates but most of them did not perform very well. This was caused by the following reasons: they gave general knowledge. They were writing points like, the clothes smell because people fit them before buying. Some candidates listed the points without discussing them. For example: ready-made clothes can be fitted, ready-made clothes are expensive, and ready-made clothes are produced in mass production. Some candidates did not compare ready-made clothes to making their clothes. Instead, they focused only on the advantages and disadvantages of ready-made clothes.

The expected responses were as follows:

	Ready-made clothes	Making your own
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before purchase, one can view and try on the garment to determine a perfect fit.</li> <li>- Ready-made clothes can be altered for a perfect fit</li> <li>- Immediately after purchase one can wear the garment.</li> <li>- Females can have a good buy of cheaper synthetic and decorated underwear</li> <li>- Tailored clothes for men are difficult to make at home whereas, ready-made clothes look more professional</li> <li>- There are more clothes made at mass production and thus tend to be cheaper.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is cheaper to make your clothes.</li> <li>- When making clothes for yourself they will be a good fit and there will be no need for alterations to be made.</li> <li>- There is an individual choice for fabric, style and notions that make one have own unique style of clothing.</li> <li>- There are more secure seams and fastenings when making your clothes.</li> <li>- There is a sense of confidence, satisfaction and pleasure knowing you are wearing a garment you made yourself.</li> <li>- Improves sewing skills.</li> </ul>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It can be expensive to buy clothes.</li> <li>- Ready-made clothes may not have the exact style or the finishes one desires.</li> <li>- There is no uniqueness.</li> <li>- Fastenings are usually not well secured in ready-made clothes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buying fabric, notions and tools for sewing might be costly.</li> <li>- Some designs are complicated for one to sew at home, so one needs more skills in sewing.</li> <li>- Underwear is more expensive to make than to buy as ready-made.</li> </ul>

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

A total of 1650 candidates registered for the year 2024 and 1621 were actual candidates, resulting in a low number of absentees (29 candidates) and an increase of 205 entries compared to the last year 2023. However, some centres showed a slight improvement in the quality of the work done on the garment. All required processes for the garments were well done. Most of the candidates still had difficulty relating reasons for the choice to self in the folder; those who gave good explanations outperformed the previous year's cohort. This year folders were marked externally.

**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 garments separately, 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 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. All garments should be sent to ECESWA, they should not be sampled.

**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 labels to the garments used 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 of some folders and were not labelled at all. 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 processes and the last one for fitting of the garment. 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. Centres should avoid using pocket files.

### **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, stretchy denim and the final pressing of the garments. Candidates should be assisted in choosing 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. self-hem on the sleeve instead of sleeve band or cuff. A few used bindings on the hem. And a few candidates submitted unfinished garments. Most candidates this year made shirts and dresses for the garment.

## **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 a low standard those who did the bound opening it was 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 and double-pointed darts in the shirts and dresses, 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 equal length. A few candidates applied to gather, especially on the dresses and some of these were evenly distributed and well pressed. The elastic casing was commonly sewn by a few candidates on the 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 eye. The correct method of finishing or neatening the button should be used. 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 done well. 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.

### **Sleeve band or cuff**

The sleeve band/cuff gave them challenges, it was not well aligned, and for some, it was twisted. For the band or the cuff, some centres used very thick interfacing. On the cuff or band, the opening should be at the back not the front and should be of a proper length.

### **Pockets**

The most common pockets that were sewn were in seam and patch pockets. Most were challenged by the positioning of the pockets and the size, especially of the patch pocket. Candidates are urged to understitch and neaten inseam pockets. Centres are urged to avoid the three-in-one pocket and be guided by the syllabus. The pocket that challenged them the most was the patch pocket.

## **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. Some 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 a challenge this year.

## **Hand Sewing Skills**

A few candidates did excellent work on hand sewing skills, that is, they selected 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 and attendance register. Folders should not be marked by centres. Avoid the use of pocket files in folders. 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 totalled and registers should be completed well. Avoiding the use of pins during packaging it's 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.